Message from the Technical Program Committee Co-Chairs

We would like to welcome all the attendees of the fourth edition of the Latin-American Symposium on Dependable Computing (LADC 2009).

We hope you will enjoy the program that has been selected for LADC 2009. Every step has been taken by the Technical Program Committee (TPC) Co-Chairs to assure a fair paper selection process. Each member of the TPC reviewed an average of 6 papers. In addition, external reviewers were judiciously allocated to complement the number of reviews required. In the end, we were able to obtain at least 4 reviews per paper. The TPC members and external reviewers were able to return an excess of 190 revisions on time.

For the first time, LADC offered authors a three-day rebuttal period. Authors of 70% of the papers wrote rebuttals that certainly contributed to raise the quality of the paper selection process. LADC received 43 submissions from 15 countries. After the rebuttal period, the committee members met in cyberspace to arrange the technical program. Seventeen papers were selected to appear in the proceedings.

The technical program also included two invited talks by distinguished members of the dependability community: “Dependability in the Time of Forensics” by Roy Maxion, and “Empirical Data-driven Modeling for Dependability Enhancement” by Miroslaw Malek.

In addition to the technical papers and invited talks, the program was complemented by two tutorials entitled “From Object Replication to Database Replication” and “Experimental Methods for Computer Science Research”, a Workshop on Dependability and Security of Peer-to-Peer Systems, a Panel that discussed the theme “Fostering Dependability Research in Latin America”, a Fast Abstracts session and a Student Forum.

The proceedings of this edition have been published by the IEEE Computer Society. In addition, authors of the best papers of the symposium have been invited to submit extended versions of these papers to a special issue of the International Journal of Critical Computer Based Systems. Also, for the first time, LADC offered a Best Paper Award. These facts are an indication of the effort made by the Steering and Technical Program Committees both to perfect LADC and, we believe, to encourage researchers to contribute to future editions of the event.

We would like to thank the Steering and Program Committee members for their help in putting together the final program. They helped us in many ways, right from the beginning, including topic identification, suggestion of external reviewers, refereeing and attending the online TPC meeting. We also thank all of the external reviewers for making available their time and their technical knowledge and the authors of all the manuscripts for their contributions and timely submissions. Special thanks go to Francisco Brasileiro, LADC 2009 General Chair and his team.

We hope the result of all this collective effort will inspire further research on dependable systems.

Luiz Eduardo Buzato and Henrique Madeira
LADC 2009 TPC Co-Chairs.