*F*oundation for *I*ntelligent *P*hysical *A*gents

Seoul Press Release

MORNING CALM FOLLOWS AGENTS' TRIALS

Members of FIPA held their 12th meeting in Seoul, Korea from 25th to 29th January 1999. This meeting was held at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) campus in Seoul and was sponsored by KAIST. Some members had surmounted a difficult journey to get there. At the same time, FIPA had determined to carry out its first inter-operability trials at this meeting of several different software implementations of the specifications carried out by different members of FIPA.

This was, thus, a critical meeting of FIPA held to start off the 1999 work-program of FIPA having laid a good foundation after its work over the past two years. To enable this process, FIPA had issued its fifth call for proposals in October 1998. Therefore, the examination of the 21 responses received to that call was the initial task performed by the members.

As a result of the deliberations, FIPA has launched a series of activities to work on during 1999, with an underlying motivation to consolidate the work that has been done in the previous two years of its existence, as follows:

- Work on the definition of a reference architecture that will help developers with various matters concerned with the implementation of software agents enabled products
- Continuing the work on the management/configuration, message transport facilities, and naming for agents
- Revisit, consolidate, and judiciously extend the groundbreaking work of 1997 on Agent Communication Language and the associated content language and ontology requirements.
- Specify a new application area of software agents enabled mobile communication services
- Specify and work on requirements for real-time interactions between agents
- Pro-actively promote the industrialization of agent technology, by supporting the carrying out of inter-operability tests; monitor field trials of FIPA specifications being carried out; publicize and support the use of library of software; encourage open-source enhancement of agent software; and, follow up on this work leading to the maintenance of the specifications that have been produced so far.

This meeting of FIPA had earmarked time for an inter-operability trial of agents platforms that have been developed by four members of FIPA as FIPA compatible code. This trial produced a range of useful practical results and will already lead to several updates to FIPA specifications. FIPA expects to see more of this kind of practical work being carried out and publicized at its future meetings.

FIPA has elected a new board members at this meeting. He is Alain Briançon from Motorola. Alain brings enormous business expertise to FIPA and underlines FIPA's determination not merely to produce standards, but to promote their industrial exploitation.