Preface

On behalf of the Program and Organizing Committees, I would like to welcome you to the Fourth Latin American Web Congress (LA-Web 2006).

This edition of LA-Web brings together an exceptional group of researchers who have been doing cutting-edge work on various issues related to the advancement of the World Wide Web. Although the presentations at the conference address a wide range of open issues, they have been grouped into seven major areas for easy reference: navigation and browsing, Web computing and Web services, semantic Web, interaction and collaboration, Web search and information retrieval, Web contents characterization, and Web mining and Web engineering. We hope this organization will foster fruitful discussion and networking.

The main LA-Web 2006 program features 20 full papers and 9 short papers, which were selected after a thorough review process by a truly international Program Committee, which comprises over 40 members from more than 15 countries in Europe, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas. Given the goal of LA-Web to promote the dissemination of Web-related research being conducted in Latin America, about two thirds of the contributions come from authors who are working in Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Costa Rica. However, this edition of LA-Web is enriched by the participation of researchers from Spain, Portugal, the United States, Belgium, India, and the United Kingdom.

The program of LA-Web 2006 is enhanced by the presentation of posters that display late-breaking research results, as well as tutorials that introduce conference attendees to practical applications of Web technologies. We also are honored by the participation of our invited keynote speakers, Bonnie Nardi and Héctor García-Molina, who share their experience and insight on the development and the future of the Web.

The Universidad de las Américas Puebla offers an incomparable setting for an international academic event such as LA-Web. We invite you to enjoy the conference and thank you for contributing to make LA-Web 2006 a success.

J. Alfredo Sánchez
Editor