INTRODUCTION

IJCAI-97, the Fifteenth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, is sponsored by the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence Inc. (IJCAII) and the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence (JSAI).

IJCAII sponsors biennial conferences on artificial intelligence, which are the main forums for presenting AI research results to the international AI community. Previous conference sites were Washington D.C., USA (1969), London, England (1971), Stanford, California, USA (1973), Tbilisi, Georgia (1975), Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA (1977), Tokyo, Japan (1979), Vancouver, British Columbia (1981), Karlsruhe, Germany (1983), Los Angeles, California, USA (1985), Milan, Italy (1987), Detroit, Michigan, USA (1989), Sydney, Australia (1991), Chambery, Savoie, France (1993), and Montreal, Quebec, Canada (1995).

The 1999 conference is scheduled for Stockholm, Sweden.

COOPERATING SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

IJCAI-97 gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of the following societies and organizations listed in alphabetical order.

The Association for Natural Language Processing (ANLP)
The Information Processing Society of Japan (IPSJ)
The Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE)
The Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan (IEEJ)
The Institute of Television Engineers of Japan (ITEJ)
The Japan Information Processing Development Center (JIPDEC)
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The Japan Society for Precision Engineering (JSPE)
The Japan Society for Software Science and Technology (JSSST)
The Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers (JSME)
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IJCAI-97 AWARDS

The IJCAI awards are made by the IJCAI Board of Trustees, upon recommendation by the IJCAI Awards Committee, which consisted this year of Daniel Bobrow (Palo Alto), Barbara Grosz (Cambridge, Mass, Chair), Hirochika Inoue (Tokyo), Ross Quinlan (Sydney) and Wolfgang Wahlster (Saarbrucken). Each winner will receive a $2,000 prize and deliver an invited lecture at IJCAI-97, to be held August 23-29, 1997, in Nagoya, Japan. Further information about IJCAI-97 can be found on the World-Wide Web at http://ijcai.org/ijcai-97/, or by E-mail at rasmussen@ijcai.org.

IJCAI Award For Research Excellence

The IJCAI Award for Research Excellence is given at an IJCAI conference to a scientist who has carried out a program of research of consistently high quality yielding several substantial results. If the research program has been carried out collaboratively, the Award may be made jointly to the research team. Past recipients of this award are John McCarthy (1985), Allen Newell (1989), Marvin Minsky (1991), Raymond Reiter (1993), and Herbert Simon (1995).

The winner of the 1997 IJCAI Research Excellence Award is Aravind K. Joshi, Henry Salvatori Professor of Computer and Cognitive Science, Professor of Linguistics, and Co-director of the Institute for Research in Cognitive Science at the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadephia, Pennsylvania, USA. Professor Joshi has made fundamental contributions to computational linguistics and natural language processing. As the inventor of tree-adjoining grammars (TAG), he has been at the forefront of the investigation of computationally tractable syntactic formalisms with greater power than context-free grammars. He contributed significantly to computational research on discourse and has been a leader in the establishment of research and educational establishments in support of interdisciplinary research in AI and cognitive science in the US and India.

IJCAI Computers and Thought Award

The Computers and Thought Lectures are presented at IJCAI conferences to outstanding young scientists in the field of artificial intelligence. Past recipients of this honour have been Terry Winograd (1971), Patrick Winston (1973), Chuck Rieger (1975), Douglas Lenat (1977), David Marr (1979), Gerald Sussman (1981), Tom Mitchell (1983), Hector Levesque (1985), Johan de Kleer (1987), Henry Kautz (1989), Rodney Brooks (1991), Martha Pollack (1991), Hiroaki Kitano (1993), Sarit Kraus (1995), and Stuart Russell (1995).

The winner of the 1997 Computers and Thought Award is Leslie P. Kaelbling, Associate Professor of Computer Science at Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island, USA, for her contributions to the semantic theory of information in embedded systems, to the development of programming tools for mobile robots, for algorithmic advances in the solution of partially observable Markov decision processes, and for her application of reinforcement learning methods to intelligent embedded control.

She is the author of one book, "Learning in Embedded Systems" and the editor of another. She is the recipient of the National Science Foundation National Young Investigator Award and of the National Science Foundation Presidential Faculty Award.

IJCAI-97 SUPPORT PROGRAMS

IJCAII is pleased to announce the continuation of its Travel Awards Program for students, junior scientists and scientists from Eastern Europe and other countries with unstable currency interested in attending IJCAI-97. JSAI is also pleased to sponsor a JSAI Travel Award Program for Asian technical session presenters. Additionally, the Student Volunteer Program continues to provide limited support to those students willing to help make IJCAI-97 a success.

IJCAII Travel Award Program

Travel award programs are available for students and junior researchers through IJCAII and other national societies. Due to limited availability of IJCAII Travel Award Program funds, it is highly recommended that applicants, especially students, approach their local AI Society first for possible support. For information regarding the IJCAI-97 Travel Award Program, please contact:

IJCAI-97
c/o Priscilla Rasmussen
P.O. Box 5490
Somerset, NJ 08875 USA
Phone/Fax: 908-445-3003
E-mail: rasmusse@ijcai.org

The original and three copies of a letter of request should be submitted to Priscilla Rasmussen no later than May 1, 1997.

This application should state:

- the status of the applicant (student, junior faculty, etc.)
- type of planned participation in the IJCAI-97 program (technical session or workshop paper, etc.)
- an estimate of attendance costs
- whether any other sources of support are available to the applicant and whether the local AI Society has been approached for support
- a letter of support (for students only) from the applicant's advisor.

A post-conference report and receipts totaling the award amount will be required after the conference in order to receive the award.

In the event that travel award applications exceed available funds, preference will be given to students who have an accepted technical paper, and then to students who are actively participating in the conference in some way, or those having unstable currency problems.

JSAI Travel Awards Program

JSAI (Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence) will provide travel support (JP Yen 100,000 - 200,000 each) for ten to twenty IJCAI-97 participants. An applicant must be an author and the presenter of an accepted technical session paper and must be from an Asian country. Selection will be made based upon the financial situation of the applicants. Students will be given higher priority.

Each application should follow the same instructions as the IJCAII Travel Awards Program and also include a statement listing the title of the accepted paper, the authors, and that the applicant intends to be the presenter. Applications should be submitted to Priscilla Rasmussen at the address listed above.

For information regarding the JSAI Travel Awards Program, please contact:

Mitsuru Ishizuka
University of Tokyo
IJCAI-97 Local Arrangements Committee, Vice Chair
E-mail: ishizuka@miv.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp
Fax: +81-3-5802-2990

Student Volunteer Program

Students not requiring travel assistance should only apply for the Student Volunteer Program, which provides complimentary registration to full time students, including conference proceedings, in exchange for assisting IJCAI-97 organizers in Japan. This program does not provide travel award funds and is designed for local students, or students who have other sources for travel funds. The deadline for volunteer applications is May 31, 1997.

For further information regarding the Student Volunteer Program, please contact the Student Volunteer Coordinator:

Hidenori Itoh
Nagoya Institute of Technology
E-mail: itoh@ics.nitech.ac.jp