MESSAGE FROM THE ICDE 2010 PROGRAM CHAIRS AND GENERAL CHAIRS

The 2010 edition of the IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering is being held in the city of Long Beach, California, USA, from March 1st to 6th. This could be viewed as a homecoming for ICDE since the conference was started in Los Angeles in 1984, and Long Beach is a coastal town in the greater Los Angeles area. ICDE was continuously held in Los Angeles until 1990 before starting its world travel to exotic places. During this time, ICDE has established itself as a premier forum in the area of data management, providing a unique opportunity for database researchers, users, practitioners, and developers to exchange new ideas, approaches, and methodologies.

The ICDE 2010 program is composed of the traditional elements: invited keynote talks, research and industrial paper sessions, demonstrations, seminars, panels, and accompanying workshops. We are fortunate to have three distinguished keynote speeches: a joint keynote by Richard Winter of Winter Corporation and Pekka Kostamaa of Teradata, and two keynotes by Jeffrey Naughton of University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Donald Kossmann of ETH-Zurich; they all readily agreed to share their perspectives on the state of database industry and research. In addition, Gio Wiederhold of Stanford University accepted our invitation to be the banquet speaker; Gio was the founder of the ICDE conference series, and we invited him to help us celebrate the return of the conference to the Los Angeles area after a gap of around two decades.

ICDE 2010 received 523 research manuscripts, 18 industrial contributions, and 76 demo proposals, for a total of over 600 submissions. This is a gratifyingly large number considering the global recession of 2009. Moreover, it is a testament to our community’s high regard for ICDE, and we thank all authors for submitting their innovative work to the conference.

To facilitate selection of research papers, we organized the program committee into 15 topic-based tracks. Each track was headed by a vice-chair who formed a committee to evaluate the papers assigned to that track. This resulted in a research program committee consisting of almost 230 members in total, with an average review load of around 7 papers. The evaluation process consisted of three distinct phases: initial reviews of the papers by PC members, author responses to these reviews, and finally, PC’s discussion and fine-tuning of the reviews. This was followed by a meeting of the vice-chairs and the PC co-chairs during VLDB 2009 in Lyon, France, where the final selections were made.

The research program features 69 long papers and 41 short papers, with long papers presented in 30 minute slots, while short papers have 15 minute slots. The industrial program includes 8 submitted papers and one invited paper. In addition, 29 demonstration proposals were selected for presentation to the conference audience. All research and industrial track papers will be displayed in two plenary poster sessions, a repeat of the successful experiment conducted by ICDE 2009 in Shanghai, China.

Thanks to the diligence of our PC members, more than 95% of the reviews were received on time, and the remaining few were completed shortly afterwards. In a first for ICDE, we set up outstanding vice-chair and outstanding reviewer awards. These awards were intended to recognize both the timeliness and quality of the reviews. For assessing quality, we incorporated mechanisms for authors to rate the thoroughness and fairness of their reviews, and designed simple but informative metrics to characterize the performance of reviewers and vice-chairs. Based on these assessments,
Susan Davidson of the University of Pennsylvania received the outstanding vice-chair award, while Sarah Cohen-Boulakia of LRI France picked up the outstanding reviewer award. They were both granted free conference registrations as a token of our appreciation. We also recognized twenty PC members, whose names appear in the Outstanding Reviewer section of this proceedings, for the consistently high quality of their reviews as indicated by author ratings. We are deeply grateful to all the vice-chairs and PC members for their dedicated and diligent service in coming up with an exciting program that maintains the high standards associated with ICDE.

To our knowledge, ICDE 2010 is the first database conference to provide the authors with an opportunity to rate their reviews and reviewers. They could choose from the following scores: 1 for superficial or biased (Poor), 2 for competent and fair (Satisfactory), and 3 for thoughtful and constructive (Good). The author ratings were generally positive and we are extremely pleased to report that the average score was 2.2, a resounding endorsement of the expertise and professionalism of the program committee.

A committee consisting of the three PC chairs and two vice-chairs (Felix Naumann and Michael Benedikt) had the challenging task of selecting the award-winning research papers from the rich corpus of quality submissions accepted for the conference. “TASM: Top-k Approximate Subtree Matching” by Augsten, Barbosa, Böhlen and Palpanas received the Best Paper award for providing an elegant solution to the classical problem of identifying subtrees in a data tree with the smallest edit distances from a given query tree. “Usher: Improving Data Quality With Dynamic Forms” spearheaded by students from UC Berkeley and MIT received the Best Student Paper award for developing principled machine-learning based techniques to ensure data quality right at its very root: when humans enter data via forms. We congratulate the authors of these papers on their exemplary efforts.

In addition to the paper sessions and demonstrations, the conference program includes five seminars and two panels on topics of current interest to the data engineering community. Accompanying the main conference are seven workshops, four preceding the conference on Monday, March 1, and three following the conference on Friday, March 5, and Saturday, March 6. To provide a forum for student participants to share their thesis research, there is also a PhD Workshop, which partially overlaps the program on Friday, March 5.

The success of ICDE 2010 is a result of collegial teamwork from many individuals, who worked tirelessly to make the conference a top research forum. We acknowledge and thank the sterling endeavors of Mike Carey, Fabio Casati, and Edward Chang (Industrial Chairs), Ioana Manolescu and Sharad Mehrotra (Demo Chairs), Luis Gravano and Sunita Sarawagi (Seminar Chairs), Anastasia Ailamaki and Carlo Zaniolo (Panel Chairs), Christian Jensen and Renee Miller (Workshop Chairs), and Nikos Mamoulis, Yannis Papakonstantinou, and Timos Sellis (PhD Workshop Chairs), and the organizers of the seven accompanying workshops. We also express our deep appreciation of the outstanding work put in over many months by Chen Li (Local Arrangements Chair), Christof Boernhoevd (Finance Chair), Roger Zimmermann (Publicity Chair), and Feifei Li and Mirella Moro (Proceedings Chairs). Without their tireless efforts, this conference would not have been a success. We are also thankful to the many student volunteers from UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Riverside and USC.

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In addition, there are many other individuals whose contributions we warmly acknowledge. We benefited greatly from the sage advice provided by Paul Larson, our ICDE Steering Committee Liaison, Calton Pu, ICDE Steering Committee Chair and General Chair of ICDE 2006, and Malu Castellanos, General Chair of ICDE 2008. We also acknowledge the professional help and support provided by Carmen Saliba of the IEEE Computer Society in navigating the many processes involved in organizing an IEEE conference. The 2009 Program Chairs, Yannis Ioannidis, Dik Lee, and Raymond Ng, continually provided the PC Chairs with valuable tips and we are grateful to them. We express our gratitude to the Microsoft CMT team for their ready assistance and quick replies to our multitude of requests. We thank the Local Arrangements Chairs of VLDB 2009, Mohand-Said Hacid and Jean-Marc Petit, who generously helped with the logistics of the PC meeting in Lyon, France.

We warmly acknowledge the financial support of our corporate sponsors: Microsoft (at the platinum level); HP, IBM and Greenplum (at the silver level); and AT&T, ESRI, Google, Oracle, SAP, and Yahoo! Labs (at the bronze level). In addition, we thank Maria Zemankova and Frank Olken of NSF for a generous grant that enabled us to provide travel support for 27 Ph.D. students from various US universities to attend the conference.

Finally, we thank all the authors, presenters, and participants of the conference. We hope all of you enjoy the conference and the surrounding Long Beach area! This edition of ICDE shows that data engineering continues to be a thriving and vibrant discipline!

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ICDE 2010 PC Chairs            ICDE 2010 General Chairs