Message from the Steering Committee

On the occasion of FPL 2010, the 20th International Conference on Field Programmable Logic and Applications, it is appropriate to remind ourselves the history and aim of this successful series of conferences. The first FPL was held in the United Kingdom in Jesus College Oxford with fewer than 100 delegates. Those were the days when field programmable logic was still a relatively new field of research. Wayne Luk and Will Moore were co-chairs of the very first conference. Since then, another nineteen have been held all over Europe.

By this 20th conference, FPL has grown to be the largest conference in the world dedicated to the study of field programmable logic, welcoming over 300 delegates from all continents. The FPL conference has a number of interesting characteristics. Apart from having its main goal being the dissemination of the best research in the field to fellow researchers, and to provide a platform for discussions about the latest ideas, FPL also set as its goal to promote the subject in different countries throughout Europe.

As a result, the conference moves from country to country each year with a local committee taking complete charge that year. This provides an opportunity for each local community of researchers in field programmable logic to work together as a team. Therefore one of the important roles of FPL is to help the promotion of the technology among academia and industry in a local setting. Over the past two decades, FPL has been held in: Oxford England (1991, 1993, 1995), Vienna Austria (1992), Darmstadt Germany (1996), London England (1997), Tallinn Estonia (1998), Glasgow Scotland (1999), Villach Austria (2000), Belfast Northern Ireland (2001), Montpellier France (2002), Lisbon Portugal (2003), Antwerp Belgium (2004), Tampere Finland (2005), Madrid Spain (2006), Amsterdam Holland (2007), Heidelberg Germany (2008) and Prague Czech Republic (1994 & 2009).

In 2010, there is an oversupply of conferences in the field of programmable technology. It is therefore important for the steering committee of FPL to ensure that FPL remains as a quality conference that is accessible to all.

Over the last 20 years, many exciting innovations have been reported in FPL. The history of FPL reflects the evolution of field programmable logic, to become the devices and systems that we know today. No doubt that in the days and months ahead, there will be analyses of the history of this pivotal series of conferences, to have a better understanding of its achievements and its potential. We hope to continue meeting all of you in FPL for a long time to come!

On behalf of the Steering Committee,

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Wayne Luk, Imperial College London, United Kingdom
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FPL 2010 Steering Committee Members