Message from the General Chair

Welcome to the Second IEEE International Conference on Formal Engineering Methods (ICFEM'98) and to the city of Brisbane.

Formal methods aim to bring to the engineering of computer-dependent systems the well- known engineering techniques of mathematical modeling for scientific prediction of in-service behavior at design time. In view of the complexity of many computer-dependent systems, computational support for those techniques is also a part of the drive to advance formal methods. The precision of expression needed for computational support, and enabled by mathematical modeling, can also be of great value to engineers in maintaining control over complex requirements, designs and projects.

The aim of the ICFEM series of conferences is to bring together researchers and practitioners from industry, academia and government to advance the state of the art in developing formal engineering methods, and to encourage industrial applications.

Following the success of the first ICFEM conference in Hiroshima, we meet in Brisbane in a considerably changed economic environment, particularly for the Asia-Pacific region. Therefore it is pleasing to report that ICFEM has nevertheless attracted considerable interest and excellent submissions. The Program Committee considered a total of 33 papers from both academia and industry and has accepted 18 for presentation at the conference and publication in its Proceedings. The ICFEM'98 program also includes four keynote speeches by leading researchers, a panel session and two half-day tutorials prior to the start of the technical program.

Thanks to all of the cooperating organizations listed on the title page for their support, to all who submitted papers, to all conference chairs, program committee members and reviewers for their contributions, and to all who have helped make ICFEM'98 a success.

Thanks also to the IEEE Computer Society and its Technical Committee on Complexity in Computing for the sponsorship of ICFEM'98 and for arranging the publication of this proceedings.

I hope you find ICFEM'98 pleasant and profitable!

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