Message from the Steering Chair

Since ASONAM started in Athens, Greece in July 2009, the mission has been to maintain high quality and grow fast into the premier conference in the multidisciplinary field of social network analysis and mining which covers a number of area, including sociology, psychology, business, criminology, mathematics and statistics, biology, bioinformatics and health informatics, physics, computing, etc. It was not easy to define a unified scope which could bring researchers from all these areas under the same umbrella. By achieving the mission ASONAM covered a gap after bridging all these disciplines by developing a common language between the involved researchers and practitioners. Over the past three years participants from various disciplines have enjoyed engaging with each other to discuss their research achievements and plans.

After four years of dedicated effort and hard work I am happy to see the mission well achieved and ASONAM is the leading venue in the area of social networks analysis and mining. The number of quality submissions is rapidly increasing every year demonstrating the visibility of the conference and making it harder to select the papers to accommodate in the program. The number of workshops co-located with ASONAM increased this year to eight. In addition, two symposiums have been integrated into the organization to have more specialized coverage of two key areas related to network based modeling and analysis. Foundations of Open Source Intelligence and Security Informatics (FOSINT-SI) serves mostly researchers and practitioners interested in terror and criminal data analysis. Network Enabled Health Informatics, Biomedicine and Bioinformatics (HI-BI-BI) covers the network applications in the health domain from the wet-lab to the clinic. The expansion by adding these two symposiums turned the gathering into richer platform for information exchange between the various academic and practitioner communities attending the co-located events. The learning and knowledge sharing opportunity is further supported by the tutorials and the panel added this year. Leading researchers will deliver five tutorials and experts sitting on the panel will share their research vision with the audience.

Unfortunately we could accept a limited number of papers (around 25% of the submissions for the past three years) and the acceptance rate has decreased to 16% this year. We had to recommend to the workshops many of the high quality papers which could not make it to the main conference.

This year has been exceptional for ASONAM by achieving a major milestone. It is now officially sponsored by both IEEE Technical Committee on Data Engineering and ACM SIGMOD, which are the leading communities in the data management arena. All these notable achievements could not be possible without the hard work of a number of persons who dedicated their time and effort to contribute to the success of the main conference and the co-located workshops and symposiums. Jon Rokne, Panagiotis Karampelas, and Tansel Özyer have been working hard since ASONAM started in Athens in 2009. The organizing committee of ASONAM 2012 and the co-located two symposiums and eight workshops worked hard to attract the high quality submissions received this year. Not to forget the generous support received every year from Springer-Verlag. Stephen Soehnlen attended the previous three versions of ASONAM and presented awards for winning authors. Finally, special thanks to the hosting institution Kadir Has University.

It is delightful to see the ASONAM community growing so fast. Some participants are attending every year since 2009 and new delegates are joining every year. The participants help a lot in attracting new faces to come because first they present high quality papers and second they share their unforgettable experience with their colleagues encouraging them to add ASONAM to their schedules. Thank you to all participants, to authors who submitted papers and to the reviewers who invested their valuable time and effort to provide timely and comprehensive reviews. Hard luck to authors who could not get their papers accepted this year. Hope they will attend ASONAM 2012 in Istanbul, and hope they will get the opportunity to present their work at ASONAM in the coming years. Next year we are going to Niagara Fall, Ontario, Canada during the last week of August 2013. We expect a larger gathering and more success in the city bridging South Eastern Canada and North Eastern United States.

Reda Alhajj
Steering Chair