ICWS 2008
Message from the General Chairs

Welcome to the 2008 IEEE International Conference on Web Services (ICWS 2008)! ICWS 2008 is now in its sixth anniversary. The long-term goal of ICWS is to establish a reputable and respectable conference for the international community of researchers and practitioners to exchange information regarding advancements in the state of the art and practice of Web services, and to identify the emerging research topics and define the future of Web services computing. ICWS 2008 is sponsored by IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Services Computing (TC-SVC). ICWS 2008 is the flagship conference in 2008 IEEE Congress on Services (SERVICES 2008) to celebrate their gathering again along with other events to explore "Services" (Science and Technology), which was promoted by IEEE Computer Society in 2003!

Web services are Internet-based application components published using standard interface description languages and become universally available via uniform communication protocols. As in the sixth year, the program of ICWS 2008 continues to feature research papers with a wide range of topics, focusing on various aspects of IT services such as Web services specifications and enhancements, Web services discovery and integration, Web services security, Web services modeling, Web services-based applications and solutions, and semantics in Web services.

As the most prestigious academic conference in the field of Web services, the first International Conference on Web Services, ICWS 2003 was held at the Monte Carlo Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 23-26, 2003, attracting hundreds of participants from 25 countries. ICWS 2004 was held at Westin Horton Plaza in San Diego, California, July 6-9, 2004, attracting about 250 registered participants from 22 countries and regions. The joint ICWS 2005 and IEEE International Conference on Services Computing (SCC) 2005 were held at Sheraton Safari Hotel in Orlando, Florida, July 11-15, 2005, attracting more than 300 registered participants. The joint ICWS 2006 and SCC 2006 were held at Hyatt Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, September 18-22, 2006, again attracting more than 300 registered participants. The joint ICWS 2007 and SCC 2007 were held at Marriott Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah, July 9-13, 2007, again attracting more than 300 registered participants. ICWS 2003, ICWS 2004, ICWS 2005, ICWS 2006, and ICWS 2007 have proven to be excellent catalysts for research and collaboration, and we fully expect that this coming ICWS 2008 conference will continue this trend.

Many people have worked very hard to make this conference possible. We would like to thank all who have helped in making ICWS 2008 a success. The Program Committee members and referees all deserve credit for producing the excellent final program that resulted from the diligent review of the submissions. Special thanks go to the program chairs and all the other organizing committee members. We would also like to appreciate the Services Computing Professional Interest Community (PIC) at IBM Research, SAP Research, Boeing, Avaya Research, and IEEE IT Professional Magazine. Clearly, there are still many unresolved research issues in regard to Web services computing as a very young field. We hope you enjoy the conference and plan to contribute to the future ICWS events as authors, speakers, panelists, and volunteer as conference organizers. Finally, ICWS belongs to you, the audience.

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