EDITORIAL

This is a special issue of MATHWARE & SOFT COMPUTING containing a selection of the papers presented to the Fourth Congress of the Spanish Association of Fuzzy Logic and Technology. Four years ago a group of Spanish researchers in the field of fuzzy logic and fuzzy technology decided to organise the first conference on this field and also to promote the Spanish association. In these four years the association has been very active. It promotes relations between researchers in the field and organises a congress every year, it offers the members of the association a database containing information they could be interested in, and it inspired the birth of the journal you have in your hands. The last congress which has furnished the material for this issue of MATHWARE –the Fourth Congress of the Spanish Association of Fuzzy Logic and Technology– was organised in Blanes by the Research Institute on Artificial Intelligence (IIIA) of the Spanish Council of Scientific Research (CSIC) in September 1994.

In our opinion, the 52 papers accepted for presentation to the last congress and the topics they cover is proof of the healthy state of research in this field, which has a long history in our country. The first papers were published at the beginning of seventies, and a statistical study of the papers published in the proceedings of the top five world congresses in the field shows that Spain is the fourth or fifth country in the world for the number of papers accepted there. Nevertheless, industrial applications are not so highly developed, and it would be very interesting to promote this development because of its importance and the potential of Spanish research in this field.

The selection of the papers for this issue has not been easy for us, because of the high scientific quality of the contributions presented to the Congress. In fact, many papers that have not been selected here are being published in other international journals. In any case, the content of this issue reflects all the topics presented at the congress and also the topics investigated by Spanish researchers in this area. The Universities and research centres where the authors work also show the geographical distribution of researchers in the area. The papers cover many different subjects, from the more theoretical and logical aspects to the more applied ones, and they are divided into three different groups. The first is devoted to theoretical papers, the second to different aspects of fuzzy logic and the third to applied papers in the general sense. This third group contains papers related, among others, to fuzzy hardware, fuzzy control, fuzzy relational databases, etc. It would also be interesting to note that the Congress has a section of software demonstrations that are not represented in this selection.

Finally, we wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to Prof. J. Jacas, editor in chief of Mathware and Soft Computing, for his valuable support in editing this issue. We hope the content of this issue will be interesting for the reader, and will contribute to increasing the knowledge of Spanish work in the field of Fuzzy Logic and Technology.

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Editors