

Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents

Source: Board of Directors

99/10/22

fipa9a02.doc

Resolutions of the Kawasaki meeting October, 1999.

1. FIPA recognises the expiration of the terms of
Manuel Aparicio (IBM),
Leonardo Chiariglione (CSELT), and
Richard Nicol (BT)
as members of the Board of Directors. FIPA thanks them for their valuable efforts in helping FIPA achieve its goals so far.

Francis McCabe (Fujitsu),
Donald Steiner (Siemens), and
Hiroki Suguri (Comtec)
are continuing their terms on the Board of Directors.

2. FIPA appoints
Geoff Arnold (Sun),
Bernard Burg (Motorola),
Rob Hadingham (Nortel Networks),
Kyoshi Kogure (NTT), and
Richard Nicol (BT)
to the Board of Directors as per vote by the General Assembly.

3. FIPA notes the report of the Board of Directors concerning
 - The election of the following officers and positions of the Board of Directors as per the FIPA Statutes:

President	Donald Steiner
Vice-President	Francis McCabe
Secretary	Bernard Burg
Treasurer	Francis McCabe
Chair, Finance and Audit Committee	Rob Hadingham
Chair, Membership and Nominating Committee	Geoff Arnold

- The resignation of Alain Briancon (Motorola) from the Board of Directors due to unavailability.
- The adoption of a three phase approach to releasing specifications to ensure their long-term stability:
 - Consistent within and approved by TC ('preliminary')
 - Consistent among TCs and approved by FIPA ('experimental')
 - Consistent with real world implementations, providing demonstrated interoperability and approved

by FIPA ('released')

- The formulation of an ad-hoc group, chaired by Geoff Arnold, to draft the specification process.
- The next Board Meeting will take place on Nov. 17, 1999, in or near Boston Massachusetts with the following agenda items
 - Determination of time and location of the April meeting
 - Determination of the formal FIPA specification process
 - Determination of the manner and makeup of the body overseeing the development of technical specifications.

All advice and suggestions from the FIPA membership as to these and other issues via the fipa2000@fipa.org reflector are strongly encouraged by the Board.

- The Board of Directors will issue a Press Release reflecting the events of this week by Nov. 5, 1999.
4. FIPA approves the President's report of the previous year (fipa9a05).
 5. FIPA approves the Secretariat's report of the previous three months (fipa9a09).
 6. On the proposal of the Finance and Audit Committee, FIPA approves
 - the 1998-1999 accounts (fipa9a11, fipa9a12)
 - the 1999-2000 budget (fipa9a13)
 7. FIPA appoints KPMG as auditors for the 1999-2000 accounts.
 8. Resolutions of Technical Committees and Special Interest Groups

TC A Resolutions

TC A proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions.

- **Release draft of Abstract Architecture Specification**
TC A requests that FIPA publish the latest draft of the Architecture Overview document, fipaxxxx. This document will be edited and released to the TC A reflector by November 19, 1999. TC A anticipates that this document will be in '*preliminary*' status at that time. TC A requests the membership to continue to provide feedback and comments on the document via the reflector.
- **Interim Meeting**
TC A plans to hold an interim meeting. The exact date and location of the meeting will be determined and announced at least two weeks in advance of the meeting on the general FIPA reflector by November 1, 1999.
- **Thanks for participation**
TC A thanks the FIPA membership for its feedback and comments on the TC A reflector since the San Francisco meeting. TC A thanks TC B and TC C for the valuable comments received during our working sessions this week.
TC A thanks the following for their work at this meeting: Geoff Arnold, David Levine, Kate Stout, Charlie Pow, Stefan Poslad, Mark Greaves, Jeremy Pitt, Satoru Fujita, Akira Sato, Monique Calisti, Steven Willmot, and Jonathan Dale.

TC B Resolutions

TC B proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions

- **Current Status**
Approval of the following specifications for diffusion with '*preliminary*':
 - FIPA spec 16 –1999 **Agent Message Transport** Ver 1.0
Final document to be produced before End-November 1999 (Editor: S. Willmott)
 - FIPA spec 1 – 1999 **Agent Management** Ver 1.0
Final document to be produced before End-November 1999 (Editor: J. Dale)Note: the **Agent Naming** specification (FIPA spec 17 –1999 ..) is incorporated into the **Agent Management** Specification as the first chapter.
The TC B email reflector will be used to finalise the edition of the documents, consolidating first internally to TC B prior to the final release of the documents.
- **Future work**

TC B expects to upgrade the following specifications to *experimental status* in January 2000.

