Conference News

IROS'93 CONFERENCE

IROS'93 was held in Yokohama (Japan) from 26th to 30th of July 1993. There were 411 participants from 20 nations, including Japan, U.S.A., Korea, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, P.R. China, UK, Australia & Finland.

The main theme of the conference was "Yawarakana Robot" in Japanese, or "flexibility for intelligence" in English. The Japanese word "Yawarakana" can have a variety of meanings, ranging from flexible to even dextrous, smart, versatile & robust. The sessions were classified as follows, taking into account the "Yawarakana Robot" concept: dextrous manipulation, robust sensing, versatile intelligence, novel robotics, adaptive locomotion, multi-agent systems, application frontiers and intelligent motion control. There were 67 sessions, including 26 organized sesssions.

More than 300 papers were presented under 8 parallel sessions. There were keen and fruitful discussions in each room. There was a remarkable number of papers concerning multi-robot and tele-operation robots which were the feature of the conference. Dynamic robot vision attracted keen attention.

The plenary session was entitled "Autonomy and Emotion Machines" by Prof. Marvin Minsky of MIT, and the keynote speech was entitled "Present status and future potential of human-friendly robots in the automotive industry" by Dr. Yasuo Nakajima of the Nissan Motor Company.

Since the conference site was located in a newly developed area of the Yokohama harbor, participants could enjoy open space and open discussions lasting for some time. Finally, as a program co-chair of the conference, I would like to express my cordial thanks to all the people who made a contribution to the conference as participants, speakers of sessions and tutorial sessions, keynote speaker, members of the program and organizing committees.

Tomomasa Sato
R.C.A.S.T.
University of Tokyo
4-6-1 Komaba, Meguro-Ku,
Tokyo
Japan 153

KYBERNETES

International Journal of Cybernetics and Systems
(a quarterly)

EDITOR: B. H. Rudall

This journal is concerned with the interdisciplinary study of cybernetics and systems in the widest sense. Among the extensive range of topics covered are the following: *Artificial Intelligence, Automation, Cybernetic Modelling, Computer Simulation, Biocybernetics, Economic and Social Systems, Nature and Validation of General Systems, Ecosystems, Adaptive Systems, Philosophy of Cybernetics, the Interrelation between Cybernetics and other Sciences.*

Kybernetes, now in its twenty third year of publication, aims to endow cybernetics and general systems with an authoritative voice of its own and to establish a competent forum for the exchange of knowledge and information in relevant fields. One of the primary objectives of this publication is to weed out pseudo-cybernetics claims and to base cybernetics on a sound foundation; hence, highly speculative papers that lie on the fringe of cybernetics and systems sciences will not be published. The journal contains only *original papers*; it is the official publication of the World Organisation of General Systems and Cybernetics.

A PRESTIGE PUBLICATION, INDISPENSABLE TO
YOUR ORGANISATION AND TO YOU
NOW IN ITS TWENTY THIRD YEAR