Welcome to the 13th Asia Pacific Software Engineering Conference (APSEC 2006). This is the first time this conference is being held in India, and it is proper that it is being held in Bangalore, the IT capital of India.

The preparation for this APSEC started about 5 years ago, when I joined the Steering Committee of APSEC and gave a proposal to hold a future APSEC in India. It was decided about 2 years ago to hold it in India. In this gap of about 5 years between making the proposal and holding the conference, things in Bangalore changed dramatically. The IT industry in Bangalore has probably doubled in size. The positive effect of this was that sponsorship support came quickly. On the negative side, this growth led to a difficult situation for hotel accommodation. But we did manage.

This year the paper submissions from India itself crossed 100. Contrast this with submission from India last year which were 27, and the years before that it used to be in single digits. This clearly shows how a major event like APSEC can invigorate research activity and increase the participation from the host country. This in itself is a major positive outcome of having APSEC in India.

We had a total of 230 submissions from 29 countries, the largest numbers coming from India, Japan, and Australia. After over 670 reviews by about 70 PC members, we selected 59 papers from 18 countries (one of which was finally withdrawn). Overall, the papers represent work from most countries in the Asia Pacific region, and more.

In this APSEC, as it was in India, where there are many companies that practice software engineering for their existence, we gave a push to attract work from companies, and have succeeded quite well. We have a total of 13 papers from industry, larger than many earlier APSECs. The workshops are also very industry oriented.

This year, for Keynote, we are doing something special. Besides the standard format of having distinguished people give their views, for at least one keynote, we are having CTO-level persons from a few major software companies in India to form the keynote-panel. In this discussion, they will give us their views of software engineering challenges facing the industry. Essentially, this will tell us researchers what the industry feels should be the research agenda for the near future. We hope that this type of feedback from industry will help give direction to research efforts.

We have three workshops after the conference. These cover important topics like Service Oriented Architectures, Training and Education in industry, and Product Engineering.
We also have some interesting panel discussions and mini-tutorials in the technical program to supplement the paper presentations.

Overall, we believe that we have a very interesting program for the attendees. We sincerely hope that you will find the program enjoyable and exciting.

Before I end, I must acknowledge the help of various people. Putting together the program and arranging everything for APSEC06 was a mammoth task, requiring efforts from a lot of people. For all local arrangements, the organizing committee headed by Pawan Kumar did an extremely commendable job, spending their weekends on it. For the program, of course, the program committee is the key - without the support of about 70 PC members, selecting the papers would just not have been possible. And, of course, thanks to all the authors who submitted the papers - without their interest the conference simply would not be possible. The members of the different committees are listed elsewhere in the proceedings.

Finally, I must thank all six of our industry sponsors whose support was critical in providing the facilities.

Pankaj Jalote
Program Chair