Agent Message Transport

Agent Management

The work on **Agent Configuration Management** (Editor J. Dale, FIPA spec 15 - 1999) continues. TC B is developing a white paper through email discussions and intends to submit a proposal to FIPA's Call for Workplans during 2000.

TC B endeavours to work on **Agent Mobility** and will submit a proposal to FIPA's Call for Workplans during 2000.

- **Thanks**

TC B thanks all other TCs for cross-pollination and excellent scientific exchange,

TC B gratefully thanks: Fabio Bellifemine, Phil Buckle, Bernard Burg, Satoru Fujita, Takahiro Kawamura, Kiyoshi Kogure, Yasuhiro Musasaki, Akira Sato, and Ichiro Shishido.

Special thanks to the editors, Jonathan Dale and Steven Willmott, for their devotion to TC B and their outstanding work.

TC C Resolutions

TC C proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions:

- The TC accepts the following proposed changes to the Agent Communication Language for FIPA 99:
 - An update to the language mechanisms for handling brokerage and recruiting. We have approved updates to the propagate and proxy CAs, and to the FIPA-Brokering and FIPA-Recruiting IPs. We note that these mechanisms are designed to conform to the strong brokering semantics described in San Francisco. We anticipate further work on CAs and IPs for weak brokering.
 - Increasing the number of required components of an ACL message, to include the sender, receiver, performative name, and content expression. This strengthening will apply only to the outermost ACL message in cases where ACL messages are embedded. Embedded ACL messages have all components optional.
 - Deletion of the request-whomever CA as obsolete (and erroneously specified anyway).

In addition, various members of TC C have reviewed proposed changes to the following elements of the Agent Communication Language:

- An improvement to the existing scheme for describing the abstract components, syntax and ontology of an ACL message. We have patterned our approach after that of TC B, as well as employed ASN.1 notation. We look forward to continued interaction with TC A and TC B and other interested parties on this important issue.
- An update to the proposed Agent Unified Modeling Language (AUML) for specifying and representing Interaction Protocols.

The TC regrets that it was unable to finish FIPA Spec 2 **Agent Communication Language** in time for the final Kawasaki plenary. In order to inform FIPA's membership of the current direction and thinking of the TC, the TC would therefore like to distribute its working document on these issues to the rest of FIPA. TC C looks forward to comments on the above ACL issues from the membership, and anticipates presenting the Spec 2 with *'preliminary'* status in January 2000.

- We greatly appreciate the interactions at Kawasaki with TC A and TC B, and we look forward to continued joint work with TC A and TC B on matters related to agent communication.
- The TC approves Version 1 of FIPA Spec 18 – 1999, **FIPA Content Languages**, including the following changes to Version 0.2:
 - At the request of TC B, update to the SL grammar (and its profiles SL0, SL1 and SL 2) to:
 - Add special syntax to refer to sets, sequences, and agent descriptors. This involves no change to the semantics of SL.
 - Change the STRING terminal to include quoted space-containing strings.
 - Fix a bug in the floating point representation.
 - Update to the constraint-based content language and change its name from FIPA-CSP to FIPA-CCL.
 - Update to the Knowledge Interchange Format specification (FIPA-KIF), including examples of the use of FIPA-KIF with ACL.
 - Update to the FIPA-RDF content language specification.
 - Change of the name of the SL to FIPA-SL, for consistency with other names in the FIPA Content Language Library.

The editors of this specification continue to be Monique Calisti and Bart Bauwens.

TC C will produce an annual report to the membership on the use of each content language in the library.

Thierry Bouron will be the TC C contact person for this report.

- TC C's anticipated FIPA 2000 workplan includes further work on brokerage, ontologies, AUML, Content Language, document structure, ACL semantics, interaction protocols, and abstract ACL syntax.
- The TC gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Tadashi Araragi, Bernhard Bauer, Bart Bauwens, Fabio Bellifemine, Nina Berry, Thierry Bouron, Monique Calisti, Mark Greaves, Michael Harrelson, Hiroki Iciki, Ryusuke Masuoka, Frank McCabe, Makoto Okada, Denis Pierre, Jeremy Pitt, and Donald Steiner, as well as the members of TC A, TC B, and TC E.

