

From the ExCo

Our pattern recognition community has just lost one of its pioneers and founding fathers: Professor Azriel Rosenfeld passed away in February 2004. The loss is immense, and we are unable to say in just a few words – or even fully understand – how much his life-long dedication to the field and his service to the IAPR have meant for each one of us. There will certainly be several opportunities, in the coming months, to honor Azriel's memory and pay due tribute to his numerous contributions.

The next ICPR will be held this summer, and by the time you receive this newsletter, many of you are probably planning to attend this conference. In this connection, the ExCo is pleased to announce that the IAPR will again award a number of travel stipends of 500 USD each to authors of papers accepted by ICPR, oral or poster, who would not be able to attend the ICPR without this contribution. An application must be sent to the IAPR Secretary. The applicant should provide the following information: name, title, complete affiliation, paper ID, whether he/she is a member of an IAPR member society or not, and any other useful information to explain the request for a stipend. The ExCo points out that the applicant should be able to find elsewhere the complementary funds, necessary to cover the ICPR registration fee and the traveling expenses, as the 500 USD amount will be the maximum contribution provided by the IAPR. Precise information about how to send in the application, including the deadline, will be posted in due time on the ICPR web site.

In these last months, the Conferences and Meetings Committee, in close cooperation with the ExCo, has worked out a standard memorandum of understanding to be signed by the IAPR and ICPR conference organizers; those of you working on a proposal for organizing ICPR'08 are therefore kindly requested to contact the Conference and Meetings Committee as soon as possible to get a copy of this MoU, and make sure that your proposal addresses the various points mentioned by the MoU. Please make sure that your proposal is sent in due time to the Conferences and Meetings Committee.

Another joint action of the C&M Committee and of the ExCo is that of working out more simple and legible rules for the various levels of support the IAPR may provide to conferences and workshops, the associated levy to be paid to IAPR, and the incentives which the IAPR can provide for the success of these events. We plan to submit the revised rules for Governing Board approval at the GB meeting to be held this summer, during ICPR.

Professor Mubarak Shah has been named the new editor-in-chief of Machine Vision and Applications, an IAPR journal. We congratulate Dr. Shah on this appointment and thank the outgoing editor-in-chief, Professor Mohan Trivedi for his service.

Finally, a correction to what we wrote in the last newsletter. As some readers noted, the admission to IAPR membership of the Moroccan Pattern Recognition Section of AMADEIA, our 40th member, did not mark the first member society from the African continent, but the first member society from North Africa. The IAPR has already had a South African member for a number of years. Our apologies for the error in the wording.