

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL CHAIRS

Kia ora! Nau mai, haere mai! It is our pleasure to welcome you to Wellington for the 2019 IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation (CEC 2019), held from June 10th to 13th. This year, CEC includes 18 tutorials given by experts in the most relevant emerging topics of evolutionary computation and related fields. It also features 75 advanced special sessions organized by domain specialists covering specific topics, along with 11 competitions and three workshops in the field's most exciting and active research areas. Highlights of the conference include the public lectures and plenary talks:

- *What Can Evolutionary Computation Do For You?* by Prof Xin Yao
- *Research Trends in Evolutionary Multi-Objective Optimization: Past, Present and Future* by Prof Hisao Ishibuchi
- *Towards the Autonomous Evolution of Robotic Ecosystems* by Prof Emma Hart
- *Creative AI through Evolutionary Computation* by Prof Risto Miikkulainen
- *How AI Makes Personalized Education Affordable to Every Family in China* by Dr Wei Cui

CEC 2019 received 791 submissions from authors spanning 73 countries and regions. After a thorough review process under the guidance of the program chair, technical co-chairs, and with the help of special session organizers, 443 papers were accepted for publication in the proceedings, giving an acceptance rate of 56% (39% for oral presentations and 17% for poster presentations). The accepted papers represent a diverse view of the latest advances in the area and give a preview of the next steps in our commitment to drawing inspiration from nature for solving real, practical problems.

Wellington is the perfect place to host you for four days of robust dialogue and networking. We hope you can enjoy all it has to offer you: the museum, food, beaches, atmosphere, shopping, and numerous other attractions. We trust that the scientific program, paired with this exceptional setting, will make 2019 IEEE CEC an unforgettable event.

All of this would not be possible without all the people in the organising committee. They worked so tirelessly that some of them deserve to be the general chairs! A special mention to Carlos Coello Coello, who ensured the high-quality scientific standards of the conference. Bing Xue, who, in addition to acting as a financial chair, worked side by side with us in many organisational aspects. Will Browne and Hui Ma curated a range of excellent local events. Aaron Chen and Yi Mei managed the crucial conference registration process. Yi Mei did a superb job compiling the proceedings. Harith Al-Sahaf, Yiming Peng, Qi Chen, Yanan Sun, and Ying Bi designed a sleek website and helped extensively with marketing. Last but not least, we acknowledge the contributions of Suzan Hall, Andy Newman, Dan Thompson, Chris Dean, Sarah Lanigan, Grace Leask, Monoa Taepa, Sarah Dillon, and Tony McLoughlin from Victoria University of Wellington. Finally, we thank the chairs and co-chairs whose dedication made this stimulating, world-class program possible.

We also thank our sponsors: IEEE, IEEE CIS, Victoria University of Wellington, Tourism New Zealand, Facebook, YiXue Education, and ONRG for their support in facilitating the conference.

Mengjie Zhang and Kay Chen Tan
General Co-Chairs
2019 IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation