FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the *TASK Quarterly* contains extended versions of selected papers presented at the *Advances in Artificial Intelligence and Application* symposium. The symposium took place in Wisła in November 2006 and was organized in the framework of the First International Multiconference on Computer Science and Information Technology. All papers submitted for this issue of the *TASK Quarterly* were reviewed to ensure conformity with its quality standards.

The issue illustrates advances in the broadly conceived area of artificial intelligence methods and their applications. As the topical scope of the papers is rather wide, they have been arranged in alphabetical order according to the authors' names.

The recent rapid development of classical artificial intelligence methods, mainly those connected with symbolic processing and computational intelligence, including subsymbolic processing (*i.e.* neural networks, evolutionary algorithms, fuzzy methods and other nature-based methods) has had a significant topic-scattering effect on our selection of studies.

I can certainly personally recommend papers concerning applications of evolutionary algorithms. Because for its successful use parameters are essential, I hope that the method searching for optimal parameters in differential evolution will be interesting for readers, as well. We have also included an application of another nature-inspired method, the ant algorithm, in information retrieval. As many studies are devoted to natural language processing, we have decided to include studies of successful applications in this field in the context of the Polish language. New methods and approaches to pattern recognition, clustering and classification are also presented. As the efficiency of subsymbolic methods depends on data, the data assessment problem is very important and is also considered by our contributors in the area of toxicology. The problem designing new styles of Chinese strokes may sound very exotic, but considering that the task can be generalized to other problems, I hope it will be interesting also for non-Chinese readers.

In my capacity of this issue's guest editor, I would like to thank the Editorial Board of the *TASK Quarterly* for this opportunity to present the results of the AAIA'06 symposium and hope that the readers will find them interesting and enjoyable reading.

Guest Editor
Urszula Markowska-Kaczmar