From zalzala@teresol.com Tue Aug 30 06:57:14 2005

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From: Ali M. S. Zalzala <zalzala@teresol.com>

To: Xin Yao <x.yao@cs.bham.ac.uk>,

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Cc: Paul Tabor cptabor@rizonsoftware.com>,

Garry Greenwood <greenwd@ece.pdx.edu>, eletankc@nus.edu.sg

Subject: FDEC workshop at CEC05 - Briefing

Dear Paul, Xin and Emilio

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the FDEC workshop this year. I am writing to give a brief on what this year's session is planning to present, and how I propose the session to proceed.

This email is copied to Garry Greenwood as IEEE ECTC chairman, Dave Corne as CEC05 General Chairman, and KC Tan who has always assisted with organising and moderating the previous FDECs (and hope he is coming to Edinburgh).

The previous FDEC records are placed on http://www.zalzala.info/FDEC, and talks about the important issues and problems related to the EC field. This year, we want to present a way forward for promoting the field and provide for further industrial implementation. The idea is to look into what we term "multi-goal multi-students degree programs", creating a network of academics and industrialists to supervise and run specialist programs.

The workshop will be based upon a presentation by Paul Tabor (of Rizon Software http://www.rizonsoftware.com/), and I am attaching herewith a copy of his presentation. Xin Yao will then provide his experience with running the specialised MSc in Natural Computations at Birmingham University. Emilio Miguelanez (of Test Advantage ltd, http://www.testadvantage.com/) had his PhD supervised by me and Paul, and faced huge difficulties sliding into a new specific area on his own. He would reflect on how a pool of students working within a network program may have been of help in his case. Myself and KC will simply sit back and enjoy ourselves.

Garry has agreed with my proposal that the idea of this workshop would proceed to create a taskforce within the ECTC FDEC Workgroup. The model would be generic; so although semiconductors are concerned for the very nature of participants, we would invite volunteers for other specialist taskforces.

All Dave could offer us this year is 90 minutes in total since CEC05 proved really huge, so the projected workshop schedule may be: Paul 40 minutes, Xin 10 minutes, Emilio 10 minutes, discussions/recommendations 30 minutes. The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, September 3, 2:30PM-4:00PM, Room: Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre. I propose Paul, Xin, Emilio and KC join me for lunch around 12:30 before the workshop, so we put together the final touches and know each other (perhaps we can meet up at the CEC05 reception).

Please feel free to comment and make suggestions. If Xin or Emilio want to use any slides then please email them to me and I will have them ready on the day.

Best wishes.

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Ali M.S. Zalzala PhD, CEng, SMIEEE, MIEE

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