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Preface

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Preface

We are pleased to present this special issue of Elsevier's *Procedia Computer Science*, which consists of the proceedings of the 21st International Conference on Knowledge - Based and Intelligent Information & Engineering Systems (KES 2017) which was organised by the LSIS (Laboratoire des Sciences de l'Information et des Systèmes from Marseille, France) and KES International. The conference was held on September 6th to 8th, 2017 at the Saint Charles campus of Aix-Marseille University, next to the Vieux Port in Marseille.

KES 2017 was the 21st event in a series of broad-spectrum intelligent systems conferences first held in Adelaide, Australia in 1997. The main aim of this KES conference series is to provide an internationally respected forum for the dissemination of research results and the discussion of issues relating to the theory, technologies and applications of intelligent information and knowledge-based systems.

This year, this truly international conference attracted a substantial number of researchers and practitioners from all over the world, who submitted their papers to three general tracks, three thematic tracks and 29 special sessions on specific topics. Two workshops were also available for submissions. Accepted and presented papers highlighted the new trends and challenges of intelligent and knowledge-based systems. Each paper was peer reviewed by at least two members of the International Program Committee. A very high number of submissions were received; from them, 240 high-quality papers were accepted for oral presentation and publication in *Procedia Computer Science*. The quality of the research presented is reflected into indexing these proceedings in CPCi (ISI conferences), Engineering Index, and Scopus.

The editors of this volume would like to express our gratitude to the Keynote Speakers: Professors Agostino Bruzzone (Italy), Pierre Collet (France), Anne Håkansson (Sweden), Yuji Iwahori (Japan) and Christoph Reich (Germany).

We would like to acknowledge also the Programme Co-Chairs, the General Track Chairs, the International Programme Committee members and reviewers for their valuable efforts in the review process, helping us to guarantee the highest quality possible for the conference. We would also like to thank the organisers and chairs of the special sessions which make an essential

contribution to the success of the conference.

Lastly, we would like to thank all the authors, presenters and delegates for their valuable contribution in making this an extraordinary event.

We hope and intend that KES2017 has made a significant contribution to international research collaboration and understanding, an essential task for the promotion of scientific joint work and excellence.

Professor Cecilia Zanni-Merk
Professor Claudia Frydman
Dr Carlos Toro
Dr Yulia Hicks
Professor Robert J. Howlett and
Professor Lakhmi C. Jain
Editors, KES2017 Proceedings

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