Preface

According as expansions of application areas, development of distributed computing environments, and large-scale integration of information systems, a new cooperative framework of heterogeneous problem solvers such as databases, knowledge-bases, constraint solvers, and applications in a distributed environment is indispensable for constructing advanced knowledge information processing systems. A great deal of interest in cooperation among active researchers in such fields has been generated in the last few years for integration of related works, covered by the FGCS'94 Workshop on Heterogeneous Knowledge-Bases.

In the FGCS project and its Follow-on project, we have designed and developed various languages and systems for knowledge information processing applications such as genetic information processing, legal reasoning, and natural language processing. During the process, we have confronted with the above problems and we organized the Heterogeneous Knowledge-Base Task Group. As a part of its activities, we decided to hold this international workshop.

The aim of the workshop is to discuss the related topics from various viewpoints by researchers in the related areas such as database, knowledge-base, distributed artificial intelligence, artificial intelligence, programming language, architecture, and applications. That is, it is neither a mini distributed artificial intelligence workshop nor a mini database workshop.

It is a great pleasure to have so many distinguished invited speakers who will shed light on our common interests. They are renowned researchers actively involved in database and distributed artificial intelligence research. We appreciate it very much for that they have accepted our invitation and their contribution will be invaluable in making this workshop a great success.

We would also thank many researchers who submitted papers. Thirty-eight papers were submitted from 12 countries, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Poland, Spain, U.K., and U.S.A., although the announcement of this workshop had been delayed. It is clear that the interest in heterogeneous cooperative knowledge-base systems has been increasing and that many people around the world are working on it. Though we tried to increase the number of presentations by introducing short presentation and extending the schedule, only about half of the papers were accepted for presentation in this workshop because of limited time and space.

We would like to thank each of the Program Committee members who reviewed papers. Finally, we would also like to thank members of the International Symposium on Fifth Generation Computer Systems (FGCS'94), the Heterogeneous Knowledge-Base Task Group, and the secretariat of this workshop.

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Kazumasa Yokota
Program Committee Chair

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