Welcome to Montreal and the 18th IEEE International Conference on Automated Software Engineering. This year the conference is held for the first time in Canada in the gem of the St. Lawrence where the fall offers a beautiful spectrum of colors in the trees.

The Automated Software Engineering conference is the major conference for theory and practice concerned with automating the software development process. Formerly known as Knowledge-Based Software Engineering (KBSE), the conference expanded in 1997 to encourage worldwide participation and to reach out to other scientific communities concerned with the automation aspects of formal methods, software process, human-computer interaction, requirements engineering, reverse engineering, testing and verification and validation, while still including an active artificial intelligence and knowledge-based research focus. The conference has evolved into an international meeting place to share ideas on the foundations, techniques, tools and application of automated software engineering technology. At ASE, experts with different backgrounds in software practice and theory present and discuss promising results of their research and experience. Traditional topics at ASE include both automatic systems and systems that support and cooperate with people, as well as models of software and software engineering activities.

The paper evaluation this year was very thorough and highly selective. The Program Committee chose 22 full technical papers from 170 submissions for presentation at the conference. Each paper was peer reviewed by at least three members of the International Program Committee. The Program Committee also selected another 26 papers for inclusion as short papers in the proceedings. These papers represent work that the Program Committee feels is interesting and novel but not mature enough to warrant a full ASE paper at this stage. Previous ASE conferences have shown that some of the most interesting and entertaining topics are discussed in the less informal and highly interactive poster sessions.

In addition to the technical papers and demonstrations, several co-located workshops are offered: the 3rd International Workshop on Formal Approaches to Testing of Software (FATES), the 2nd International Workshop on MAnaging SPecialization/Generalization HIerarchies (MASPEGHI), and the 2nd International Workshop on Traceability in Emerging Forms of Software Engineering (TEFSE).

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to serve as general and program committee chairs. Our warmest thanks go to the many individuals and organizations that have helped with this year’s conference. We are very grateful to CRIM, the IEEE Computer Society and ACM Special Interest Groups on Software Engineering (SIGSOFT) and Artificial Intelligence (SIGART) for their sponsorship and organizational help. Le Ministère du Développement Économique et Régional du Québec, Université de Montréal, and RCM2 also provided support and contributions. The Steering Committee, the Organizing Committee, and the Program Committee did a marvelous job. We would also like to thank a large number of additional reviewers who are acknowledged in the Proceedings. Many thanks to all the people explicitly mentioned in the following pages and to all the invisible volunteers that worked hard at making ASE 2003 a success.

Finally, we want to thank the authors, the presenters and the participants and invite them all to fully enjoy ASE 2003 and Montreal.

Houari A. Sahraoui  
General Chair

John Grundy  
Program CoChair

John Penix  
Program CoChair