Message from the Workshop Chair

On behalf of the Workshop Organisers and of the Department of Electronics, Computer Science and Systems of the University of Bologna, I am honoured to welcome all participants to the 8th International Workshop on Future Trends of Distributed and Computing Systems, FTDCS 2001.

In recent years we are assisting to the emergence of a new scenario that proposes a unique distributed computing infrastructure of globally available services. The convergence of telecommunication systems and the Internet plays a key role in providing ubiquitous and pervasive computing systems. Advances in cellular telecommunication and device miniaturisation are disclosing Internet services to an increasing number of portable network devices and allow users to access Internet services independently of their physical location, e.g., at their workplace, at home, at a public telephone-Internet box. This new scenario raises new challenges in service provision in such a global scale and in the management of the shared infrastructure.

The pressure on information technology designers and practitioners is mounting to provide viable solutions for deployment, utilisation and regulation of computational infrastructures with the needed levels of quality in service provision. This motivates the increasing demand for international forums capable of stimulating healthy cross-fertilisation of ideas in the new emerging research issues of distributed systems, from mobile and ubiquitous computing to distributed multimedia services, from security to high performance computing. Adhering to this spirit, the FTDCS 2001 workshop proposes significant insights on some innovative research fields of distributed systems and gives researchers the opportunity to exchange ideas and to propose methodology and technology contributions. The workshop intends to put a special emphasis in discussions and interactions among researchers coming from different universities and different countries.

It is my pleasure that the antique and prestigious University of Bologna can host FTDCS 2001. This University is the oldest one in the western world and has profoundly influenced throughout the centuries the whole history of European universities. I am also confident that Bologna can offer all workshop participants an interesting and pleasant stay in its historic medieval centre characterised by its peculiar "brick red" tones. This feature motivates the nickname for Bologna as the “red town”.

I am deeply grateful to anyone that has contributed to the organisation of the workshop, especially to the Steering Committee Chair, Stephen S. Yau and Program Co-Chairs, Sandeep Gupta and Hongji Yang. The organisation of this event would not have been possible without the great support of the Department of Electronics, Computer Science and Systems. Special thanks go to the Operations Committee Chair, Rebecca Montanari for investing a great amount in time and effort to ensure the success of the workshop.

In wishing you an enjoyable stay, welcome again to the FTDCS 2001 and to Bologna.

Maurelio Boari

Workshop Chair