Message from the General Chair


Wearable Computing is indeed an exciting field with great potential to change the world. In fact this will go beyond having a computer that one can wear. The advent of powered machinery and tools over time has bridged the difference in the capabilities of the average person and the physically strong. Likewise, wearable computing holds the promise of smoothing the differences in mental and physiological abilities of people for many day to day situations. Wearable Intelligence—software and hardware that can sense the user's context and provide just in time information to augment human memory and intelligence—is becoming available. Several wearable medical devices have truly changed the way many people live. Pursuits such as artificial vision that may one day literally make the difference between night and day for the blind are underway. Progress is being made in areas such as brain-computer interfaces where signals from the brain are directly used to control physical entities, such as computers and wheel chairs. What will happen next? Since 1997, ISWC has been the premier interactive forum that brings together experts in this field who will invent the future of wearable computing. Judging by the caliber of this year’s program, I have no doubt that this august tradition will continue.

I would like to thank the members of the ISWC 2003 organizing committee for their enthusiasm and hard work in putting together this program. Steve Feiner and David Mizell, together with the program committee, did an outstanding job of selecting long, short and poster papers from a variety of topics. Brad Rhodes put together a tutorial program with choices for both the novice and the more experienced. Yohan Baillot assembled together several interesting demonstrations. Michael Olsen recruited exhibitors in a very professional manner. MT Raghunath did an outstanding job with local arrangements. Thad Starner made sure that people from all over the world heard about ISWC 2003. Kent Lyons ensured that the web page for the conference catered to the pressing needs for both contributors and attendees, and coordinated the student volunteers. Edward Ishak is responsible for the proceedings you are holding in your hand.

The staff at IEEE, Deeber Azada, Thomas Baldwin, Maggie Johnson, and Nikki Nasabzadeh, was extremely helpful and responsive to the multitude of queries during the past several months. James Stewart at Precision Conference Solutions made the process of submissions to the conference simple. I would also like thank the staff at the IBM Industry Solutions Lab, Hawthorne NY for their help with the conference reception.

I hope you have an enjoyable conference.

Chandra Narayanaswami
IBM TJ Watson Research Center