

Preface

We are pleased to present this special issue of Emerald's *Data Technologies and Applications*, called "Advances in knowledge-based and intelligent engineering and information systems."

This special issue concerns the best papers of the 21st International Conference on Knowledge-Based and Intelligent Information & Engineering Systems (KES 2017), which was organized by the LSIS (Laboratoire des Sciences de l'Information et des Systèmes, in Marseille, France) and held on September 6-8, 2016, at the Saint Charles campus of Aix-Marseille University, France.

The KES 2017 international conference is a part of a series of broad-spectrum intelligent systems conferences first held in Adelaide, Australia in 1997. The main aim of the KES conference series is to provide an internationally respected forum for the dissemination of research results and the discussion of issues relating to the theory, technologies and applications of intelligent information and knowledge-based systems.

Accepted and presented papers highlight the new trends and challenges of intelligent and knowledge-based systems. The papers in this special issue were selected because of their quality and novelty. Each paper has been peer reviewed by at least two reviewers, external to the KES 2017 International Program Committee.

This special issue provides a significant contribution to international research collaboration and understanding, essential to the promotion of scientific joint work and excellence.

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