Message from Steering Co-chairs

We have been looking forward to holding IPDPS in Atlanta, since we knew that we would have the leadership of a "tried and true" general chair in the person of David Bader. Indeed, we were able to sit back and let out the sails this last year, with him at the wheel along with veteran and newly recruited volunteers. Like sailing, organizing a conference is a matter of schedules, chores, and expectations, and from our vantage point, David and his crew have made it an easy journey to this week in Atlanta. On behalf of our steering mates, thank you to David for keeping us on course and to all your crew, welcome to port.

The messages from the other chairs give names to all of the volunteers and also describe how the IPDPS organization operates from year to year. They also express the elements of the IPDPS organization constantly at work to keep the vitality and relevance of this event at the front of our efforts. The recruitment of new volunteers through "in-service training" has been critical to building a cohesive team that has continuity from year to year. Because we are a remarkably all-volunteer event, we need to make sure that people are rewarded for their efforts through the compensation of great working relationships and the pride of being part of a team that performs seamlessly. Our thanks to everyone for your contribution and a special note of appreciation to the organizers of the workshops and the PhD Forum and all of your participants.

We believe this organization model extends to our technical program. Through consultation with steering committee members and the extended IPDPS community, each year the program chair with the program committee puts together a process that will protect and extend the technical integrity of our conference and also reflect what we learn each year that we do this. The same attention to technical parameters is also applied at the workshops level and, starting this year, in developing the PhD Forum. Our conference draws researchers from around the world and a critical goal is to keep pace with international developments in our community.

Our steering committee has always been very hands-on and displayed a willingness to try new ways of programming to enrich the full week for attendees, while maintaining balance between the workshops and the regular conference program. We want to use this message to thank our colleagues for their active participation in our deliberations and for their many acts of support for volunteers who organize this conference. Every year we receive comments (compliments, usually) from outside which single out our conference for its cohesiveness and high level of accountability from volunteers. So kudos to all for a job well done.

We hope that this week contributes to your professional experience and also provides entertainment as you experience Atlanta, one of the great American cities.

Next year in Alaska will be the 25th anniversary of our event. Although we will be "home" in the USA, we want to highlight the fact that Anchorage will be the most centrally located of all of our world destinations, meaning that we should be truly international in 2011. Along with Alan Sussman, our IPDPS 2011 general chair, we invite you to join us in celebrating this anniversary as we once again present a program true to our mission. As a unique international gathering of computer scientists from around the world, we prize this annual meeting as a testament to the strength of international cooperation in seeking to apply computer science technology to the betterment of our global village. Join us in Alaska as we celebrate the people who started this conference, who made contributions along the way, who reached out to build coalitions, and who understood the importance of building an international event.

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