Welcome to ICGSE 2006

ICGSE 2006 is the first truly international conference on Global Software Engineering (GSE). It brings together experts from academia and industry to take leadership on the evolution of this fast growing field. The ambition of this first conference in a series is to shape the community and discipline of GSE. The idea of a dedicated conference on GSE started, as it should, within a distributed, asynchronous, and culturally diverse environment. For several years now, the GSE community has promoted workshops such as in Portland in 2003, Edinburgh in 2004, and Paris in 2005. It was during a dinner meeting organized by Siemens where industry offshoring experts and researchers from a number of universities distributed around the world first imagined a focused international conference on Global Software Engineering. Based on these diverse research and expert initiatives the Organizing Committees of ICGSE 2006 were formed.

The GSE subject is timely and relevant. Almost all of today’s large software development projects need to pay serious attention to cultural, operational and technical aspects when dealing with globally distributed development teams. Globalization is one of the three major drivers of the current IT and software industry, aside from industrialization and consolidation. GSE is not yet ‘complete’ in its research and empirical basis and certainly not mature in its communication and education aspects. Therefore, it was clear to us that a successful conference on GSE must balance industrial and academic participation. The composition of the Program Committee and the papers that were selected reflect an ideal balance between research and practitioner experience.

Research on GSE is necessary because it is potentially a huge paradigm change in software development. Dealing with world-wide distributed software development teams is far more complex than the past everybody in the same location approach. Such change presents challenges and difficulties that vary from very concrete problems such as working across different time zones and geographic distances, to more subjective aspects such as cultural differences. Operational problems must be addressed within this new global context. Requirements engineering, architecture specification, code generation, testing, processes, methods, and tools for communication must be adjusted to be successful in this new world of distributed software development. The GSE community is currently poised for a very promising future environment where great achievements, innovative technologies, and first class research will be done. The technical, scientific, and social merits of GSE have been acknowledged by the IEEE Computer Society by granting IEEE sponsorship to this conference.
The choice of Brazil to host this first ICGSE was a composition of interests to clearly indicate the global makeup of the conference and, obviously, to allow the participants to enjoy the outstanding natural beauty of the Brazilian coast. The Costão do Santinho venue, in particular, was chosen to host the conference since we believe a well-organized initiative will benefit from the natural qualities of an offshore site for enhancing the efficient exchange of new ideas. On behalf of all the ICGSE organizational committees we would like to welcome you to our conference, and we hope you may benefit from the technical, scientific, and social environment you are about to experience at ICGSE 2006.

Executive Committee

We acknowledge the generous financial support of our sponsors

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