

A Vision for Our Future Based on Our Roots

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CIS grew in the past few years from a Council to a fully autonomous Society within the IEEE, with strong links both to the other IEEE entities and the international associations related to our field of interest. This was a coordinated effort of many volunteers who dedicated themselves to the set CIS as a focal point in the worldwide scientific and professional scenarios for the areas of computational intelligence and the related applications. My personal recognition and appreciation goes to each and every one of them: my term as CIS President (2006-07) will be much easier since I will rely both on solid organizational bases and cooperative experts and friends.

As Society our goal will be twofold:

- serving our members by providing them the best support as possible so that they can affirm and expand their leadership in computational intelligence technologies and methodologies, as well as in the related applications,
- serving the overall scientific, professional, and governmental communities by providing them advanced technologies and adaptive solutions to many application problems by exploiting our knowledge and expertise.

We strive to become pervasive at worldwide level from the scientific and professional points of view so as to show and reaffirm the value of technologies, methodologies, and applications that we develop and in which we firmly believe. We aim to maintain our worldwide reputation as the main reference point for computational intelligence technologies and applications.

“Knowledge in your hand” will be our motto. Any service that we can provide will be shortsighted or even useless if first of all we will not focus on disseminating our knowledge. Knowledge is the key for the future of the worldwide economy and society development, especially in the globalized scenarios. Simplifying the access to knowledge and promoting it will be instrumental for highly enhancing the opportunities of worldwide economical growth, social promotion, and quality-of-life enhancement, especially in the economically less-favored geographical areas, in a peaceful and cooperative perspective. By having knowledge in our hands we will have the opportunity of having our future in our hands. This can make the difference: we can make the difference.

To achieve these goals, in the next years we will address various issues for the benefit of our members, the whole IEEE, and the various communities to which we are related. Our strategic plan will be directed to better serve you –our valued members– and the various communities by consolidating and innovating our activities and relationships: publications, conferences, educational services, technical activities, and members’ services.

Publications will be expanded by adding the Computational Intelligence Magazine. This will provide a channel to disseminate knowledge at a tutorial level for the benefit of the people who

might be or become interested in our technologies and in our approaches to problem solving by mimicking nature. We are also studying the opportunities of creating additional archival journals to disseminate advanced knowledge on specific innovative areas. We have almost completed the transition to the web-based management for manuscript submission and review, so that we can continue to ensure a very low time to publication, without impairing the high quality of our publications and the related impact factor in the worldwide scientific communities.

Conferences will require special attention and care. In the last couple of years our members multiplied the proposals for sponsored or technically cooperated meetings, especially in emerging geographical areas. This is the proof that our society is highly vital and still growing at the regional level. Many of the new meetings were in fact proposed by volunteers with the assistance of our Chapters: thank you to these volunteers and to our Chapters' Officers. We will reorganize the procedures for granting the CIS support so as to assist better our volunteers. With the assistance of our technical committees we will develop new specialized conferences so as to create dedicated forums for the needs of relevant sectors of our communities. With the assistance of our Chapters we will increase the offer of local interdisciplinary meetings, especially for the benefit both of the professionals working in computational intelligence areas and the ones who might be attracted whenever we can provide them valuable solutions to their application problems. With our Chapters we will also address the need of technological dissemination in geographical areas, in which CIS has less presence, or in which interest to technologies and worldwide interactions is emerging, or in which the economical conditions are less favorable.

Educational services will be highly expanded by promoting various events and products. Summer schools and professional training courses will be developed as retreat educational periods where scientific or professional skills can be expanded and refined in various computational intelligence areas. Continuous long-distance education will be also enhanced by developing many on-line tutorials with the assistance of outstanding scholars and professionals. Some examples have been completed recently, but we like to make our basic knowledge as well as our advanced achievements available to the large public for the benefit of the worldwide cultural growth.

Technical activities will undergo a major restructuring for better serving the needs of our various communities. The well-consolidated committee on our technologies will continue and expand their activities by promoting research, dissemination, and technological and methodological discussion about their own specific technology. New technical committees will spring off whenever new technologies will have been sufficiently analyzed and studied. Orthogonally, we will develop more application-oriented technical groups in order to address the needs of professionals and governmental bodies: in each of these forums our various technologies will find a natural place for comprehensive comparisons in the perspective of the specific characteristics and issues of the envisioned application. Some work has been already performed in this direction recently, but more involvement of professionals will be fundamental for the refinement of the technologies in the various application areas. This will allow many professionals for finding their own home in our society and better understanding our technologies and methodologies. All of these technical groups will generate new knowledge and promote its dissemination through the various channels mentioned above.

Members' services will be expanded. The regional structure based on Chapters will be consolidated by promoting more networking among them, as well as expanded to cover under-represented geographical areas, especially in some parts of North-America, Eastern Europe, and Asia. This will provide better basis for networking people and knowledge dissemination by means of seminars, technical forums, technical visits, workshops, and conferences. CIS will strongly support the Distinguished Lecturers Program, which permits knowledge dissemination by selected outstanding lecturers by providing funds for their travel expenses. Promotion and recognition of CIS members will be another focal point of our activity, not only by expanding the Senior and Fellow Members Programs, but also by developing various networking opportunities at local and regional level. New awards have been established recently and further ones will be added soon to recognize the excellence of our members both in the academia and the profession. Grant programs will be augmented or established to support knowledge dissemination and acquisition: more conference and school grants will be given to students, while additional ones will be made available to professionals who recently graduated. Many tutorials will be made available to CIS members. Other unique services are being studied in order to make CIS membership highly valuable.

Since we are working in a worldwide interdisciplinary scenario and we are definitely convinced that cooperation and synergies are fundamental and highly beneficial for the overall development of the computational intelligence field as well as for promoting a peaceful economic and social global growth, we will strive to expand our friendly relationships with the IEEE entities as well as with other scientific and professional associations. We will also work hard to create opportunities for starting new relationships and making new cooperation agreements for the good of technology, science, economy, and the whole human society.

All of the above goals will remain only a nice –even though appealing– vision if no volunteers will devote their experience, abilities, idealism, and efforts to make it real, to put knowledge in the people's hands. CIS needs each and every one of its members to create our future: our society needs you! We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers, at Society and regional levels, who have and new ideas to expand and improve our current activities and become future leaders of our Society.

Our Society will grow with you!

We are working hard to assure that CIS provides you –our valued members– with high quality products, benefits, and services. Our strategic plan has been developed to assure that the value of CIS membership continues to grow. *CIS is your home*. Stay with us! Tell your friends and colleagues to join us and benefit from all of the opportunities that we can offer! Cooperate in helping us to assure our societal goals and become one of our volunteers!

Any suggestion, comment, or criticism intended to enhance our services and plans is most welcome. We need to hear the opinion of each and every one of you. Please, feel free to contact me and the other Society's officers.