Message from the General Chairs

The 19th Australian Software Engineering Conference (ASWEC) is being held in Technology Park, Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia, during March 2008. Established in 1986, ASWEC is the leading technical forum for the exchange of peer-reviewed research, development and industry best practice in software engineering and ICT in Australia. ASWEC 2008 is the inaugural conference in Western Australia—a booming state that as a center of iron ore mining, offshore oil and gas in Australia benefits from a diverse range of software. ASWEC conference attracts a wide range of participants, including software engineering researchers, practitioners, educators, and ICT managers from across Australia, its regional neighbors and international locations. Software Engineering is a maturing discipline that has evolved over the last 40 years. It is now facing new challenges, such as emerging development arising from new classes of systems such as Web-based applications and Web services, and also from new paradigms for development such as component-based systems, agent-based systems, and model-driven architectures as well as new process frameworks, such as agile computing, capability maturity model, and multisite distributed software development. The areas of application for software systems have also been growing rapidly. The use of sophisticated software systems has moved from large enterprises and big engineering systems into the community at large with applications, such as social networking, device software, and mobile communication.

When all of these factors are taken together, we can see that the software engineering community is faced with a plethora of difficult and complex scientific and engineering issues. This setting has led us to invite some of the leading exponents of various aspects of software engineering to give keynotes including Prof. Ian Sommerville (the Father of Software Engineering Education), Dr. Richard Soley (Chairman and CEO of OMG Inc), Prof. Tharam Dillon (Eminent Research Leader in ICT), and Prof. Hans van Vliet (Software Expert in Design and Architecture). We have also invited plenary talks from key industry leaders to this conference, such as Mr. Max Noble from Thales Australia (one of the largest IT service providers in WA) and Mr. Simon Carlsen and Mr. Stig Petersen from Statoil Hydro Stehydro (the world’s largest oil and gas operator on deepwater fields). Taken together, these represent perhaps the best collection of keynote speakers at an ASWEC conference. This setting has also led to a large number of high-quality and exciting research paper and industry experience report submissions to ASWEC 2008. This has made the job of the technical chairs and industry program chairs a difficult and onerous one.

The research papers and experience reports from academia and industry discuss results, obstacles, and lessons learned as well as open research issues associated with applying software engineering in the real world. We had an unusually large number of industry and experience reports submitted as well as tutorials and booth requests to ASWEC 2008. This reflects the growing interest of industry and commerce in the problems of development of large software systems. The overall program encompasses numerous opportunities for academic and industry participants to interact and learn from each other. We therefore invite you to participate, discuss, and enjoy in a spirit of exploration at ASWEC 2008.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to authors who submitted their keynotes, research papers, industry reports, and tutorials. We are grateful to the Research Program Chairs, Dr. Brian von Konisky, Prof. John Grundy, Prof. Peng Lam, Prof. Lance Fung, Prof. Mark Reynolds, and Industry Program Chairs, Dr. Ashley Aitken, Ms. Judy Bamberger, Mr. Kevin Vinsen, Mr. Rodney Kirk, for having carried out reviewing workload and ensuring the quality of the conference. We also thank all the reviewers of the Research Program Committee and Industry Program Committee, Tutorial Chair, Publicity Chairs, Publication Chairs, and Conference secretaries including DEBI Institute staff and students for their effort and time in reviews, recruiting papers, administration and local events and endeavor to maintaining high-quality event and turning ASWEC 2008 into a success. Thank you all.

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