Message from the
Standing Committee Chair
COMPSAC 2013

Let us celebrate the 37th edition of this long-standing IEEE Annual International Computer Software and Applications Conference (COMPSAC), officially designated as the IEEE signature conference on computers, software and applications since 2006. We have also made plans to hold the 2014 (38th) COMPSAC in Sweden and 2015 (39th) COMPSAC in Taiwan - thanks to many willing and capable volunteers and organizers who have stepped up to take the lead. As a vibrant professional community, it is time to plan for the future of COMPSAC in anticipation of its 40th anniversary in 2016, and draw on the talents of many technical communities out there in our profession to jointly develop COMPSAC into a future conference that we can all get involved with and be proud of.

Here is the plan. As some of you may have already heard, the IEEE Computer Society has decided to embrace this long-standing technical forum and will officially take over its planning and execution, with the strong and dedicated support of its able staff on the logistics end. The volunteering professionals will continue to focus and lead the development of technical communities and technical programs. We expect to have completed the transformation about two years from now. We expect that the 2016 (40th) COMPSAC will be primarily driven by the Computer Society staff. That is the reason why we have not responded to some inquires in regard to hosting the 40th COMPSAC in a competitive region. We would like to engage the Computer Society staff into both the decision making and execution process before proceeding further.

In its long history, COMPSAC has not been attached to a Technical Committee like other conferences are. Some of the old-timers may still remember that up until the mid-1990s there were two “flagship” conferences – COMSPAC and COMPCON. While COMPCON has long gone, COMPSAC has remained a robust event. I would like to again acknowledge the vision and exemplary leadership of Professor Stephen S. Yau, who envisioned the birth of COMPSAC and led its annual development from 1977-2005. At COMPSAC 2005, in Edinburgh, I promised to “take over” COMPSAC with the commitment that “I will do it for 10 years.” I plan to fulfill my promise to guide and help the development of COMPSAC through 2015. I have made it no secret that I will not drive COMPSAC after 2015, although I will continue involving myself in the technical program development as part of my profession.

Now, let me introduce several future community leaders. Since COMPSAC maintains a rather large pool of highly active volunteers I will only introduce the Standing Committee members in alphabetical order. Elisa Bertino has served as program chair (2009) and general chair (2012) for COMPSAC and has helped many times to get us distinguished keynote and plenary speakers. Cheng-Chung (William) Chu has served COMPSAC for many years and was the 2000 program chair. William will host the 2015 COMPSAC in Taiwan. Abdelsalam (Sumi) Helal has been keynote speaker and regular contributor to COMPSAC since 2006. Both Elisa and Sumi have played key roles in the IPSJ’s Signature Conference on Internet and Applications (IEEE/IPSJ SAINT). Elisa and Sumi helped grow and sustain the SAINT
community before SAINT officially “advanced” into COMPSAC to become an integrated conference this year. Bruce McMillin has been a long-time volunteer for COMPSAC, was the program chair in 2007 and general chair in 2011. You may have noticed that Bruce stepped up to take the lead and chair the 2014 Steering Committee, appointed annually by the Standing Committee. A Steering Committee exercises the oversight functions in each particular year. I am sure that many of you will appreciate partnering with Bruce in future COMPSAC activities. Sorel Reisman, 2011 Computer Society President, and John Walz, 2012 Computer Society President, have successfully advocated for COMPSAC to the Computer Society’s leadership. Last but not the least, Katsuyuki Yamazaki has been a senior and the most vocal and effective leader in the SAINT community, and is expected to continue drawing many talents from the SAINT community to COMPSAC as organizers, authors, speakers, among many other roles that require such contributions to make the integrated forum a greater success into the future.

I sincerely hope that you all enjoy this “Kyoto Edition” of COMPSAC. Attending the technical sessions aside, please do take time to visit this outstanding city with many histories and traditions.

Carl K. Chang
Chair, COMPSAC Standing Committee