I am delighted to welcome you to Melbourne, to join with colleagues and friends from around the world at ASWEC 2007. The first ASWEC was held in 1986 — my own first year as a member of the Australian Software Engineering academic community — and since that time the conference has been the premium technical forum in Australia where all aspects of Software Engineering are discussed.

We are living in increasingly complex times, and are developing systems of increasing complexity in order to cope and progress. Never before has there been such a strong need for the benefits that a true engineering approach brings to systems development. And yet, the pressures of time-to-market often result in short cuts being taken on projects which have serious consequences later on. It is therefore most appropriate that at conferences like ASWEC we re-assert the vitality of the engineering approach.

Following the successful pattern of previous conferences, ASWEC this year offers a tight blend of research papers, industry experience reports, and tutorials. As in 2006, we are seeking to further strengthen the collaborative links between the research and practitioner communities in Software Engineering, so that we can all focus on the goal of obtaining practical solutions to complex real-world problems.

It is important for me, as General Chair, and all participants in the conference, to thank the many volunteers who have helped with the organisation of the Conference; their names are listed elsewhere in this publication. I have particularly enjoyed working with the other members of the Organising Committee, who have committed their time to the Conference despite having very demanding “day jobs.”

ASWEC operates under the auspices of the Joint Board on Software Engineering, a venture of the Australian Computer Society and Engineers Australia. I would like to thank both of these organisations, and also the sponsors of the conference, for the strong support they are giving to Software Engineering in Australia.

Thank you for participating in ASWEC 2007. I wish you an enjoyable and rewarding stay in Melbourne.

Doug Grant

General Chair, ASWEC 2007