Central Research Laboratory, Hitachi, Ltd., Kokubunji, Tokyo, Japan

You are cordially invited to submit a paper to the 9th International Workshop on Frontiers in Handwriting Recognition (IWFHR-9), which will take place on October 26-29, 2004 at Hitachi Central Research Laboratory (HCRL), Kokubunji, Tokyo, Japan. The IWFHR series of workshops provides a forum for researchers and engineers in the areas of online and offline recognition of handwriting for the processing of handwritten documents and forms in all languages, and pen-based interface for mobile devices and other information systems. The workshop is the ninth of this series, and the technical sessions will be extended to 3.5 days for the first time. The program committee invites the submission of original papers for inclusion in the workshop. All accepted papers will be published in the workshop proceedings, and the authors of accepted papers will be invited to present their work in the form of oral presentations or posters. All papers and presentations will be in English.

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Technical topics include, but are not limited to:

- Online and offline handwriting recognition
- Preprocessing and segmentation
- Feature extraction such as Gabor filter, wavelet transformation, etc.
- Information integration
- Linguistic post-processing
- Performance evaluation
- Classifier combination
- Asian character recognition
- Writer identification and signature verification
- Handwritten diagram recognition

- Handwritten mathematical equation recognition
- Image search and retrieval algorithms
- Theoretical approaches including cognitive aspects and motor aspects
- Application systems such as e-Learning, e-Government, digital archives, and entertainment applications
- Digital pen and its applications
- Mobile device applications
- User interface and human factor issues
- Standardization issues

Submission Format

Paper manuscripts for review must be sent electronically to the program committee no later than **March 15, 2004**. The manuscript should be prepared as A4-size (or letter-size), 12point, single-column, single-space pages, whose length is limited to 10 such pages including tables and figures. Other detailed instructions including the camera-ready format will be posted on the web whose address is shown below.

Important Dates

Paper submission deadline: March 15, 2004
Notification of acceptance: May 15, 2004
Camera-ready manuscript: June 15, 2004

Venue of the Workshop:

Central Research Laboratory, Hitachi, Ltd., Kokubunji, Tokyo, Japan
http://koigakubo.hitachi.co.jp/index-e.html

The workshop will be held at a Hitachi's premise, which is a 20,000m^2 campus with a Japanese garden. The Laboratory has about 800 researchers and staffs. We will occupy one total floor of the main building that includes a 200-seat conference room, a medium-sized meeting room, an exhibition/demonstration room, a guest room, and a few more meeting rooms. Lunches will be served at an in-house cafeteria in the campus. Several international conferences have been held here before, including IAPR Workshop on Machine Vision Applications.

The location is reached by 7-minute walk from the nearest railway station, Kokubunji, which is 35-minute westbound-train ride from Tokyo. Tokyo is about one hour distant from New Tokyo International Airport (i.e. Narita Airport) by train. Hotels are reserved for this workshop, and the nearest one is within 10-minute walk.

We will provide a shuttle bus service between the main hotel and the venue.

An aerial view of HCRL

Technical Tour and Social Programs

Technical tours to IT companies and a postal office where new mail sorting machines are working are being planned to take place on Monday afternoon, October 25th. Those tours are sponsored and organized by private companies including Fujitsu, NEC, Toshiba, and Hitachi. The participants may visit their manufacturing sites and/or R&D sites. On the afternoon of the last day of the workshop, an optional excursion will take the pre-registered participants to the Hakone area near Mt. Fuji, which is one of the best sightseeing spots in Japan. It will have an option to stay there over night to enjoy more sightseeing.

Contact Address:

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IWFHR-9 Official Website:

http://koigakubo.hitachi.co.jp/~IWFHR9/