

WSC9 – Honorary Chair’s Message

Hello and welcome to the 9th Online World Conference on Soft Computing in Industrial Applications (WSC9). This conference, brought to you from everywhere in the world at once, provides an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to meet in a virtual environment to present their latest results and to exchange ideas. With this conference we are taking advantage of the latest advances in hard computing to discuss the newest ideas in soft computing. There is no doubt that with this type of online conferences we are pioneering into the future. The ability to transport yourself anywhere in the world at the speed of light, in the comfort and safety of your own home or office, can’t be seen as anything but amazing. If there are participants from another galaxy, please let us know!!

Soft computing, a name introduced by LA. Zadeh, can be seen as a confluence of a number of related, complementary and supporting disciplines. Among the central components are neural networks, fuzzy logic and genetic algorithms. Rough sets, probabilistic reasoning and significant portions of artificial intelligence also come under the umbrella of soft computing. The field of computational intelligence is closely related. Central to the field of soft computing is an attempt to provide tools that can enable systems to attain a level of performance similar to human beings. Among other things, this requires an ability to represent and manipulate imprecise and granular information.

While the areas of potential applications of soft computing is virtually unbounded, I shall point out, with a high degree of bias, some areas in which I believe the possible applications of soft computing are particularly interesting. Clearly the Internet is one such area. As we move from the initial “Gee Whiz” phase to the next stage where success requires intelligent manipulation of knowledge and data, website architects must draw upon tools from soft computing. As a particular example, the development of intelligent agents for retrieving and searching for information will benefit from application of these technologies. Fuzzy logic will play an important role in the development of the semantic web. True customization and personalization of websites must take advantage of soft computing. The related area of data mining is already using many ideas from this field. Many people believe the coming century will see many benefits from recent discoveries in microbiology, genetics and proteomics. Here soft computing can help, especially in the development of algorithms needed for partial matching, clustering and pattern recognition.

I would like to thank the organizers of this conference, particularly the general chair Ajith Abraham and the program chair Mario Köppen for their efforts in making this conference happen.

I now declare the 9th Online Conference on Soft Computing in Industrial Applications open. I look forward to a lively exchange of ideas.

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