Welcome from the General Chair

It is my great privilege and pleasure to welcome the 25th IEEE International Conference on Software Maintenance to Edmonton, the fifth biggest city in Canada and the oil capital of Canada!

Since its start in 1983, ICSM has established itself as an international forum for software maintenance researchers and practitioners, examining the key issues facing the software maintenance community. ICSM is the venue where academics and industry members share ideas and experiences, and publish, present, and debate the latest results in the field.

I am particularly excited about the conference program this year, which certainly meets the high standards that our community has come to expect! This year, we are extremely fortunate to have with us, Mary Jean Harrold and David M. Weiss, delivering keynotes on “Regression Testing” and “Architecture of Product Lines” respectively. In the three-day technical program, we also have the presentations of 63 research papers, 8 industrial papers, as well as 6 presentations on newly completely doctoral theses, a tool, and a poster session. Finally, reflecting on the history of our field, will be a panel consisting of former conference organizers. The program is compelling and will make us think well beyond the three days of our meeting, during which, I am certain, we will have lively interactions and vigorous ideas exchanges.

ICSM is the meeting place for a truly international community. This year, the papers published in the proceedings are the brainchildren of 225 authors from 19 countries. The program committee membership also reflects the same diversity in terms of countries of origin.

Together with ICSM, we have three co-located conferences: the 9th IEEE International Working Conference on Source Code Analysis and Manipulation (SCAM), the 11th IEEE International Symposium on Web Site Evolution (WSE), and the 5th IEEE International Workshop on Visualizing Software for Understanding and Analysis (VISSOFT). Also collocated are the 3rd International Workshop on a Research Agenda for Maintenance and Evolution of Service-Oriented Systems (MESOA) and the 1st International Workshop on Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) Testing (SOAT), making this meeting a full week of events.

This exciting program has been made possible through the work of a large number of people. I would like to first thank the Program-Committee Chairs, Kostas Kontogiannis and Tao Xie, for putting together the program committee, managing the review process, and selecting the final list of papers to appear in this year’s excellent technical program. I am also grateful to the program-committee members, who put a lot of thought in their original reviews and their subsequent debates to resolve most ambiguities in the assessment of the 162 submissions. Equally important was the contribution of the chairs of the industrial track, Hausi Müller and Carl Worms; the chairs of the Doctoral Symposium track, Arie van Deursen and Ahmed Hassan; and Mark Grechanik the chair of the tool-demo track. Jens Krinke has been the force behind the publicity around the event, Brendan Tansey has developed and maintained the web site, and Dirk Beyer put together the proceedings. Last, but not least, I have to express a huge “Thank You” to Ken Wong, who, as finance chair, has been continuously manipulating the budget spreadsheet in the past year throughout the practically continuous currency fluctuations.

ICSM continues to enjoy the sponsorship of the IEEE Computer Society, who has been a great help behind the scenes. Equally essential has been the advice and support of the ICSM steering committee. This year we were also financially aided by our donors, iCORE and the University of Alberta. All aspects of the conference benefit from the time and effort provided by our supporting organizations: University of Alberta (Canada), National Technical University of Athens (Greece), and the North Carolina State University (USA).

Last but not least, we would like to thank you — the participants at ICSM 2009 who have traveled to Edmonton to participate in this event. I hope you all enjoy the technical and social program and take the opportunity to visit the culture scene of Edmonton and the 27-km greenbelt of parks and recreational facilities along the North Saskatchewan River valley!