

From the ExCo

IAPR activities concerning the important scope of practical applications of pattern recognition had remained dormant for some years, but they have now been revived. The key point is for both academic and industrial researchers to get together and to communicate intensively with each other to promote this domain. In order to coordinate these interface efforts and to develop one research community, a new proposition for creating a Technical Committee 8 on Machine Vision Application was proposed by a group of researchers, under the leadership of Prof. Ikeuchi from the University of Tokyo, and has now been approved by a Governing Board vote.

In our efforts to enhance communication with all our members, we have now set up a web site open to all IAPR individual members (a simple registration is necessary). The web site, kindly hosted by the CEDAR, can be found at the following address (also linked from the IAPR web page): <http://www.cedar.buffalo.edu/IAPR/>, where the two last issues of the newsletter can currently be found. In the future, this members-only web site will also provide other useful information to all the association's members.

Each individual member of the IAPR is entitled to receive his/her own copy of the Newsletter, either directly mailed from the printer, or redistributed within the Member Society, depending on the choice made by their Member Society. There have been some discussions on the preferred form for the newsletter distribution: paper version as it is currently, or electronic. To prepare a possible discussion of this topic at the next Governing Board meeting, during ICPR'04, all individual members will be asked in the coming weeks, by their member society, to kindly answer a questionnaire, which will help us get a feeling of the main wishes of the membership at large. We thank you in advance for taking some time to answer this questionnaire. Your member society will report back to the Executive Committee with a summary of the answers collected.

The ExCo plans to meet in July in Göteborg (Sweden), for its annual meeting. One of the points to be discussed is the renewal of the initiative to offer travel stipends for the next ICPR. Expect more news on this and other topics in the next newsletter.