MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR

It has been an honour and pleasure for me to organize this conference. This year, the status of the event has been elevated from a symposium to a conference. Compared to the previous CW2002, we also narrowed the scope to large distributed information worlds, with or without visual appearance, as well as tools for creating such worlds and industrial applications.

I was very delighted to receive many valuable submissions despite the worst possible scenario — the SARS outbreak in South-East Asia. While other conferences chose to postpone or even to cancel, we have received 130 submissions from different parts of the world. The Program Committee made every attempt to review each submission thoroughly, and I am very grateful to our reviewers for the help rendered. We are proudly publishing their names in these proceedings, and I hope that they will continue helping us with organizing future conferences. The 66 accepted papers from 21 different countries have let us form several parallel tracks, as well as organize tutorials and industrial presentations. The conference topics include the following areas:

- Philosophy, ethics, law and security of cyberworlds
- Distributed simulation and distributed virtual environments
- Shared and virtual worlds
- Geometric modeling and visualization for cyberworlds
- Intelligent agents
- Datamining and warehousing
- Cyberbusiness
- Cyberlearning
- Cybermuseums
- Cyberinformation

Extended versions of select papers will be also printed in special issues of "Computers & Graphics", "The Journal of Visualization & Computer Animation", and "The International Journal of Distance Education Technologies". The selection of papers for journal publication will be made by Guest Editors after the conference, based on the reviewers comments as well as comments from the conference participants.

I am sincerely thankful to our sponsors whose generous donations and active participation allowed us to make this conference a memorable and important event for researchers and industrialists from different parts of the globe. I do hope our fruitful cooperation will be everlasting.

Singapore will remain a permanent home to Cyberworlds since future conferences will be held alternatively in Singapore and other countries.

Thank you very much for coming to Cyberworlds 2003. I am sure that this conference will be an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for all attendees.

Alexei Sourin