Welcome to the Third International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition. This time, the conference has been organized with the sponsorship of Technical Committees 10 and 11 of the International Association for Pattern Recognition, the Canadian Image Processing and Pattern Recognition Society, the International Graphonomics Society, and several local organizations.

Document analysis and recognition is a special branch of studies in the field of pattern recognition. During the past 10 years, we have witnessed revolutionary changes in both software and hardware. Today, computers equipped with cameras or optical scanners can see various types of documents and read their contents. Indeed, huge volumes of documents are being processed automatically every day, for example the reading of bar-codes on items sold in big companies and grocery stores; sorting mail; processing utility bills and bank cheques; reading financial data and business forms; extracting symbols and information from maps and engineering drawings; recognizing on-line and off-line handwritten data; and so forth. More subjects can be found in the technical program. This conference brings together a large number of scientists from all over the world to express their innovative ideas and report on their latest achievements. In addition to the rich program, the conference also features a full day of tutorials and an exhibition of demonstrations and video presentations.

This year we received more than 320 full papers from 26 countries around the world. The quality of the papers was very high and each was reviewed by at least two experts listed in the Proceedings. From these papers, 12 were selected as Long Papers based on quality, novelty, and broad interest, 169 were selected as Short Papers, and 96 were selected as Posters. For this, I would like to thank the Program Co-Chairs R. Kasturi, G. Lorette, K. Yamamoto, and their committee members for a superb program and conference proceedings.

At this point, I would like to express my gratitude to the two Co-Chairs, R. Plamondon and S.N. Srihari, and the individual chairs of the local organizing committee for publications, finance, and exhibitions (J-J. Brault, M. Cheriet, J-G. Deschenes, L. Lam, and Y.Y. Tang). They, together with secretariats H. Bouzianis, P. Kierans, I. Mazis, M. Smodis-McCune, have created a very warm and comfortable environment to work in.

Thanks are also due to the numerous organizations listed in the proceedings and those of the organizers of ICDAR '95, which have given us strong support in finance and in various forms and means.

Finally, I hope you will find this conference a rewarding and memorable experience. We wish you a very enjoyable stay in this beautiful city and other parts of Canada, and we hope we may see you again at ICDAR '97 in Germany.

Ching Y. Suen
General Chair — ICDAR '95