

WELCOME

On behalf of the IROS 2005 Conference Organizing Committee, we are very pleased to welcome you to Edmonton for the 2005 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems. Our conference theme “Networked Sensors and Robots for the Improvement of the Quality of Life” reflects the growing interests in the emerging research areas of networked sensors and robots and their applications in medical services, environmental monitoring and protection, terrorism prevention, and many other related areas. A record high of 1,204 papers were submitted from 42 countries and regions, and 663 are accepted for presentation at the conference after a rigorous full-paper review process, achieving an acceptance rate of 55%. These papers reflect the dynamism of research activities in the broad areas of intelligent robots and systems and the emergence of new research topics in addressing the ever increasing challenges from the related industrial and societal needs.

Situated at the edge of the Canadian Rockies, the city of Edmonton is within driving distance to some of the most popular tourist attractions in Canada: Banff National Park, Lake Louise, Jasper National Park, and Columbia Ice-field. The City of Edmonton has the world's largest shopping complex: The West Edmonton Mall, and is the host city of NHL Edmonton Oilers, the University of Alberta, and the Canadian National Institute for Nanotechnology on the U of A campus. Every August, Edmonton hosts a variety of international festivals. IROS 2005 promises to be a great experience for researchers and scholars in intelligent robots and systems from all over the world, with an excellent technical program as well as social activities.

We wish to express our gratitude to all of our sponsoring societies and organizations and to all the individuals who have contributed to the organization of this conference. Special thanks are extended to our colleagues in the Program Committee for their thorough review of all the submitted papers with an average of 3.4 reviews per paper, which is vital to the success of this conference. We must also extend our thanks to our Organizing Committee and our volunteers who have dedicated their time toward ensuring the success of this conference. Last but not least, we thank all the contributors from 42 countries and regions for their support and participation in making this conference a great success.

Finally, if your travel plans permit, we encourage you stay beyond your meeting to enjoy visiting Edmonton and the Canadian Rockies. We wish you a great conference and enjoyable stay in Edmonton.



Max Q.-H. Meng
General Chair



Hong Zhang
Program Chair