Foreword

Welcome to the fifth AFCV *Asian Conference on Computer Vision* (ACCV). We are pleased to host this conference on the campus of Melbourne University (Australia) over the period January 22-25, 2002.

ACCV2002 is a continuation of a series of four previous Asian Conferences on Computer Vision: ACCV'93 in Osaka, ACCV'95 in Singapore, ACCV'98 in Hong Kong and ACCV'00 in Taiwan.

The ACCV2002 review process was a "blind" process as the identity of the author(s) was not known to the reviewers. The papers submitted for review (189 in number) were reviewed in full-length paper format by at least two reviewers selected from an international panel of experts. As a result of this process, we present here a proceedings volume containing 152 selected papers – approximately half were selected as oral papers and half as poster papers.

We were somewhat disappointed in the number of papers submitted to the conference – although we were pleased with the quality of the papers. One factor, this year, may have been the proximity of another major computer vision conference: CVPR2001 in Hawaii (December 2001) and the consequent overlap of the paper review periods and the limited ability of participants to undertake two major overseas journeys in approximately one month. Nonetheless, what is clearly evident is the emergence of some countries in the Asian region, notably China, as a major research strength. Although bright students from many Asian countries have always peopled the graduate programs of North American and European institutions, it is apparent that many countries are now establishing domestic research institutes of great strength. Microsoft Research (China), many domestic Chinese Universities (including Hong Kong), Singapore, Korea and Taiwan, have joined the strong community in Japan in establishing this region as an area of great potential. ACCV attracted many top researchers from all of those countries, as well as smaller but significant umbers from India and Thailand. Of course, we also attracted researchers from Australia and from outside the region (Europe and North America).

Organizing a conference is an activity not without various traumas. In September 2001, terrorist activities in the United States threatened to induce fear and a reluctance in relation to international travel. At the time of writing this introduction, we are pleased to say that we know of no intending participants that have decided to withdraw on such a basis. Other than this major international incident, the organisation process of this conference was probably much like any other: minor problems with electronic submission of papers, reviewers that were slow in returning their reports etc. However, it is easy to focus on the problems and to lose sight of the fact that the vast majority of reviewers donated their time generously and professionally and that the vast majority of papers had a smooth transition through the initial review and final preparation stages. This is testimony to the generosity not only of the reviewers, but of the other people that helped in the whole process of the organisation of this event. We sincerely thank all reviewers, all members of the organisation structure (particularly the Program Chairs – Geoff West and Svetha Venkatesh), and, of course, the authors themselves for helping to produce what should be a memorable, enjoyable and important event. A special thanks to Alireza Bab-Hadiashar, who, two years ago, went to Taiwan to bid to hold this event on our behalf. We wish all of the visitors an enjoyable stay in Melbourne. We wish the organisers of ACCV2004, whoever that may be, success in carying on this great tradition.

     David Suter
     Ray Jarvis
   ACCV Co-Chairs