

## Editorial

### Foreword for special issue for RAAD 2013 Conference – ROBOTICA

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This special issue is associated with the 22nd International Workshop on Robotics in the Alpe-Adria-Danube Region (RAAD2013) that took place on September 11 to 13, 2013 in Portorož, Slovenia. The RAAD conference series was established in 1992 (initially under the name RAA). At that time, RAAD played an important role towards enhancing international cooperation among neighborhood countries, while addressing the evolution of robotics from classical industrial applications to novel challenging areas such as service and humanoid robotics. Although RAAD conference got its name from a geographical region (Alpe-Adria-Danube), it was never meant to be limited to participants coming solely from this region. This aspect has grown through the years and in 2013 RAAD has got 50 papers from authors who came from 20 different countries. Invited plenary lectures have been delivered by Prof. Auke Ijspeert from EPFL (Switzerland), Prof. Alin Albu-Schäffer from DLR (Germany), and prof. I-Ming Chen from Nanyang Technological University (Singapore).

The aim of this special issue is to show the activities and results from RAAD community on challenging topics such as robotic manipulation, haptic devices, exoskeletons, humanoid robots, underwater systems by sharing them with the worldwide community. Several aspects have been addressed ranging from kinematics modeling, parameter identification, mechanical design, control, experimental validation and testing. The first selection of papers has been based on the RAAD 2013 review scores but also on the quality of presentations. Then, each selected contributor has been invited to provide a significantly extended paper, which has passed through a second careful blind peer review process by at least three external reviewers. Following the reviewers' comments, authors have further improved their works in order to meet the high standards of Robotica Journal.

As a result of the significant efforts by Authors, Reviewers, Editors, and Publisher, finally, we are very pleased to share with you this selection of papers that we hope you will find valuable and inspiring towards further research and achievements in the robotics field.

Giuseppe Carbone, AE of Robotica Journal

Bojan Nemec, co-chair of RAAD 2013