MINUTES OF THE PKDD-2000 BUSINESS MEETING

Date  September 16, 2000
Time  16.45-17.30
Place  University Lyon 2 (Université Lumière)
       Faculté de Sciences Economiques et de Gestion
       16 quai Claude Bernard
       69007 LYON

Present 26 persons

1 Opening

As the Program Chair of PKDD-2000, Prof. Djamel Zighed (University Lyon 2, France), opened the PKDD Business meeting at 16.45.

2 Nomination of the Chairman of the Meeting

Prof. Djamel Zighed was nominated and selected as the Chairman of the Meeting.

3 Nomination of the Secretary of the Meeting and Two Reviewers of the Minutes

Dr. Mika Klemettinen (Nokia Research Center, Finland) was nominated and selected as the Secretary of the Meeting.

Prof. Petr Berka (University of Economics, Czech Republic) and Prof. Shusaku Tsumoto (Shimane Medical University, Japan) were nominated and selected as the Reviewers of the Minutes.

4 PKDD-2001 - A Report from Luc De Raedt and Arno Siebes

Prof. Luc De Raedt (University of Freiburg, Germany) gave a report about the PKDD-2001 candidate Freiburg, Germany.

Luc De Raedt told that the PKDD-2001 conference is planned to co-locate with ECML (European Machine Learning Conference) such that the first three days would be for one conference and the last three days for the other conference. In the middle, there would be one overlapping day containing technical program of interest to both conferences and time for interaction between participants of both conferences. In addition, short paper presentations might be included in the overlapping day.

The tentative days for the PKDD conference including workshops and tutorials are September 3-7, 2001. The Program Co-Chairs would be Prof. Luc De Raedt and Prof. Arno Siebes (Utrecht University, Netherlands), and the Local Arrangement Chairs Prof. Luc De Raedt and Dr. Stefan Kramer (University of Freiburg, Germany). Finally, Luc De Raedt gave an idea of having common deadlines and joint submission policy with ECML-2001.

The meeting applauded Freiburg as the site of the next PKDD conference, PKDD-2001.

5 New Ideas to Be Implemented at PKDD-2001

5.1 Steering Committee

It was proposed that PKDD should have a Steering Committee, which would, e.g., take care of the long-term planning of the PKDD conference series and related events, be the board of the PKDD Association (see Paragraph 7), and assist the organizers of each PKDD conference.

After discussions, it was proposed and accepted by the meeting, 11 yes with the rest abstaining from voting, that a group consisting of former PKDD Program Committee Chairs present in the conference, namely Prof. Jan Komorowski (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Prof. Jan Rauch (University of Economics, Czech Republic), Prof. Djamel Zighed, and Prof. Jan Zytkow (UNC Charlotte, USA), should prepare a proposal that would contain
suggestions to the structure of the Steering Committee, to the proper procedure of the nomination and replacement of the members, etc.

At the same, the above mentioned group should also think about the role and function of the PKDD Association (see Paragraph 7).

Comments to this proposal should then be asked from a representative group of well-known members of the community and the first Steering Committee should be selected as soon as possible after there is an agreement of the duties and the structure of the Committee.

5.2 Types of Submissions and Paper Evaluation Policy

In the meeting, it was proposed and accepted that in the future PKDD conferences, it would be better to use term "Short Paper" instead of the term "Poster". This is due to the fact that term "Poster" often means that the authors cannot get financial support from their employers, while the "Poster" can be of the same quality as the normal "Papers", but perhaps for a more focused audience.

According to Prof. Djamel Zighed, there were about 200-300 accesses to the electronic discussion forum for the "Posters" or "Short Papers". The comments from people affirmed that the concept is useful, but new ways to stimulate more discussion should be found.

There was discussion whether the number of accepted publications of the PKDD conference should be limited or not. Some arguments contained concerns about the quality of the conference in the KDD field, if the number of accepted submissions grows too much, since PKDD has many new competitors like the Data Mining conferences by SIAM and IEEE. The discussion was brief with several persons emphasizing different ideas, but no mandate was given to the Steering Committee. However, the Steering Committee and each of the organizing committees should take care that the status and quality of the published PKDD papers is on an appropriate level.

5.3 Structuring of the Conference

The current style with not too many parallel sessions was considered to be working one; one should not perhaps increase the number of parallel sessions in the conference.

In general, the structure of the PKDD-2000 conference was considered to be good with some exceptions: the program was a bit too "packed", i.e., there was not always enough time for discussions with people in general and with the poster presentators in particular. Also, the five minute poster presentations were considered a bit lengthy. Therefore, an idea to have just one minute "snapshot" presentations of the posters during plenary sessions to gain time for discussions, was presented.

6 Proposals for PKDD-2002 - A Euro-Mediterranean PKDD?

The proposals for the PKDD-2002 should be submitted to the Steering Committee by April 1, 2001. The decision announcement will tentatively be given on May 2, 2001.

There is some information about the already interested possible candidates for PKDD-2002. The only true pre-proposal is from Athens University of Economics and Business, Department of Informatics (http://www.cs.aueb.gr/), where, e.g., SIGIR-2000 was organized. The main responsible contact person is Dr. Michalis Vazirgiannis (http://www.db-net.aueb.gr/michalis).

It was not considered as a good idea to change the prefix "European" to be, e.g., "Euro-Mediterranean". There was even some comments that preferred the prefix "International" instead of "European". The name question was, however, left to the Steering Committee to decide.
A PKDD Association

The agenda included an item on an organization behind the PKDD conference series, to guarantee the financial continuity, to organize summer schools, to publish (electronic) journal(s), and to take care of the relationship with other conferences in the area. A brief discussion suggested that the group of previous chairs (see Paragraph 5.1) will explore these ideas.

Other Business Matters

There were not other business matters.

Closing

Chairman Prof. Djamel Zighed closed the meeting at 17.35.

On October 2, 2000

Chairman Prof. Djamel Zighed Secretary Dr. Mika Klemettinen
University Lyon 2 Nokia Research Center
France Finland

Reviewer Prof. Petr Berka Reviewer Prof. Shusaku Tsumoto
University of Economics Shimane Medical University
Czech Republic Japan