

Report on
Spring School on Soft Computing: Advances and Applications

March 13-16, 2007

**Organized by: Center for Soft Computing Research (CSCR): A National Facility
Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata**

The school started with the inauguration ceremony on March 13, 2007 during 10:15-10:45 AM where Dr. D. P. Mandal (Coordinator of the School) welcomed the participants; Prof. S. K. Pal (Director of ISI and Principal Investigator) briefed the objectives of the Center and Prof. M. K. Kundu (Co-Principal Investigator) introduced the speakers of the school to the participants.

The school was advertised in mid-December 2006 with the deadline of February 9, 2007, and it received overwhelming interest from researchers of different parts of the country. The number of external participants selected for attending the school was 18. The participants were from different institutes like IIT-Madras, IIT-Kharagpur, NIT-Durgapur; Hyderabad University, Tripura University, Bengal Engineering & Sc. Univ., Burdwan Univ., National Brain Research Center, Haryana, Kalyani Govt. Engg. College., West Bengal. The categorywise distribution of the participants was Faculty – 6, Students – 7 and Industry personnel- 5. In addition, 10 faculty and research scholars from ISI also attended the workshop.

The speakers to the school were Prof. M. K. Kundu, Prof. C. A. Murthy, Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Prof. B. Chanda, Prof. S. Mitra, Prof. A. Ghosh, Dr. D. P. Mandal, Dr. R. K. De, Dr. P. Maji and Md. A. H. Zahid, who are with the Center in the capacity of investigator and faculty. The topics discussed were Relevance of Soft Computing in Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence, Image Processing, Data Mining, Neural Networks, Fuzzy Logic, Genetic Algorithms, Wavelets and Applications, VLSI Applications of Soft Computing, Rough Set Hybridizations, Bioinformatics and Fractals.

Emphasis was given to make the lecture sessions interactive so that the participants could understand the theory and applications of soft computing tools in order to apply them in their domain areas. The lecture slides were made available to the participants in CD for their future recapitulation of the lectures and to delve deeper into any topic of interest. The school ended with a valedictory session where the certificates of participation were presented to the participants, and some of the participants shared their experiences regarding the school. Some of the participants wanted a course focused on a specific soft computing tool with applications while few other participants expressed their keenness to undertake collaborative projects with the Center. Nevertheless, the experiences gained by the organizers while conducting the school would surely be invaluable while organizing any future school/workshop.
