

**The 2003 Congress on
Evolutionary Computation
CEC 2003**

Canberra, Australia
8-12 December,
2003

PREFACE

The 2003 Congress on Evolutionary Computation brings together researchers in Evolutionary Computation from all over the world, in Canberra, Australia. It was initiated by a small group within the School of IT&EE, UNSW at ADFA in Canberra, and given enthusiastic support by the heads of school and rector of UNSW at ADFA. Support from the Australian EC community and the ACT and Australian Governments, especially the Canberra Convention Bureau, facilitated the development of a persuasive portfolio which led IEEE Neural Networks Society, the Evolutionary Programming Society, and Engineers Australia to approve holding the Congress in Canberra. We thank all involved in this process for their ready support.

Overall 545 papers were submitted to the conference by researchers, practitioners, and students from around the world. This included 351 regular session papers and 194 special session papers. From this a total of 383 were selected for publication in the proceedings. The review process employed 164 reviewers for the regular session papers. Final publication decisions were made by the technical co-chairs, in consultation with the general chair. As a result, the conference has emerged through the hard work of many individuals scattered throughout the world. Special thanks go to the Program Committee, as well as those on the numerous other committees, all of which needed to work in synchrony to achieve our goals.

Along with the regular session papers, the special sessions chairs successfully attracted 18 special sessions, contributing enormously to the success of the Congress.

Our thanks go to all the individuals and groups who have helped to make the Congress a success, and especially to Canberra Convention Bureau for their enthusiastic support of the initial proposal, to Conference Logistics for their efficient administration of the conference processes, to Rydges' Lakeside Hotel for their effective venue support, and to staff of the Australian Academy of Science for their helpful assistance with the conference's venue and communications needs. We wish to thank the following for their contribution to the success of this conference: Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Asian Office of Aerospace Research and Development, Army Research Office - Far East. We also wish to thank the invited speakers, IEEE Neural Networks Society, the Evolutionary Programming Society, and Engineers Australia.

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