Welcome to COMPSAC 2002 and the historic city of Oxford!

As General Chair, I am privileged and delighted to welcome you to the first Computer Software and Applications Conference to be held in Great Britain. British scientists and researchers such as Alan Turing, Maurice Wilkes and Tom Kilburn were pioneers in the development of computer hardware and software and the British academic and industrial community remains at the forefront of advanced research and applications. Although not, perhaps, as well-known as the ‘Silicon Fen’ around Cambridge, many small high-tech companies exploiting and developing advanced computer technologies are located in the Oxford area.

This year’s conference theme ‘Prolonging Software Life: Development and Redevelopment’ addresses one of the major challenges that we face today. How can we rapidly and economically evolve software systems to reflect changing user expectations, business requirements and platform technologies. This is not a narrow technical domain but requires contributions from a wide range of different areas of the discipline.

One of the refreshing things about the COMPSAC series of conferences is that they remain general rather than specific and recognise that we can all benefit from taking a broad perspective rather than focusing on a narrow specialism. This is reflected in this year’s program which demonstrates the diverse range of areas from formal methods through software process improvement to the semantic web that can contribute to software evolution.

Organising a major international conference is a huge task involving many different people. I’d particularly like to thank Steve Yau who has been involved with COMPSAC throughout its history for his leadership as Chair of the Standing Committee and Hongji Yang, the Program Chair for this year’s conference. The Program Committee have also done a great job in selecting an excellent technical program.

Many things contribute to make a memorable conference. High-quality speakers, good organisation and a relevant programme are important. However, the setting and the opportunities for informal discussion, meeting old friends and making new ones are just as important and Keble College is a wonderful venue for this informal meetings. Make sure that you also take some time to explore Oxford with its bookshops, historic buildings and peaceful riverside settings.

Ian Sommerville