

Minutes of Neural Systems and Applications Technical Committee

2009 Annual Meeting

Date: Monday, May 25, 2009

Time: 12:10pm to 1.10pm

Location: Room 202B, Taipei International Convention Center (TICC)

1. Opening of meeting

Chair Wei Xing Zheng opened the meeting and welcome current and prospective members.

2. Introduction of members and officers of NSA TC

The current members attending were:

- 1) Wei Xing Zheng (Chair), University of Western Sydney
- 2) Jinhua Lu, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- 3) Shih-Chii Liu, (Chair elect), Univ of Zurich
- 4) John Harris (Secretary elect), Univ of Florida
- 5) Giacomo Indiveri (Past Chair), Univ of Zurich
- 6) Bing Sheu, TSMC
- 7) Majid Ahmadi, Univ of Windsor
- 8) Eugenio Culurciello, Yale Univ
- 9) Shantanu Chakrabartty, Mich State Univ
- 10) Peter Szolcog, Inst of HAS & PPCU
- 11) Christof Posch, Austrian Inst of Technology
- 12) Tobi Delbruck, Univ of Zurich

3. Approval of minutes of 2008 NSA TC meeting in Seattle, WA

Bing Sheu moved, Majid Ahmadi seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

4. Report of accomplished technical activities (May 2008 to May 2009)

The report was not available at the time of the meeting. It was agreed that the report would be mailed out for review by the members.

5. Award recognition and endorsements

The annual report will include all details, it was noted that John Harris was elected DLP.

6. Reports from BoG and Technical Activities meeting

Prof. Zheng and Dr. Liu reported on the outcome of the TA meeting in the morning. Concern was expressed that there has been a 30% average drop in IEEE conference

attendance this year as compared to last year. However, according to the presentation during the opening ceremony, the registration for ISCAS was not expected to drop.

A proposal was made at the BoG meeting to combine several of the smaller TCs. For instance, it was discussed that the NSA TC and the CNN TC were to be combined with the new name of "Neural Networks and Systems."

The BoG suggested implementing a double blind review for future ISCAS conferences. The NSA TC considered this issue, the feeling was that there wasn't a strong need for this change. It was suggested that a more useful change would be to make the reviewers known on accepted papers.

The CAS DLP program will continue however all new applications must include power point presentations.

The theme for ISCAS 2010 in Paris is "Nano-bio circuit fabrics and systems." The organizers said that they would make a strong push for many special sessions and tutorials, particularly within theme-related areas. The deadline for special sessions and tutorials is Sept 11, 2009. The standard paper deadline is Oct 9, 2009.

The TCs were advised to keep their membership lists up to date by removing inactive members.

A suggestion was made to increase the amount of CAS education available through the web. A committee was formed to provide recommendations on judging the quality of research and testing. Members should make special efforts to encourage young people to join CAS, perhaps with competitions and contests.

7. Election of new NSA TC members

Four new members were nominated and elected to the TC. They are:

- 1) Xiang Li, Fudan University
- 2) Fangyue Chen, Hangzhou Dianzi University
- 3) Piotr Dudek, Univ of Manchester
- 4) Christof Posch, Austrian Institute of Technology

8. Voting on NSA TC officers

Jinhu Lu from the Chinese Academy of Sciences was unanimously elected as Secretary elect.

Shih-Chii Liu becomes Chair

Pamela Abshire becomes Chair-elect

John Harris becomes Secretary

9. Update of NSA TC page

It was pointed that the webpage has not been updated in a year. A discussion followed about how difficult it was to update the webpage information for any of the IEEE TC areas because of the cumbersome ftp-based process.

10. Special sessions and tutorials for ISCAS 2010

Members were to consider possibilities and discuss via email.

11. Other issues to improve the NSA TC area's visibility and prominence in the CAS community

The discussion returned to the dwindling size of the TC. The NSA TC had only 3 sessions at ISCAS 2009 (2 lecture sessions and 1 poster session). This is down one from the previous year and down several from years past.

Given the likely merge with the CNN TC at ISCAS 2010, the discussion returned to the present proposed name of "Neural Networks and Systems" by the ISCAS 2010 committee. Tobi Delbruck suggested that a more appropriate name might be "Neural Systems and Networks." It was suggested that the phrase "neuromorphic processing" could be included in the name. The term "neuromorphic" was criticized as being too narrow by some and, paradoxically, too broad by others. Finally it was suggested that members should consider what the best name would be and discuss it further in email.

12. Other business

No other business was discussed

13. Meeting adjourned