Message from the General Chair

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all at the sixth edition of the International Conference on Quantitative Evaluation of SysTems, QEST. In 2009 QEST is organized in Budapest, Hungary, by the Technical University of Budapest.

As it should be with a conference focusing on, among other subjects, formal methods, the organization procedure of QEST conferences is well formalized. Based on the experiences of this sixth edition we can confirm that the organization procedure is one of the strengths of the QEST conference series. It is a reasonable combination of stability and flexibility.

The location and the general chair of QEST conferences are selected by the steering committee three years before the event. A year later, the steering committee nominates the program co-chairs. Another year later, the general chair sets up the local organization team and the program co-chairs invite the program committee members.

This procedure provided us sufficient time for arranging related events. Similar to the last year conference, the sixth edition of QEST is co-located with the seventh International Conference on FORmal Modeling and Analysis of Timed Systems, FORMATS. QEST and FORMATS are going to have several common events, invited plenary talks, social activities, breaks, etc, which hopefully enforces the link between these communities with closely related but complementary fields of interest.

The other related event is the ninth International Workshop on Performability Modeling of Computer and Communication Systems, PMCCS, which is held in Eger, Hungary, on the 17th-18th September, 2009. This rather informal workshop shares common fields of interest with QEST, but it complements QEST with respect to its scientific goals. While QEST presents well elaborated scientific papers which are selected based on a rigorous evaluation process PMCCS invites innovative new ideas and reports works in progress. Therefore PMCCS is a forum for first dissemination of research efforts on the field of performability modeling of computer and communication systems.

We are very proud to host QEST 2009 in Budapest, Hungary. None of the five previous editions of QEST and its preceding conference series took place in this part of Europe. We would like to take this occasion also for drawing the attention of the conference participants to the charm of the city and to its culture and history. The social event of the conference intends to extend this issue.

Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of those colleagues whose hard work made this event come to reality. As it is mentioned already, the continuous supervision of the steering committee, chaired by Boudewijn Haverkort, meant a solid base for the organization. The program co-chairs, Michael Huth and David Nicol, did an excellent work for putting together the conference program. Additionally, a special thank goes to Michael Huth for hosting the physical program committee meeting in London, United Kingdom, on May 22-23, 2009. The tools chair, Marco Gribaudo, the tutorials chair, Andráš Horváth and the publicity chair, Armin Heindl did great job for putting together tools presentation and tutorial sessions and for promoting the conference. The local organization issues were mainly handled by Levente Bodrog, who also took care of the conference web page. Felicián Gergely helped us in the administrative and financial matters associated with the conference organization.
I wish you all a successful conference with an attractive professional program and a very pleasant stay in Budapest.

I hope this city steels a piece of your heart with its atmosphere and cultural attractions.

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