Farewell Message from the Standing Committee Chair
July, 2015

Welcome to the 39th edition of the IEEE Annual International Computer Software and Applications Conference (COMPSAC), officially designated as the IEEE Signature Conference on Computers, Software and Applications since 2006. We continue to receive strong and dedicated support from the IEEE Computer Society’s offices representing conference management, marketing, publications, and products and services professionals. COMPSAC, founded by Stephen S. Yau in 1977 as the Society’s flagship conference, has grown continually over the years into the robust technology forum we produce today. This growth is due to sound management and a large group of dedicated volunteers. As many of you will notice, COMPSAC has transformed into a symposium-based structure with broadened technical scope and coverage this year. The ultimate duty of COMPSAC organizers is to assist in executing the mission of the Board of Governors and the Executive Committee of the Computer Society. COMPSAC has always been and will continue to be an integral component of the Society’s core business.

In 2006 I took over the Standing Committee Chairmanship from Stephen Yau, promising to perform this honorable duty for 10 years. I have been cultivating my successor since 2010. I am pleased to present to you the new Standing Committee Chair, Sorel Reisman. I will stay with this wonderful community as a representative of the Steering Committee, and to sit in the organizing circle of the COMPSAC Symposium on Software Engineering Technology and Applications (SETA). In the future, I look forward to contributing to this focused portion of COMPSAC that is directly related to my research work.

COMPSAC counts on a large group of dedicated volunteers to organize each edition year after year. Their diligent work, every piece of it, is the foundation of the success of COMPSAC. This year, I would like to particularly acknowledge the ultra-fine efforts of William Chu, the 2015 Steering Committee Chair, who handled a significant portion of local fund raising and organizing activities and has achieved a smashing success. Also critical to the 2015 program is General Chair Sheikh Ahamed, whose work with COMPSAC spans several years. COMPSAC operations are necessarily complex as it is tightly intertwined with Computer Society’s core business and leadership circle. While the learning curve is steep, Iqbal tames the challenges well and has achieved much success. Three Program Chairs, Gang Huang, Ivica Crnkovic and Pao-Ann Hsiung have performed as one should expect from their collective experience and wisdom, and have produced a high-quality program. Mihhail Matskin, Motonori Nakamura and William Claycomb guided and supported workshop organizers to once again produce a wonderful, fine collection of workshops to cover many important, emerging technical subjects. I foresee that beginning in 2016, under the leadership of Sorel Reisman, the COMPSAC communities will begin to build a more coherent grouping to connect symposia with workshops, and expand the network to cover more Society publications and involve special technical committees. This year, following a COMPSAC tradition that has not changed in 40 years, we held the 2015 program committee meeting in Shanghai on March 13-14, and we very much appreciate the outstanding hosting job done by Hong Mei and Minyi Guo.

COMPSAC also benefits each year by conference financial supporters, drawn from industry, academic institutions, and government entities. This year we are honored to have a distinguished list, including the Taiwan Ministry of Science & Technology, Taiwan Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan Ministry of Education, Union Healthcare Group, Inventec, Tunghai University, National Taichung University of Science & Technology, Academia Sinica, and the National Center for High-performance Computing. Thank you to our sponsors.

I encourage you to continue supporting COMPSAC after we conclude the 2015 edition. I am certain that COMPSAC will prosper further under the able leadership of my successor, Sorel Reisman, as the new Standing Committee Chair. COMPSAC never stays the same as we continue to bring in fresh blood and new ideas. We have a truly international community, with 40-50 nationalities in attendance each year. It is your conference, and you ought to contribute your own energy and wisdom to make it even better.

Carl K. Chang
chang@iastate.edu