Foreword

This proceedings contains the papers selected for the 1997 Basque International Workshop on Information Technology (BIWIT'97) held in Biarritz, France, on July 2–4, 1997.

The call for papers was seen by an international audience. The program committee was chosen from very well-reputed researchers in the international data management systems community, as well as from key professionals in European industrial and consulting companies. The conference sessions were structured around the 24 papers accepted for publication in the proceedings, which is a third of those submitted.

Each paper was refereed by three members of the program committee and evaluated on the basis of its originality, clarity, significance of contribution, and relevance to the field of data management systems. The quality of the papers reflects the increasing importance of new database technology in computer applications and the vitality of databases as a research field.

The spectrum of the contributions contained in the present proceedings covers the various novel views of modeling information systems such as semantic structuring, generic models, and knowledge discovery. To enrich the program, three keynote speakers were invited. Keynote speeches were given on intelligent database environments by Stefano Ceri, on hypermedia design by Tomás Isakowitz, and on hybrid object relational data models by Serge Miranda (a paper for which is included in this proceedings).

Many people contributed to the success of BIWIT'97 to whom thanks are due for their effort and time. Special thanks are also due to the program committee members, to Pantxika Dagorret and Philippe Lopistéguy for their technical support, to the organization committee members, and to the sponsors.

André Flory
Program Chair
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