

## FOREWORD

The IJCIM covers the entire range of topics in Information technology, but that does not prevent us from time to time dealing with very specific topics. In the specialized articles one often can find a small idea or approach that is being used in one field but which can also provide useful insights for another. We are certain that the present issue is such an issue.

Let us begin with the most general of the articles, Dr. Kennedy D. Gunawardana's evaluation of the status of information technology in Sri Lanka. The author recognizes the enormous range of PC activities and considers their application and problems in an important South Asian country. Although only a minority of our readers work in that country the conclusions and analyses of the author are applicable far beyond the limits of that country.

Kamrul Hasan Talukder looks at an important issue in systems design. The design process typically goes from abstract, often visual, symbolism to more concrete specifications that take into account the actual physical properties of the system. In this article, the author considers the use of Message Sequence Charts (MSCs) as a way of conceptualizing system requirements and the transition to the next stages of the design. LI Hai-bo and Zhan De-chen also consider fairly broad design issues involving software. Concentrating on large workflow systems development, the authors consider both the efficiencies of reuse of software components and the importance of maintaining the client's specific specifications.

Chin-Tai Chen, Ming-Han Lin, Juin-Han Chen, Chih-Chien Tu and John Yuan, on the one hand, concentrate on a specific type of machine system and its production control policy. Using a simulation method, they find that the system has a minimum cost rate and can generate a good deal of success.

Looking more globally at enterprise management, Shing-Ko Liang and Chi-Tai Lien examine the selection of relevant factors to be used in Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), making use of a Fuzzy Analytic Hierarchy Process (FAHP). Applications in both the semiconductor and education fields are examined in this article. Enterprise analysis using AHP, albeit, in a much more industry specific form, also figures in the article about data warehouse system selection decisions for small and large enterprises in Taiwan, written by Hua-Yang Lin and Ping-Yu Hsu. The use of this process is seen as providing significant business advantages in such operations.

Finally, Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Faisal Mahbub Chowdhury, Rajib Kumar Rana, Mohammad Fazleh Elahi, and Md. Aminul Islam, consider an important aspect of speech recognition research, the detection and tracking of the lip contour. A major problem is recognition of this lip contour. However, the authors have investigated a means for investigating these contours. This article, therefore, has shifted from the very general to the very specific and we are certain that all of our readers will find something relevant to their own work in this issue.

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