Welcome to the Proceedings of the 12th IEEE International Conference on Semantic Computing (ICSC 2018) in Laguna Hills, California, USA. ICSC 2018 continues to foster the growth of a new research community. This edition of the conference builds upon the tradition and success of the past ICSC series as an international forum for researchers as well as practitioners in academia and industry to present research that not only advances the state of the art and practice of Semantic Computing but also identifies the emerging research topics, and defines the future of the field.

This year, the conference received 133 paper submissions from over 32 countries. Every submission was reviewed by at least three up to six experts from the technical program committee (actually, more than half of papers received 4-5 reviews each). As a result, full paper acceptance was very competitive with an acceptance rate of 23.31% (31 accepted full papers over 133 submissions). The selection of the papers was a challenging and difficult task. The Program Committee members have put in a significant effort in order to provide useful feedback to the authors. In addition, the proceedings include high-quality short papers, poster papers, special session papers, and workshop papers. All of these papers provide novel ideas, new results, and state-of-the-art techniques in the field. We are honored to have several of the world’s leading experts in the field join us as distinguished keynote speakers and plenary speakers. Altogether, we are proud to be able to present you a rich program that contains a variety of top-notch research works.

After the success of last year, we schedule also this year the Best Paper Award session. For this, we selected the top scored 6 papers as candidates based on their received reviews for the ICSC 2018 Best Paper Award. The authors of these papers will give their presentations in a specially-designated session, which will be attended by the “best paper award committee” judges, who will select the best student paper and the best paper after listening to all presentations. We strongly encourage all attendees to take part in this best paper award session, which will be held on February 1, 2018, to benefit from these top papers.

Additionally, we allocate time slots for all full and short papers to be presented as posters, which have oral presentations on the same day. We aim at providing more opportunities to the accepted full and short papers so that authors can discuss their novel ideas with all attendees after the time limited oral presentation. We strongly encourage all attendees to take part in the poster session to ask questions and to discuss with authors according to your interests.

Many individuals have contributed to the success of this conference. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all authors for their submissions, many of whom traveled great distances to participate in this conference and make valuable contributions. We are indebted to the program committee members who have put in hard work and long hours to review each paper in a timely and professional manner. Without their help and advice, this program would not be possible. We would also like to express our deepest thanks to the General Chairs and Organizing Committee for their strong support. Last but not least, we would like to thank Professor Phillip Sheu for starting this wonderful conference in 2007.

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