Message from the Steering Committee

It gives us great pleasure to see the successful conclusion of the sixth IEEE International Conference on Cloud Computing in Emerging Markets (CCEM) in November 2017. CCEM has established itself as a unique and vibrant event that has grown in richness, depth, and relevance as a research driven innovation conference in the field of cloud computing, particularly for and from emerging markets.

The global Cloud Computing market in 2016 was $209B and grew 18% in 2017 to $247B. This hyper growth of Cloud Computing is expected to continue, with the market becoming $390B in 2020. As cloud computing is fast becoming the primary model of delivering and consuming information technology, CCEM plays a vital role in bring together the innovation leaders, academicians, and practitioners who are working on the next generation of IT systems, services, and solutions that are based on big data coming from mobile phones, social media, enterprise systems, and the Internet of Things. This confluence of activities spanning academic rigor, successful industry practices, and emerging market oriented innovations makes CCEM quite distinct from most other conferences in the world. This year’s conference continued to bring out the very active role emerging markets are playing in cloud computing today. This year’s conference also particularly emphasized the intersection of Cloud and Cognitive Computing by utilizing and enhancing the Cloud for Big Data Analytics, Deep Learning, and the Internet of Things.

The formation of a steering committee was another landmark for the conference this year and indicated the maturity of the conference as well as the emergence of a new generation of leaders (General Chairs and Technical Program Committee Chairs) to take on the mantle of running this conference. The Steering Committee consists of members who have founded CCEM and played leading roles in the conference since its inception in 2012. The Steering Committee provides continuity in the direction and evolution of the conference and an advisory/sounding board for the new leaders of the conference. As members of this steering committee we are committed to fostering high standards of research and innovation in emerging markets in general, and in India in particular where this conference has come a long way in establishing a vibrant community and has far greater potential to drive depth and leadership.

In the spirit of fostering a research and innovation culture, as in the last two years, we had a preconference workshop in April 2017 targeted at potential participants planning to submit technical papers and Technology Showcase entries to the main conference. Teams had to submit proposals for to the pre-conference workshop and participation was by invitation only and limited to those who submitted proposals which were successful post a review– either for regular papers, innovation showcase, or for the student project competition. The selected participants got to make private presentations to a select group of experts and receive professional feedback on what would pass through the selection criteria of the IEEE CCEM 2017 Conference Technical Program Committee. We saw some outstanding papers coming into the main conference after being vetted in the pre-conference workshop. We are continuing to explore such unique and innovative ways to nurture innovation talent in India and emerging markets.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to all the members of the organizing committee for their efforts over many months, culminating in this conference. The new General Chairs – Dr. Raj Tumluri and Sreekrishnan Venkiteswaran – brought tremendous energy and new leadership to the conference. The new Technical Program Committee Chairs – Dr. Sanjay Chitnis and Geetika Goel -- demonstrated exemplary commitment and rigor in reviewing the papers and
ensuring the conference continued to maintain and further raise its standards for technical excellence. We should particularly call out the leadership and commitment of Vaijayanthi Desai who was the Finance Chair of the conference and its overall program manager. She worked tirelessly to pull the program together, make the conference financially viable, drove most local arrangements, and was really the backbone of the whole conference. We are grateful to Sasikanth Prabha who was the Webmaster working throughout the year on an excellent conference website with the latest information and updates. These set of people formed a core group that met almost every week throughout 2017 to ensure a successful conference. We thank all the members of the CCEM community formed over the last few years and look forward to making greater strides in the coming years.

Dr. Gopal Pingali, *IBM*
Dr. T.S. Mohan, *Pragyan Data Labs*

(On behalf of IEEE CCEM 2017 Steering Committee that also includes Prof. D. Janakiram, *IIT Madras*; Dr. Rong Chang, *IBM Research, USA*; Prof. Rajkumar Buyya, *University of Melbourne, Australia*)