Welcome Speech

I’m delighted to open the 19th Australian Software Engineering Conference (ASWEC). Even though the conference first started in 1986, this is the first time, it has been held in Western Australia. Western Australia, as we all know, is the center of the resources and oil and gas boom, that is currently the engine of growth for the Australian Economy. It is important to recognize the role of ICT and software systems in supporting this boom through logistics systems, mapping software, data mining, embedded control systems, smart manufacturing support services, electronic document handling, and remote communications. These demonstrate the way ICT and software systems are providing the underlying infrastructure and enabling capacity in many areas of the economy and community. Software systems have also transformed the way universities conduct their core activity, for example, through Web-based and online learning, e-science and grid computing, storage, management and mining of large information repositories in many areas of science, business, health, medicine, and more recently humanities, the law, and the cultural area. In recognition of the importance of ICT in almost all areas of human endeavor, the Western government, in conjunction with Curtin University of Technology, has designated a large area of Curtin Technology Park an ICT precinct, so that Western Australia can benefit from the synergy of industry working closely with university groups, such as DEBII, IVEC, ICT enabled science and business research activity within the university. Curtin University, itself, has designated ICT an area of research strength and concentration within the university.

I know and understand the importance of software engineering in facilitating the specification, design, implementation and quality assurance of sophisticated and large software systems, which is the field of interest of this conference. The philosophy of having both academics and industry practitioners rubbing shoulders within ASWEC gives this conference a unique and significant character. The industry experience papers give this conference an important new dimension. The way the four universities—UWA, Murdoch, Edith Cowan as well as IVEC—have collaborated in the organization of this conference is exemplary, and a tribute to the general chairs of the conference. While ASWEC is the most important national conference in the field, its reach is extending through a significant number of international papers, from the USA, Western Europe, and Asia, to be presented at this conference. The keynote speakers who will present at this conference are a truly stunning collection of academic and industry leaders in the field. After examining the totality of your program, I am certain that you will have an exciting, stimulating, thought provoking and productive conference. I therefore would like to welcome you all to ASWEC and Curtin University and hope that you will find the time to enjoy beautiful Western Australia.

Jeanette Hackett
Vice Chancellor,
Curtin University of Technology