



Message From The Conference Chairs

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the *Fourth International Conference on Requirements Engineering (ICRE 2000)*, in the Chicago area. We are starting the New Millennium outside of the beautiful Colorado Springs, and we look forward to taking future ICREs to other new and exciting places internationally. While we have changed locations, the goal and the motivation for the conference stay the same, that is, to provide a forum for practitioners and researchers to gather and exchange technology in the requirements engineering area.

For the past two ICREs, there has been an attempt to narrow the gap, and then bridge the gap, respectively, between researchers and practitioners working in requirements engineering. For this conference, we noticed that there has been an increase in papers describing projects that integrate different technologies and approaches in search of achieving more effective requirements engineering practices. Also, there has been an increase in papers co-authored by practitioners and researchers. As a result, this conference can be considered an attempt to “Bridge the Gaps” with an emphasis on technology integration and collaboration between research and industry.

There are six major components in this conference. The conference is started and ended by an outstanding set of tutorials representative of leading edge technology in requirements engineering. The instructors come from industry and academia, thus illustrating the demand for techniques from both communities. The body of the technical program has three keynotes, six paper sessions, two panels, a poster/demonstration session, and an industrial exhibitors session. This is a three-day conference; each of the first two full days is designed to have the same structure, for the convenience of the participants. A keynote will start the day, followed by two paper sessions and a panel session, and concluding with a conference activity promoting interaction among conference attendees. The last day of the conference will include a Best Paper session and conclude with a luncheon keynote reflecting upon what has been learned at ICRE 2000.

The conference papers cover topics in the following areas: process and modeling, specifications, evolution, requirements analysis and management, and reuse. We had papers submitted from more than 20 countries, with more than half of the accepted papers reporting practices and experiences.

The Program Co-Chairs are deeply indebted to the tremendous effort expended by the Program Committee. Its members are the main reason that we have been able to put together such an outstanding, high-quality program and proceedings. Significant effort was made to ensure that all papers received at least three reviews. Three of the papers were determined by the Program Committee to be exceptionally good. These papers were submitted and accepted for publication in a companion issue of IEEE Computer Society’s *Software* magazine (thus, only their abstracts appear in the proceedings).

The Steering Committee, under the leadership of Carl Chang, provided invaluable knowledge and experience in organizing this conference. The process has been an excellent example of the application of good requirements, while allowing for requirements evolution in order to reflect the input of ICRE 2000 Program Committee, PC Co-Chairs, and General Chair. We owe special gratitude to Daniel Berry and Nancy Mead, who were always available to provide advice and experience on many aspects of the conference.

Many other people have helped make ICRE 2000 a success. Carl Chang is not only the Steering Committee Chair, but he has also been a great Local Arrangements Chair (we will all love Chicago by the end of the conference). Annie Antón has done a tremendous job with the publicity. David Hottman has been tireless in organizing the Exhibitors session. John Liu and David Levine have kept the conference financially sound in their roles as Registration Chair and Finance Chair, respectively.

We close by echoing a message from the General Chair from ICRE '98. Requirements engineering continues to be a critical area within software engineering. It appears that more attention is finally being afforded to requirements engineering by developers and managers. In addition, it seems that consumers are also expecting higher quality and more robust computer-based systems, thus putting more pressure on the software producers. The New Millennium is an exciting time for all, but it also forces us to carefully consider what we have been doing with software development. Let us proceed forward through the New Millennium, armed with what we learn from this conference, to look for increasingly improved approaches to requirements engineering and to put them into practice to develop better software for all.

Program Co-Chairs

Betty H.C. Cheng, *Michigan State University*

David Weiss, *Bell Laboratories*

General Chair

Pei Hsia, *University of Texas at Arlington*