

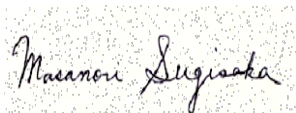
Preface introducing the journal



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A handwritten signature of Masanori Sugisaka in black ink, written in a cursive style.

It is my great honor to publish a new journal “**Journal of Robotics, Networking and Artificial Life (JNRAL)**” together with Atlantis Press. The contents of this journal are often based on articles submitted to The International Conference on Artificial Life and Robotics (ICAROB).

The ICAROB conference resulted from the AROB-symposium whose first edition was held in 1996 and the eighteenth and last edition in 2013. The AROB symposium was annually organized by Oita University, Nippon Bunri University (NBU), and ALife Robotics Corporation Ltd., under the sponsorship of the Science and Technology Policy Bureau, the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture (Monbusho), presently, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (Monkasho), Japanese Government, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), the Commemorative Organization for the Japan World Exposition ('70), Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Asian Office of Aerospace Research and Development (AFOSR/AOARD), USA. I would like to express my sincere thanks to not only Monkasho (annually fund support from 1996 to 2013) but also JSPS, the Commemorative Organization for the Japan World Exposition ('70), and various other Japanese companies for their repeated support.

The old symposium was organized by the International Organizing Committee of AROB and was co-operated by the Santa Fe Institute (USA), RSJ, IEEEJ, ICASE (Now ICROS) (Korea), CAAI (P. R. China), ISCIE, IEICE, IEEE (Japan Council), JARA, and SICE. The old AROB-symposium expanded much by absorbing much new knowledge and technologies into it.

This history and character of the former AROB symposiums are passed on the current ICAROB conference and to this journal. From now on, ALife Robotics Corporation Ltd. is in charge of management of both the conference and the journal. The future of the ICAROB is brilliant from a point of view of yielding new technologies to human society in the 21st century.

Masanori Sugisaka