EDITORIAL

While organizing the Joint EUSFLAT-LFA 2005 Conference, that took place at Barcelona from September 7th to September 9th, we were worried about the number of papers and participants that would assist, especially when thinking on the amount of conferences each year are organized, all around the world, related with "Fuzzy Logic" and "Fuzzy Systems" topics. To be honest, we were not very optimistic, and we thought that it would be a great success if the number of papers, and participants, arrived to two hundred.

The development of this young research area, and its impact within the scientific community, was clearly reflected by the number (250) and the quality of accepted contributions to the conference. All the papers, whose subject ranged from fuzzy logic theory and technical developments to applications in many fields such as decision-making, information systems, process control, robotics, pattern recognition and many others, were thoroughly refereed by two expert referees and then accepted by the Program Committee.

Throughout these forty years, fuzzy set theory not only has evolved and strengthened but has been applied at many fields and real situations wherein the management of imprecision, uncertainty and partial knowledge is essential to model human thinking and ambiguity. Moreover, new promising applications are arising contributing to maintain the important role of fuzzy technologies. This was why, during the conference, the organization on behalf of all the participants thanked Professor Zadeh for establishing the seed that opened this fruitful research path forty years ago. From this editorial we want to stand out the gratitude that all the participants in the conference showed to him.

A sample of the quality of the contributions presented during the EUSFLAT-LFA 2005 conference is this special issue wherein there is a small representation of the work nowadays researchers all around the world are carrying out in fuzzy sets theory and its applications.

As Guest Editors of this Special Issue we would like to express our special gratitude to the authors for their contributions and the patience shown in the preparation of this volume. Thanks also to the excellent team of reviewers for their outstanding cooperation.

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