Welcome to ICWS 2016! ICWS 2016 is the 23rd installment of the top-ranked international forum for researchers and practitioners in the area of Web Services. ICWS brings together a diverse community to share ideas, present exciting new research and experimental results, and discuss experiences in building some of the world’s most challenging systems for a very rapidly changing technology and demand landscape. The breadth of the area is reflected in the seven thematic areas that were used to organise submissions: (1) Services Discovery, Selection and Recommendation, (2) Services Composition, (3) Services QoS Management, (4) Services Security, Privacy and Trust, (5) Services Applications Beyond the Web, (6) Semantic Services and (7) Service-Oriented Software Engineering.

Quality of accepted papers is the primary criteria for establishing a successful research track and the review process is fundamental to separating the very best papers from strong papers. I would like to thank the reviewers and area chairs for the amazing service that they provided for the community to ensure that the large number of submissions (250 for the conference, with over 200 clearly targeting the research track) received the consideration and attention that they deserve. As program chair I do especially appreciate the detailed and very thorough yet timely completion of reviews and the input into the final selection phases. Each paper was reviewed by three to five expert reviewers with the area chairs supporting me in overseeing the process and ensuring that review details were considered in the decision making of the final acceptances of 30 papers (leading to a highly competitive acceptance rate of 14%). As always a number of strong papers could not be accepted to the research track and we recommended these for consideration by other ICWS tracks.

The Short Paper Track received a total of 39 papers, 6 of which were selected for publication, for an acceptance rate slightly above 15%. These papers cover traditional areas of Web Services such as service composition, discovery, collaborative filtering, as well as two papers focusing on the design of storage services. The presented material includes interesting and novel contributions to the design of Web Services, all supported by empirical evidence of their practical benefits.

We (and I am speaking here for the area chairs as well as myself) sincerely appreciate the work and effort by the authors in preparing their submissions for review, considering and addressing the reviewers’ comments before submitting the camera-ready copies of their
accepted papers, and attending the conference to present and discuss their work. The overall quality of submissions was very high and many difficult decisions had to be made to ensure our aim of providing the highest quality and as a community we can be proud of the work composing the final program of the research track.

I also want to thank the ICWS General Chairs Bhavani Thuraisingham and Yan Wang and every member of the ICWS 2016 Organizing Committee for their help in putting together such an exciting program. Finally, I thank all of you who have come to the conference and hope that you find the conference both stimulating and enjoyable!

Program Chair
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