TC D resolutions:

TC D proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions:

- TC D thanks the members who presented the demonstrations of the platforms and applications: ÆGIS, Comtec, EPFL, Motorola and joint team of Toshiba and Fujitsu.
- TC D thanks the Intelligent Agent Society of Japan for translating the FIPA specifications into Japanese.
- TC D approves the document **FIPA Field Trial Plans and Results** (fipa9a07.doc).
- TC D approves the document **FIPA-related Software Developed by Members and Non-Members** (fipa9a08.doc).
- TC D encourages members to keep these documents up to date. Any update information shall be mailed to the reflector interop@fipa.org.
- TC D approves the '*preliminary*' status of the specification **FIPA Developer's Guide**. It is expected to evolve towards '*experimental*' status as soon as the standard FIPA foreword, preface and introduction is available.
- TC D acknowledges all people who contributed to the committee during 1999.

TC E resolutions

TC E proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions:

- TC E accepts the document FIPA Spec 14 – 1999 - 1.0 – **Nomadic Application Support** with '*preliminary*' status under the following conditions:
 - The document must be updated to be aligned with TC B's and TC C's specifications.
 - The document needs editorial work to be finalized.
 - The email reflector will be used to finalise the edition of the documents, consolidating first internally to TC E, before final release of the documents
- The binding times for the publication as '*experimental*' status are the following:
 - Three weeks after the publication of either TC B's or TC C's document whichever is the later.
 - The current target date is 18th of February, 2000 (three weeks after the London meeting).
- Future work

TC E endeavours to work on the following topics and will submit a proposal to FIPA's Call for Workplans in 2000:

- Use of gateways in the environment of Nomadic Application Support
- Mobile device ontology
- Support for application agents in the nomadic application environment
- TC E gives special thanks to Heikki Helin, Michael Berger, Stefano Campadello, Takahiro Kawamura, Kari Koivuniemi, Toshihiro Maruyama, John Shepherdson, and Markku Tamski.
- TC E thanks all other TCs for good co-operation and fruitful information and knowledge exchange.

Product Design and Manufacturing SIG resolutions

The PD&M SIG proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions:

- Thank Professor Hatamura for his presentation to FIPA.
- Announce the PD&M web site: <http://www.ca.sandia.gov/FIPAPDM/home.html>
The secretariat is requested to establish a link to this site from the FIPA web site.
- Suggest a joint FIPA/PD&M and AAI/SIGMAN workshop at April 2000, meeting for 2 days.
- Request that the ad-hoc committee on the specification process consider how TCs and application SIGs interact on the issue of considering changes to specification documents.

The notes of the SIG Meeting will be made available by Oct. 27, 1999

9. FIPA approves its Call for Workplans (fipa9a04.doc) with thanks to Geoff Arnold and Abe Mamdani for their efforts in putting the document together.
10. FIPA will continue to use the fipa2000@fipa.org reflector to discuss issues relating to the FIPA specification process.
11. FIPA welcomes the list of FIPA-related software developed by members and non-members (fipa9a08.doc).
12. FIPA welcomes the description of FIPA field trials being conducted or planned by members, non-members and consortia (fipa9a07.doc).
13. FIPA thanks the following individuals for providing demonstrations of FIPA implementations:

	Title	Name	Affiliation
1.	Meeting Scheduling Application	Denis Pierre	ÆGIS
2.	Implementation of FIPA Spec 12: Ontology Service	Hiroki Suguri	Comtec
3.	Constraint Choice Language	Monique Calisti	EPFL
4.	The AMASE project and its applications	Hong-Yon Lach	Motorola
5.	Interoperable project scheduling application based on FIPA 99	Makoto Okada / Takahiro Kawamura	Fujitsu/ Toshiba

and invites companies to make further demonstrations of agent-based products and applications at the next FIPA meeting in London.

14. FIPA would like to thank the FIPA Secretariat, Ms. Teresa Marsico, for coming to this meeting to assist in the execution of the meeting, and with assisting the Finance and Audit Committee in reviewing the FIPA accounts and preparing the 1999-2000 budget.
15. FIPA thanks Hitachi and the Intelligent Agent Society of Japan for offering FIPA excellent meeting facilities and friendly support in Kawasaki in the hosting of its 15th meeting, in particular:
 - Mr. Junji Fukuzawa
 - Mr. Mothisa Funabashi
 - Mr. Hironobu Kurma
 - Ms. Manami Sudo
 - Mr. Toshiaki Matuda