

Starting from 15 to 17 July, the 4th International Workshop on Soft Computing Applications (SOFA 2010), with main topics on fuzzy systems, was held in Arad, Romania. For the first time, this IEEE symposium had as co-organizer the Institute for Computer Science of the Romanian Academy (ICS-RA). The organizers of the Symposium included IEEE-Romania, IEEE Hungary, IEEE CIS Romania Chapter and IEEE - Society for Industrial Electronics. The institute was represented in Arad by Prof. Horia - Nicolai Teodorescu, the Director of the institute, who was invited to give a plenary lecture, by Dr. Florin Rotaru, Head of the Doctoral School of the institute, and by Dr. Mihaela Costin, who has actively participated to the preparations of this workshop.

The SOFA symposium is now a major scientific event of the Eastern Europe in the field of soft computing and A.I. Its existence and success is largely due to the hard work and abnegation of Prof. Valentina E. Balas from Romania (Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad) who chaired the workshop, together with Prof. Janos Fodor and Prof. Annamaria R. Varkonyi-Koczy, both from Hungary (Óbuda University - former Budapest Tech). An important contribution to the publication of the proceedings is due to Prof. Marius M. Balas.

Hungarian scientists, including well known researchers like Prof. Annamaria R. Varkonyi-Koczy, Prof. József Dombi and Prof. Janos Fodor brought an essential contribution to the scientific success of the workshop. Major scientists from around the world: Prof. Michio Sugeno (Japan), Prof. Hideyuki Takagi (Japan), Prof. Horia - Nicolai Teodorescu (Romania), Prof. Jair Minoro Abe (Brazil), Assistant Professor Diana Borca-Tasciuc (USA) and Prof. József Dombi (Hungary) presented invited lectures. A round-table on education in the field of e-skills and certifications, organized and moderated by Prof. Vasile Baltac, president of ATIC si CEPIS concluded the symposium. The event ended with a tutorial presented by Prof. Mircea Ciugudean, former Dean of the Faculty of Electronics and Telecommunications, Timisoara Polytechnic University.

The workshop had a global character, a great number of countries being represented by renowned professors and scientific researchers, bringing the latest information into discussion, from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Iran, Japan, Romania, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, India, Taiwan and Serbia.

The Rector of the Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad – Prof. dr. Lizica Mihut, and high level representatives of education and health authorities of Arad county, like Prof. Dr. Teodora Olariu – Head of the Municipal Hospital in Arad, visited the event and discussed with the participants.

The Symposium had a large number of women participants, attracted numerous PhDs and Master students from Romania and Hungary, and was accomplished with a visit to Feredeu Monastery and a rustic social event in the country-side of the Arad county during which Prof. Mircea Ciugudean and Dr. Mihaela Costin from ICS-RA exchanged epigrams composed on the spot.

Dr. Florin Rotaru has chaired the “Image Processing” session of the workshop, while Dr. Mihaela Costin organized the “Intelligent Systems and Soft Computing Applications” session, chaired by Prof. Horia - Nicolai Teodorescu, and chaired the “Signal Processing and Biomedical Applications” session. Four papers, authored or co-authored by 8 researchers from ICS-RA Iasi, have been presented, most of them on image processing using soft computing techniques.