The occasion of the Ninth Asian Pacific Software Engineering Conference (APSEC 2002) presents an opportunity for reflection. APSEC has become one of the major conferences on the Software Engineering calendar. It has reached this position, having grown from the ambitious goals set by the founding members of the steering committee to take the Joint Software Engineering Conference of the Korean and Japanese communities, and convert it to the regions premier Software Engineering event. APSEC’s goals go beyond the that of being “merely” the premier regional event in our discipline. Our goal is to provide an organisational structure that is sensitive to national needs, and respects the technical achievements of all. These important objectives are enshrined in APSEC’s charter, and are a major key to its success.

APSEC 2002 is sponsored by a number of organisations. Of particular importance are the SEA Australia, DSTC, Bond University, the Queensland Department of Innovation and Information Economy Sport and Recreation (whose Minister will open the Conference), and the Gold Coast City Council (who will host the welcome reception) and eight of the countries leading universities, who have made financial and other support available to the Conference. The host national organisation this year is the Australian Computer Society, who is working with the Institution of Engineers Australia to ensure the conference is a success.

Software engineering has come a long way in the fifty odd years since the development of the digital computer. The lives of some 1 billion people would be disrupted, and the economic stability of perhaps another billion, if the ubiquitous software systems upon which we depend were to fail simultaneously. The successes are spectacular. At the same time, we are still plagued with error-prone and unpredictable software on PCs and laptops, and periodic project failures. There is much that we do not yet know about software development, and the true means of producing an engineering discipline. Fortunately, those who submit papers to APSEC, all of whom we thank, will make a significant contribution to progressing the field. Our Organising Committee and Program Committee, and the various Chairs with special responsibilities, are to be especially thanked, since it is their hard work that provides the vehicle for the presentation of the authors’ work.

In closing, we thank you, the attendees. Welcome to the Gold Coast, Australia’s play-ground. Enjoy the conference, but find time to enjoy the environment, and to exchange views with your colleagues from the Pacific Rim, and around the world. Have a great time!

Conference Co-Chairs
Gopal Gupta and Karl Reed