



Press release

RoboCup 2014 - João Pessoa - Brazil

From July, 19th to July, 25th, the brightest engineers in the world will gather for the first time in Brazil and Latin America, to take part in the most important robot championship in the world.

Brazil, June 10th 2014. In 2050, a football team composed of fully autonomous humanoid robots will play against human soccer team winner of the FIFA World Cup. And it is going to win. This may still seem like science fiction to the general population, but, for 4000 engineers and scientists from about 45 countries participating in the RoboCup 2014, the biggest robotics event in the world, which this year will be held in João Pessoa, State of Paraíba, From July, 19th to July, 25th - a week after the FIFA World Cup in Brazil - it is only a matter of time.

The first RoboCup was held in Nagoya, Japan, in 1997, shortly after the "most spectacular chess event in history," when the world champion, Garry Kasparov, was defeated in a rematch against the IBM supercomputer called Deep Blue. Since then, every year, major researchers in the world and the best computers meet a great challenge for Artificial Intelligence.

RoboCup is held in a different country every year. When there is the World Cup, the competition is preferably carried out in the host country of the FIFA event. This year, RoboCup 2014 will be held in Brazil and South America for the first time. The venue is the newly opened Convention Center "Poeta Ronaldo Cunha Lima" with 48,000 m² that will be occupied by fields, bleachers, exhibition area with booths and several free public attractions, since one of the goals of this great event is to promote and encourage scientific production. RoboCup 2014 is an official event of the Ministry of Sports, co-held by the Government of the State of Paraíba and organized by the Brazilian Computer Society together with dozens of universities.

Robots playing soccer

For six days, totally independent and remote-free robots will compete for a soccer championship, in teams from more than 40 countries. Robots must obey the same rules of a soccer game with two halves, kickings, scorings, goals, fouls, side kicks - a big technical challenge. The games will be observed by a human judge, often with the aid of a robot judge. The football competition is divided into five main categories, and subcategories. The winning team of humanoid AdultSize category will win the Louis Vuitton Cup, a carved crystal trophy specially designed for RoboCup.

Autonomous Robots

Besides the football disputes, there will also be interesting competitions in other categories. In the Rescue League, robots designed to replace humans in hazardous rescue situations will be presented. In the Fukushima nuclear accident, which occurred in March 2011, for example, robots developed in RoboCup were used. Another category is @Home, in which robots perform household chores in order to help handicapped people such as the elderly and disabled. There is also an industrial mode, facing logistical tasks. In the RoboCupJunior category, students from elementary and middle schools from many countries of the world create intelligent robots that dance, play soccer and even work in rescue efforts.

Stimulus for Science

The event program also includes workshops on robotics aimed at teachers of public schools to show how robots can be used in the classroom, in a playful way, in order to teach and awake students to science. During the days of the event, a new event called RoboParty will take place for students to



develop, create, compete and learn how to build and program robots. On the last day of the event, a symposium will conclude the activities with presentations of academic papers of leading edge research and a lecture talk by scientist Rodney Brooks, a professor emeritus at MIT and founder of iRobot.

Organization

RoboCup 2014 is organized by volunteer professors from around the world. The event is non-profit and it is conducted in a sustainable manner, in compliance with the recommendations of green politics and accessibility. The organization expects to leave for João Pessoa, Paraíba , as well as for the Northeast of Brazil, a scientific legacy where innovation is a challenge to improve the quality of human life.

Service:

RoboCup 2014 – Joao Pessoa – Brazil

Dates: From July,19th 2014 to July,25th 2014

Venue: Convention Center “Poeta Ronaldo Cunha Lima”

Joao Pessoa, Paraíba - Brazil

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