Preface

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the *11th International Conference on Neural Information Processing* (ICONIP 2004) to be held in Calcutta. ICONIP 2004 is organized jointly by the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and Jadavpur University (JU). We are confident that ICONIP 2004, like the previous conferences in this series, will provide a forum for fruitful interaction and the exchange of ideas between the participants coming from all parts of the globe. ICONIP 2004 covers all major facets of computational intelligence, but, of course, with a primary emphasis on neural networks. We are sure that this meeting will be enjoyable academically and otherwise.

We are thankful to the track chairs and the reviewers for extending their support in various forms to make a sound technical program. Except for a few cases, where we could get only two review reports, each submitted paper was reviewed by at least three referees, and in some cases the revised versions were again checked by the referees. We had 470 submissions and it was not an easy task for us to select papers for a four-day conference. Because of the limited duration of the conference, based on the review reports we selected only about 40% of the contributed papers. Consequently, it is possible that some good papers are left out. We again express our sincere thanks to all referees for accomplishing a great job. In addition to 186 contributed papers, the proceedings includes two plenary presentations, four invited talks and 18 papers in four special sessions. The proceedings is organized into 26 coherent topical groups. We are proud to have a list of distinguished speakers including Profs. S. Amari, W.J. Freeman, N. Saitou, L. Chua, R. Eckmiller, E. Oja, and T. Yamakawa. We are happy to note that 27 different countries from all over the globe are represented by the authors, thereby making it a truly international event.

We are grateful to Prof. A.N. Basu, Vice-Chancellor, JU and Prof. K.B. Sinha, Director, ISI, who have taken special interest on many occasions to help the organizers in many ways and have supported us in making this conference a reality. Thanks are due to the Finance Chair, Prof. R. Bandyopadhyay, and the Tutorial Chair, Prof. B.B. Chaudhuri.

We want to express our sincere thanks to the members of the Advisory Committee for their timely suggestions and guidance. We sincerely acknowledge the wholehearted support provided by the members of the Organizing Committee. Special mention must be made of the organizing Co-chairs, Prof. D. Patranabis and Prof. J. Das for their initiative, cooperation, and leading roles in organizing the conference. The staff members of the Electronics and Communication Sciences Unit of ISI have done a great job and we express our thanks to them. We are also grateful to Mr. Subhasis Pal of the Computer and Statistical Services Center, ISI, for his continuous support. Things will remain incomplete unless we mention Mr. P.P. Mohanta, Mr. D. Chakraborty, Mr. D.K. Gayen and Mr. S.K. Shaw without whose help it would have been impossible for us to

make this conference a success. We must have missed many other colleagues and friends who have helped us in many ways; we express our sincere thanks to them also.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support provided by different organizations, as listed below. Their support helped us greatly to hold this conference on this scale.

Last, but surely not the least, we express our sincere thanks to Mr. Alfred Hofmann and Ms. Ursula Barth of Springer for their excellent support in bringing out the proceedings on time.

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