

WELCOMING MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL CHAIR

It is my great pleasure to extend a sincere welcome to all of you who are participating in IEEE NLP-KE-2003 conference, the 2003 International Conference on Natural Language Processing and Knowledge Engineering, being held here at the beautiful and elegant Media Center in Beijing, China.

The NLP-KE Conference serves as an international forum for academic and industrial researchers and practitioners to discuss the applications of new computer technologies to natural language processing and knowledge engineering. The main objective of this conference is to bring together researchers from both natural language processing and knowledge engineering to exchange ideas and experience in their respective fields. It provides an international forum for an overview of the most recent trends in these active research fields and a common starting-point to tackle the most acute problems of information processing. I am blessed with the presence of our distinguished keynote speakers, who are ones of the prominent scholars in the world in their respective areas, or even just the founders of their respective research areas. Their participation and contributions are deeply appreciated.

The NLP-KE-2003 is sponsored by IEEE Signal Processing Society, IEEE Systems, Man and Cybernetics Society, IEEE Beijing Section, Chinese Association for Artificial Intelligence, Chinese Institute of Electronics, Chinese Information Processing Society, Beijing Network and Multimedia Lab, Natural Science Foundation of China, Chinese Association for Science and Technology, and Ministry of Science and Technology of China.

During our preparation for this conference, we encountered an additional and unexpected difficulty - the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. At some moment even made us consider to cancel the conference. However, we have received numerous messages of encouragement from our scientific community, which convinced us to continue in our preparation of this conference. These encouragements helped us tremendously to overcome the difficulties due to the SARS. We have received 183 high-quality paper submissions from 23 countries, out of which 127 were selected for presentation by the program committee.

The success of NLP-KE-2003 is due to the tremendous efforts and good-will of all those who were involved in organizing the conference. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who helped in numerous ways to produce this high-quality conference. Last but not the least, I would like to express my thanks to all who submitted their work to NLPKE-2003 and who attend the conference.

I sincerely hope that all the participants will benefit from the technical contents of this conference, and enjoy the stay in Beijing.

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GREETINGS FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Respectable Colleagues and Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Program Committee, 2003 Beijing International Conference on Natural Language Processing and Knowledge Engineering, NLP-KE'03-Beijing, I would like to extend to you our warmest welcome and most cordial greetings.

The theme of Natural Language Processing and Understanding has become one of the focuses in AI research and the related fields due to the great needs and challenges from the worldwide trend of globalization. This explains why the researchers over the world feel a high responsibility on their shoulders and why so many colleagues and friends would like to join in with us here in Beijing in exchanging ideas and sharing experiences in the field during such a busy period of time though.

The conference received over 180 papers submitted by the authors from more than 20 countries among which 127 were accepted and included in the Proceedings through the restrict viewing procedure. Most of the papers made contributions to the core technology of natural language processing while many others were contributed to various applications and theoretical studies. A special session on Upper Ontology and Natural Language Processing has been organized, in dealing with the knowledge representation and applications to NLP. In view of the real demand from practical applications of Natural Language Processing and Understanding products, like 2004 Olympic Game in Athens and 2008 in Beijing and so on, a Forum on NLP/NLU standards has been arranged in the conference with the purpose of exchanging ideas on how to effectively push forward the research on standards to meet the needs.

The Program Committee would like to express sincere gratitude to the authors who contribute papers with high quality to the conference. Many thanks also go to the paper reviewers who spent valuable time for selecting good papers. We feel also very much indebted to those people who organize wonderful special session and thoughtful forum for the conference. Without all the efforts made by our friends, the program of the conference would not be so fruitful and attractive.

Wish you a very successful conference and a highly enjoyable stay in Beijing.

Y. X. ZHONG

IEEE NLP-KE 2003 PC Chair

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