We are happy to welcome you to Victoria, BC, Canada, and to the IEEE 8th Symposium on the Maintenance and Evolution of Service-Oriented Systems and Cloud-Based Environments, co-located with the 30th IEEE International Conference on Software Maintenance and Evolution (ICSME 2014). This event evolved from MESOA, The International Workshop on a Research Agenda for Maintenance and Evolution of Service-Oriented Systems, having its first edition in 2007, in Paris. It focused on Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) as a dynamic, heterogeneous and potentially distributed development and maintenance environment, while service identification, concept location and service testing were presented as techniques to support maintenance and evolution of service-oriented systems. In 2011, in Williamsburg, the event became MESOCA, The IEEE International Workshop on the Maintenance and Evolution of Service-Oriented and Cloud-Based Systems, introducing topics related to Cloud Computing, as an emerging model for system development and deployment, and an important complement of SOA. Starting with the 2013 edition from Eindhoven, the MESOCA scope was extended again and the event was transformed into a symposium; it continued to play its part in the maintenance and evolution community, for bringing together researchers from various service-oriented approaches and from Cloud Computing, in order to analyze the common challenges, but also their differences. The event registered an increased interest for the evolution in Cloud environments and for the migration of legacy applications to provisioning services.

The 2014 edition of MESOCA in Victoria is oriented toward the following topics: (i) tools, techniques and methods to support migration to service-oriented architecture and cloud computing environments; (ii) evolution patterns of service-oriented and cloud-based systems; (iii) transition patterns to service-oriented and cloud environments; (iv) governance to support system evolution in service-oriented and cloud environments; (v) leverage of service-orientation best practices in cloud environments; (vi) case studies of migration to service-oriented and cloud environments; (vii) Model Driven Engineering for migration to services; (viii) reengineering legacy code for creating services. The papers that you will discover in these proceedings are well balanced between our two main areas of interest: service-oriented systems and cloud-based environments, but new frontiers are also explored, like challenges for Big Data and the identification of new gaps and needs for the future research.

The organizing committee of MESOCA 2014 was spread on three continents, which made our collaboration very interesting. We would like to express our special thanks to our steering committee for their contribution to attracting high quality papers and invited presentations. I also thank the members of the program committee and the additional reviewers, representing thirteen countries, for their rigorous and exigent reviews, which helped us select the best submissions and suggested a lot of useful recommendations to our authors. Last but not least, we are thankful to the ICSME organizing committee for its valuable help and coordination and to IEEE for its constant support.

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