Foreword

Welcome to the 4th IEEE International Workshop on Engineering Semantic Agent Systems (ESAS 2009), this time taking place in the lush green and bustling Seattle, Washington, USA.

ESAS Workshops Series is for refining concepts of semantic agent systems and bringing forward better practices of engineering them. Research and technologies related to Semantic Web and agent systems are very much in focus at ESAS. Topics of interest span a wide spectrum of both theory and practice of semantics and agent architectures, including software agents, mobile agents, autonomous semantic agents, context-aware intelligent agents, agents as semantic web services, multi-agent systems, agent communities, cooperation and goal seeking through shared policy and ontology, safety & security in semantic multi-agent information systems, other QoS issues.

The main theme of ESAS this year (http://tinyurl.com/ESAS2009) is Applying Semantic Technologies in Research and Development of Ontology-Enabled Multi-Agent Systems.

This workshop and the proceedings are the culmination of precious efforts expanded by numerous fine people. We thank the authors who offered their papers for consideration. And, we are grateful to the members of our extensive International Program Committee for the expert opinion they provided so willingly. Each paper was reviewed by at least three program committee members. Last but by no means least, we are truly indebted to the 33rd COMPSAC Management for their support in maintaining ESAS’s association with COMPSAC once more this year.

This year there are eight papers in the program spread over three sessions. The first session is Semantic Mining that offers two papers on rule mining and social network mining. Mobile Agents is the title of the second session where talks on mobile code localization, m-commerce platform, and semantic web services are scheduled. The final session will dwell on ontology, OWL manipulation, and middleware aspects of Semantic Agent Systems. All these papers are included in the proceedings for ESAS 2009 which is part of the proceedings for the 33rd IEEE Annual International Computer Software and Applications Conference (COMPSAC 2009). The combined proceedings of COMPSAC and all workshops are published by the IEEE Computer Society, indexed through INSPEC and EI Index (Elsevier’s Engineering Information Index), and automatically included in the IEEE Digital Library.

The very first workshop in this series, namely, ESAS 2006 held in conjunction with the 31st COMPSAC, was a great success. Selected papers from ESAS 2006 appeared in a special section in the Volume 4, Number 3 (pages: 293-346) of the Multiagent and Grid Systems Journal (MAGS, IOS Press, ISSN 1574-1702) in 2008 (http://tinyurl.com/ESAS-SI-inMAGS). The authors of ESAS 2006 and 2007 were invited to submit substantially extended versions of their work for consideration towards publication in a Special Issue on Engineering Semantic Agent Systems in the Expert Systems: The Journal of Knowledge Engineering by Blackwell Publishing (http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0266-4720&site=1). Papers have been reviewed, and the camera-ready versions of the selected papers are due by the end of May 2009 for possible publication by the end of 2009. This year, we have agreed to a contract with a major scientific publisher to prepare an edited book on the ESAS theme. All the ESAS authors are all welcome to submit extended and revised versions of their papers for possible publication in this collection. The CFP for the book will be out shortly; and it may be accessed at our home sites, for example at http://cmpe.emu.edu.tr/aelci/. The book will hit the shelves by mid 2010. None of that could
have been achieved without the valuable contributions of the authors of the ESAS Workshops Series. We are greatly indebted to them.

All interested are invited to participate in the ESAS 2009 workshop.

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