Congratulations to Japanese Society for Evolutionary Computation

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I am absolutely delighted to know the establishment of Japanese Society for Evolutionary Computation and the launch of a new online Japanese journal in evolutionary computation by the Society. I congratulate wholeheartedly all the board directors of the Japanese Society for Evolutionary Computation for their leadership and all the members for their active participation in this very exciting Society.

Evolutionary computation has grown greatly in the last decade or so both in its popularity and importance in research. For example, the IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation has firmly established as a premier international journal according to Thomson Reuter's Journal Citation Reports. According to the latest (2009) data, IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation's impact factor is 4.589, which placed it at the 2nd among 130 "Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence" journals, the 3rd among 91 "Computer Science, Theory & Methods" journals, and the 4th among all 426 Computer Science journals in the world. Based on the 5 year impact factor (7.621), IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation was ranked the 2nd, 2nd and 4th, respectively, in the above categories.

If we consider the number of papers appeared at the annual IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation (CEC), it has doubled from around 350 five years ago to around 700 now. There are also numerous other international conferences devoted to evolutionary computation.

Furthermore, many journals and conferences in artificial intelligence, operations research and other areas of computer science and engineering publish evolutionary computation related papers frequently.

However, international activities do not and cannot replace national activities such as the Japanese Society for Evolutionary Computation. This is because every country has its unique environment, including its research, funding, cultural, educational and social environments. Such uniqueness implies a national body like the Japanese Society for Evolutionary Computation can serve its members much better than international professional bodies. It can complement international professional bodies by providing its members with tailored services, such as journals and conferences that suit the local environments better.

Such a Japanese society and online journal will also be an excellent forum for young PhD students and postdoctoral fellows to network with more experienced researchers in a more familiar and friendly atmosphere, and thus encourage more young researchers to get into evolutionary computation. By co-evolving in a population of the Japanese Society for Evolutionary Computation, young individuals within this Society can learn, adapt and become more and more competitive researchers in evolutionary computation. I encourage everyone who enjoy research challenges to explore the frontiers of evolutionary computation, which is still a very young research field full of opportunities. I look forward to working with my Japanese colleagues collaboratively in evolutionary computation and its applications.

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