
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Wai Chi Fang is an IEEE Fellow and serves as the Vice President of IEEE Systems Council. He serves on the Advisory Board of IEEE Systems Journal and the Advisory Board of International Journal of Innovative Computing, Information & Control. He was an elected Governor of the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society (2003–2008) and an AdCom member of the IEEE Nanotechnology Council. He was the Chairman of IEEE CASS Technical Committee on Nanoelectronics and Gigascale Systems.

Tai-hoon Kim received his PhD in School of Information and Computer Science from University of Tasmania, Australia. After working with Technical Institute of Shindorico as a researcher and working at the Korea Information Security Agency as a senior researcher, he worked at the DSC (Defense Security Command). After working with Hannam University four and a half year as an associate professor, now he is currently working at Sungshin W. University. He published about 200 papers till now.

Carlos Ramos got his graduation from the University of Porto, Portugal, in 1986 and the PhD degree from the same university in 1993. He has about 60 publications in scientific journals and magazines and more than 250 publications in Scientific Conferences Proceedings. Currently he is a Vice-President of the Polytechnic of Porto, the largest Polytechnic institution in Portugal, being responsible for the R&D, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Internacionalization areas.

Sabah Mohammed started his career during 1977 as a Multimedia Maintenance Engineer working for Canon and Sony following his hobby in Electronics, although he completed his bachelor degree in Mathematics (HBSc 1977). From July 1979 he started his graduate studies where he received his degrees in Computer Science from Glasgow University-UK (PgD 1980, MPhil 1981) and from Brunel University-UK (PhD 1986). Since late 2001, he is a full Professor of Computer Science at Lakehead University.

Osvaldo Gervasi's research interests are focused on Computational Science, Grid Computing, Cloud Computing, Virtual Reality and Web Programming. He participated to two UE COST Actions, leading for each a Working Group. In 2007–2010 he was the Italian representative inside the Management Committee of the GridChem Action. He has been the co-Chair of ICCSA conference series from 2004. Currently he is a full Professor of University of Perugia in Italy.

Adrian Stoica has over 20 years of experience in embedding adaptive, learning and evolvable techniques into electronics and information systems, for applications ranging from measurement equipment and space avionics to robots. His 1995 PhD thesis Motion Learning by Robot Apprentices was one of the first works on anthropomorphic robots learning by imitation of human instructors. He has over 100 papers, 5 awarded patents, has been the general chair of four conferences, and since 1999 has been plenary speaker at several international conferences.

This special issue of IJRAM on disaster recovery and business continuity contains six papers from various countries, among which we mention Czech Republic, UK, USA, and South Korea. Achieving such a high quality of papers would have been impossible

without the huge work that was undertaken by the editorial board members and external reviewers. We take this opportunity to thank them for their great support and cooperation.

The paper 'Company valuation under risk and flexibility: discrete models comparison' concentrates on the comparison of company valuation models under risk and flexibility (real option approach). The approach simultaneously reflects uncertainty in the company's future cash flows and flexibility in decision-making, and models for financial options valuation are applied on company assets.

Intelligent environments connected freely available to all things on the network. But there is a higher possibility that various security threats as the convergence service can occur and the expansion of information in the network is explosive. In order to solve this issue, the suggested engine in the paper 'The study on the methods of secure communications on mobile device for intelligence services' provides a solution to protect sensitive information in intelligence environments.

The paper 'Business continuity management in UK higher education: a case study of crisis communication in the era of social media' explores crisis communications in UK higher education institutions (HEIs) between the institutions and their students. Using a case study of British universities, data are presented from interviews with university business continuity managers and student focus groups. This paper provides insights into current business continuity management practices in the higher education sector, business continuity managers' attitudes to social media as a communication tool during the incident response phase, and students' declared communication preferences.

A systematic risk-based method is proposed for assessing the resilience capacities of school buildings exposed to varying levels of seismic risk in the paper 'A risk-based system for managing the retrofitting school buildings in seismic prone areas: a case study from Iran'. This approach screens and monitors the equivalent seismic performance of buildings by the means of new composite risk index.

The empirical work reviews and incrementally advances the literature in this area, by examining disaster recovery periods using a conceptual framework, broad-based economic indicators, and results from select case studies. Factors influencing business continuity and economic recovery of businesses are highlighted and some best practices are discussed in 'Long term recovery from mega-disasters: regional and business recovery periods, differential vulnerability, and business continuity'.

The main goal of the final paper 'Mobile UW-ASN framework with RSSI-based protocol for shallow river monitoring' is to design and implement a framework of a distributed network of navigating AUV and fixed sensors for rivers that will collect monitoring information and transmit data to the central base station. The proposed framework perfectly fitted into the latest notion of internet of underwater things architecture and in future it can be used not only for shallow river monitoring but also in such extended applications as pipeline surveillance, harbour security, and fish farm monitoring.