General Chairs' Message


While applications have always been the driving force of innovative computer design, technology and economics continue to change the corresponding problems, solutions and methods of choice. Now, more than ever, an engineer needs to consider whether to use commodity parts or custom solutions and whether to implement functions in hardware or software. Often, it is the complete system rather than its individual parts that needs to be customized to the target application. The implementation choices range from aggressive submicron custom chip design and/or off-the-shelf programmable devices to the networking of possibly far-apart powerful computers using high-bandwidth connections. In addition to the need for understanding the nature and implications of each design point, it is a challenge to devise design methods and tools that guarantee correct solutions and fast turnaround time. This reality provided much of the motivation for the new scope and name of ASAP'96. The goal is to create an annual forum for applications researchers, hardware and software engineers, and computer scientists to exchange their problems, ideas and experiences in application-specific computer design.

To accomplish change is a challenge and we were fortunate to have Valerie Taylor and Keshab Parhi as the Program Chairs of the newly named ASAP conference. They did an excellent job of creating a technical program that reflects the current developments mentioned above. Our sincere thanks.

Jose Fortes and Catherine Mongenet
General Chairs of ASAP'96