

## **Building Bridges across Cognitive Sciences around the World**

Welcome to Sapporo and CogSci 2012, the 34th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. We hope you enjoy the conference and find the program of workshops, tutorials, talks, symposia, and poster presentations that we have assembled to be both fascinating and inspiring.

CogSci 2012 represents a significant milestone in the history of the conference as it is the first to be located outside of Europe and North America. It is the culmination of several years of planning and the clearest example to date of the desire of the Cognitive Science Society to strengthen its connections with similar organizations in the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere around the world.

As you browse this program, you will see that CogSci has evolved into a truly international conference with a total of 37 countries being represented. Of the 798 accepted talks and posters, approximately 40% are from East Asia, 37% come from the Americas, and 20% originate from Europe, with the rest coming from Australia, North Africa and other regions of Asia. We hope you will be impressed by the high quality of the research presented and the diverse range of questions being addressed.

In addition to this strong collection of talks and posters, we are delighted to have three world leaders in their fields as plenary speakers – Gerd Gigerenzer, Nancy Nersessian, and Lawrence Barsalou –, not to mention a broad set of symposia exploring the breadth of cognitive science.

As chairs, we organized two symposia to allow distinguished researchers an opportunity to discuss two important contemporary issues in cognitive science. The first takes the thirtieth anniversary of David Marr's landmark posthumous book, *Vision*, to address the question whether his tripartite formulation of levels of analysis is still relevant in the age of reductionist neuroscience and Bayesian analysis. Our second symposium reflects on and explores historical origins and recent developments in robotics research (an area of considerable activity and expertise in Japan) that seek new ways of understanding cognition via the mechanisms and processes of embodiment and emotion.

The Governing Board of the Cognitive Science Society has also organized a symposium to bring together leading thinkers from Asia, Europe and the US to discuss real world implementations of educational innovations based on cognitive and learning science principles and research.

This conference is the result of the hard work of many people. Firstly, we would like to thank the members of the Organizing Committee, the Program Committee, the prize judges, and all the many reviewers for their time and effort. Secondly, we would like to thank the Society's Business Manager, Deborah Gruber, for her work in administering prizes, visas, etc., James Stewart of Precision Conference Solutions for his rapid responses to our questions, and those at Scarritt Group for their organization of the venue and local arrangements. Thirdly, we would in

particular like to thank the Society's Conference Officer, Andy Stull, for his advice and help in coordinating the whole conference, getting the program together, and keeping us on schedule.

We would also like to thank members of The International Association of Cognitive Science (Asia-Pacific) and Japan Cognitive Science Society for their many contributions to this conference and to their progressive drive to strengthen ties between cognitive scientists throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

CogSci is renowned for the high quality and diversity of the research presented as well as for being a crucial annual opportunity to meet like-minded individuals from across the globe. As you attend the conference we hope you agree with us that this year is no exception. We hope also that the connections you make here bear fruit through new productive collaborations so that the conference can truly achieve its aim of building bridges across cognitive sciences around the world.

Naomi Miyake, David Peebles, Richard P. Cooper

Co-chairs, CogSci 2012