MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

Software is playing an increasingly important role in our day-to-day life. However, software today - unlike automobiles, bridges, or office towers - is produced without the benefit of established standards. It is well known that there are still unresolved errors in many of the software systems that we are using every day. The aim of the QSIC series of conferences is to provide a forum to bring together researchers and practitioners working on improving the quality of software, to present new results and exchange ideas in this challenging area.

Last year's QSIC was the first to make the transition from an Asia-Pacific-based regional event to a major international forum for quality software. QSIC 2004 is the second in this respect, and the first to take place in Europe. The conference venue is Braunschweig, Germany, the city of Henry the Lion. QSIC 2004 is also the first to introduce a special focus: information systems.

Submissions from 24 countries were received, covering almost every aspect of software quality. To guarantee a high standard, the 47 members of the Program Committee (Program Co-chairs included) and the additional reviewers had to work hard to generate review reports for all submissions within a tight time limit. The call for papers solicited submission in the following areas: software quality, software testing, formal methods and applications, methods and tools, the software development process, conceptual modeling, distributed and web-based information systems, the evaluation of software products and components, and applications. From the 73 submissions, 23 full papers, 3 short papers and 4 industrial experience reports were selected for presentation at the conference. The program represents a selection of high-quality contributions, covering the broad range of areas spanned by the submissions.

It was a pleasure to cooperate with the Program Committee members in a smooth and constructive selection process. We appreciate the contributions of additional reviewers who brought in special competence where needed. We are deeply indebted to the steering committee, in particular its chair T.H. Tse, for continuing advice and help during the process.

We are lucky to have such prominent scientists as David Harel and Arne Solvberg as keynote speakers, addressing the broad main-stream focus of the conference on quality software and the special focus on information systems, respectively.

We sincerely hope you will find the conference challenging and enjoyable.

Hans-Dieter Ehrich and Klaus-Dieter Schewe