

# Message from the Chairs

In the digital age, progress and development in science and technology greatly impact our work and life at all levels. In response to the explosion of cross-media contents and distributions, the AXMEDIS FP6 IST project is co-supported by the European Commission to develop an inclusive framework to empower the growth and expansion of this domain both in terms of research as well as large scale industrial applications. The AXMEDIS 2007 International Conference seeks to promote discussion and interaction between researchers, practitioners, developers and users of tools, technology transfer experts, and project managers. In line with the AXMEDIS conference series, the AXMEDIS 2007 brings together a variety of participants from the academic, business and industrial worlds, to address different technical and commercial issues. Particular interests include the exchange of concepts, prototypes, research ideas, industrial experiences and other results. The conference focuses on the challenges in the cross-media domain, including production, protection, management, representation, formats, aggregation, workflow, distribution, business and transaction models. Additionally it explores the integration of new forms of content and content management systems and distribution chains, with particular emphasis on the reduction of costs and innovative solutions for complex cross-domain issues and multi-channel distribution.

The AXMEDIS conference has brought together the experiences and communities coming from the WEDELMUSIC conference series, the MUSICNETWORK and other co-located workshops. Together, the AXMEDIS conference has widened the scope and enlarges the communities to share and cross-fertilise new developments and latest innovations.

The first AXMEDIS International Conference was held in Florence, Italy, in 2005 with over 230 attendees from 22 countries, with 48% from research and academic sectors, 37 % from the industry, 7,4% from government, 4% from cultural institutions, etc. The event included 2 collocated Workshops, 2 panels, and 4 Tutorials. Last year, the Conference was held in Leeds, UK (13-15 Dec 2006 with a pre-conference tutorial day on the 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2006), with similar amount of delegates from 25 countries, with 57% from research and academic, 34% from the industries, 5% from government and 4% from cultural institutions. AXMEDIS2006 also hosted 4 co-located workshops, 2 panel, 4 tutorials and 4 keynotes.

This year, the program committee has received a relevant number of submissions for research and applications, industrial panels and workshops. The selection has not been easy due to the amount of high quality submissions and the limited time slots of the conference. The technical programme produced is very dense with high quality presentations, including a large number of scientific and industrial presentations, industrial panels, workshops and tutorials. This first volume of the proceedings contains the scientific papers while selected submissions for workshops, industrial panels and papers are collected in an additional volume of the proceedings.

We are very grateful to many people without whom this conference would not be possible. Thanks to old and new friends, collaborators, institutions, organisations, and the European Commission, who has supported AXMEDIS. A special thank to all the sponsors and supporters including the EC IST FP6. Thanks to members of the International Program Committee for their invaluable contributions and insightful work. Thanks to IEEE Computer Society Press for the organisation of this proceedings. Last but not least, many thanks to the many people behind the scene and to all participants of AXMEDIS 2007. We look forward to welcoming you to Barcelona and wish you an exciting, enjoyable, excellent conference.

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