Message from the Workshops Chair

Welcome to IPDPS 2014 in Phoenix. What a great place for a conference, what a great year for the IPDPS Workshops Program! This year we have a total of 21 workshops. Nineteen are continuing workshops, and we are welcoming two new workshops: Graph Algorithms Building Blocks and Chapel Implementers and Users Workshop. As a result, a vast and a very diverse program awaits our attendance. This year the workshop program includes presentation of 204 reviewed papers and many additional invited talks. Like many of you, I am looking forward to attending as many talks as possible and interacting with presenters and the larger IPDPS workshops community.

This is my sixth year as Workshops Chair and for 2014 Yogesh Simmhan helped me as Workshops Vice Chair; I start by thanking him for all of his efforts. Like all previous years, it has been great fun and a pleasure to work with such a diverse and energetic group of workshop organizers. As happens every year, workshop organizers did the lion’s share of the work for our workshops program. It is impossible to over-emphasize my appreciation for all these people who invest so much time and energy to create and publicize the workshops, collect and review submissions, and then organize the programs. Their contribution to the community is enormous, and I urge every participant to personally thank these individuals for their hard work and dedication. Also please consider helping the organizers by volunteering.

Running a conference like IPDPS is big team effort. We had a wonderful team led by our Steering Committee Chair Viktor Prasanna and our General Chair, Manish Parashar. Among other team members, I would like to start with thanking IPDPS veteran Sally Jelinek Westrom for her wide-ranging efforts; “Production Chair” does not begin to describe all of the jobs she tackles for this conference, including support to the workshops, designing the proceedings program book, overseeing the proceedings production process and getting the invitation letters for visas issued. She is the backbone of IPDPS, the person who keeps all of us on schedule, and makes our life easy. Hence, like all other organizers, I am forever in debt for her patience and support.

In our fourth straight year of using the IEEE Computer Society CPS for production of the proceedings, once again we worked with the CPS editor Lisa O’Conner. She patiently answered all of our inquiries and produced a beautifully organized presentation for our proceedings. My thanks to Proceedings Chair, Xin Yuan, for his efforts in overseeing the proceedings, as well as my helper Mehmet Deveci for following missing workshop papers, matching papers with registrations, and other tedious, but necessary support.

Another IPDPS veteran, Susamma Barua, again handled the very complicated local arrangements for the workshops, including arranging room set-ups, A/V needs, and refreshments. With up to 12 concurrent sessions during workshops, as you may guess, this has been a very challenging assignment, and she has done, once again, a fantastic job.

As usual, Bill Pitts has kept the financial wheels turning smoothly and made sure we were performing to the standards of our IEEE Computer Society sponsor. Thanks also to Anna Brown for keeping the workshops web page and links up to date, and Michela Taufer and her publicity team for distributing workshop announcements. And finally, thanks again to Viktor Prasanna, IPDPS steering committee chair, for helping to resolve the various policy issues that come up in dealing with such a large number of workshops.

I have no doubt that we will have yet another wonderful IPDPS week filled with great technical and social interactions. I hope you will enjoy the whole conference as much as we enjoyed organizing it.

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