

# Connections



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## Presidents Corner: The IEEE Neural Networks Council and IEEE Transnationalism

Robert J. Marks II

President IEEE Neural Networks Council



The IEEE is a transnational organization with local sections in such provocative places as Moscow, Beijing, Singapore, Tehran and San Francisco. Many of the thirtysomething IEEE Societies have local chapters in these and other sections. The IEEE Neural Networks Council, alas, cannot have such local chapters - yet. We will when we warrant Society status within IEEE.

Regional neural network societies, not directly affiliated with IEEE, have recently been sprouting like spring tulips in rich humus. The Council is busily working with some of these organizations. When our status within IEEE allows chapter reproductive rights, this cooperative work will continue. The reasons are twofold. First and foremost, the community will be best served via cooperation. Secondly, the Council, strongly inclined towards engineering, asks what the neuron can do for us. Cognitive psychologists, neurophysiologists and other members of these regional organizations, ask the converse. Information cross fertilization and infrastructure integrity require cooperative interaction with our sister disciplines.

Here's a (partial?) list of current regional neural network professional organizations:

- Australian Neural Networks Association
- Chinese Neural Networks Committee
- European Neural Networks Society

- International Neural Networks Society (United States)
- Japanese Neural Networks Society
- Russian Neural Networks Society

Each of these Societies is less than four years old. The Australian Neural Networks Association was formed in August.

Here is a nutshell summary of our current joint activities with these regional societies. In October, 1992, we will be co-sponsoring, in Russia, the 1992 RNNS/IEEE Symposium on Neuroinformatics and Neurocomputing with the Russian Neural Networks Society. In another joint effort with the RNNS, the Council is pursuing the publication of the second edition of a neural network volume, this time in English, by the President of the RNNS, Dr. Witali Dunin-Barkowski. (This will be one of a number of books sponsored by the Council to be published by the IEEE Press). The November 1992 IJCNN in Beijing is co-sponsored by the Chinese Neural Networks Committee. The Japanese Neural Networks Society is a co-sponsor of the Nagoya IJCNN in October 1993. The Council has been in cooperation with European conferences sponsored by the precursor of the European Neural Networks Society. All IJCNN's, through 1993, are co-sponsored by the INNS.

With an eye to additional cooperation, the IEEE Neural Networks Council sponsored the first Presidents Dinner at

the Seattle IJCNN. Representatives of the neural networks societies of the world were in attendance.

- CNNC: Prof. Youshaw Wu, (Tsinghua University, Beijing) President; Dr. Zong Sha (Chinese Institute of Electronics, Beijing); and Prof Yi-Xin Zhong (University of Posts & Telecom, Beijing).
- ENNS: Prof. John Taylor (King's College, London), Vice President and Rolf Eckmiller (University of Dusseldorf), Vice President.
- INNS: Dr. Harold H. Szu (Naval Research Lab, Washington D.C.), Treasurer.
- JNNS: Dr. Kunihiko Fukushima (Osaka University, Japan), President.
- RNNS: Dr. Witali Dunin-Barkowski (Rostov State University, Russia), President.

The IEEE Neural Networks Council was represented by Dr. Russell C. Eberhart

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Prof. Youshou Wu and Prof. Zong Sha (Chinese Neural Networks Committee) and Mr. Irv Engelson (IEEE Staff Director, for Technical Activities)

### IEEE Neural Networks Council Constituent Societies

Circuits and Systems Society  
Communications Society  
Control Systems Society  
Engin. in Medicine & Biology Soc.  
Industrial Electronics Society  
Industry Applications Society  
Information Theory Society  
Lasers and Electro-Optics Society  
Oceanic Engineering Society  
Robotics and Automation Society  
Signal Processing Society  
Systems, Man & Cybernetics Soc.

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### *President's Corner (Cont.)*

(Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab), President-Elect and me. Although there was no set agenda save cuisine enjoyment, the conversation was exuberantly jubilant, replete with toasts to cooperation and harmony. The most important outcome of the event, I believe, was eyeball-to-eyeball dialogue among the participants, most of whom had not previously met. 'Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success'. We have begun. Progress will be made when the second *President's Dinner* is held at the Singapore IJCNN.

All of the regional neural network organizations and other professional organizations devoted to intelligent systems, will be invited to participate in the *World Congress on Intelligent Systems* to be first held in July 1994 in Washington D.C. In the spirit of self organization, the major meetings of the *IEEE Neural Networks Council* will here be clustered in the same location at the same time, including *The International Conference on Neural Networks* and *FUZZ-IEEE*. Although initiating the Congress sooner would be best for all, the 1994 date is necessitated by the lead time requirements for conference facilities.

The world of intelligent systems is becoming more involved. Like qualifying for paying windfall profits tax, this is a good problem to have. Indeed, when the going gets easier, chances are we're going downhill.