Message from the Workshops Chair

Welcome to IPDPS 2013 in Boston. It is my pleasure to present to you yet another strong IPDPS Workshops Program. With twenty-one continuing and one new workshop, this year we have 22 workshops in total. Such a large number of workshops has produced, yet again, a vast and diverse program which this year includes a total of 254 reviewed papers as well as posters and many additional invited talks. I am sure you are all as excited as me about this year’s program. Even though currently we have 22 workshops, I want to take this opportunity to remind our community that IPDPS is always looking for new workshop proposals for the next IPDPS in Phoenix!

This is my fifth year as Workshops Chair, and like all previous years, it has been great fun and 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.

This year was the second year of our experimental new process that is designed to help redirect strong papers that have not been accommodated in the main conference to an appropriate workshop. Our main intention was again to leverage the IPDPS's strong review process. We have somewhat automated this process, and allow authors of the rejected papers select a workshop to forward their paper. Unfortunately, less than 10% of the rejected papers authors choose to forward their paper with this process. I am hoping that the rest took advantage of later submission deadlines of the workshops to improve their papers based on the reviews. The only part that we couldn’t automate was actual forwarding of the reviews and our Program Chair Sanjay Ranka manually pulled the papers that would be forwarded from EDAS, and we sent them to individual workshops one by one. I am grateful for Sanjay’s support and help.

Running a conference like IPDPS is big team effort. We have a wonderful team led by our Steering Committee Chair Viktor Prasanna. At the outset, I want to give very special accolades to our General Co-Chairs, Martin Herbordt and Charles (Chip) Weems, for their efforts bring IPDPS to Boston. Among other team members, I would like to start with thanking IPDPS veteran Sally Jelinek Westrom for her wide-ranging efforts; “Production Chair” doesn't 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 person who keeps all of us in schedule.

In our third year of using the IEEE Computer Society CPS for production of the proceedings we worked with a new CPS editor, Lisa O’Conner, who did a fantastic job, and we have 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 (and finding) missing workshop papers, and matching papers with registrations.

xxx
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 job, 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 coordinators 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.

Like many of you, I am also very excited to be holding IPDPS in this wonderful location. I have no doubt that we will have yet another wonderful IPDPS week filled with great technical and social interactions.

Ümit V. Çatalyürek
The Ohio State University