MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL CHAIR

Welcome to this year's International Conference on Quality Software, QSIC 2004. This is the fourth in a series of successful conferences, starting with the Asia-Pacific Conferences on Quality Software (APAQS) in 2000 and 2001 in Hong Kong. Beginning last year with QSIC 2003, it has transformed to a major international conference devoted to quality software. The program committee has developed a technical program of high quality with broad international participation in this important area.

Despite of many years of research software quality is still an issue. Many newly developed systems can be fully deployed only after rather long delays since their quality does not live up to expectations. Even systems in operation since years reveal serious defects that cause additional cost and sometimes even endanger human life. In contrast to many other engineering disciplines software engineering has so far not been able to prevent those incidents. It may therefore risk a loss of credibility if it does not properly address the quality issue. It is for that reason that QSIC deserves the widest possible recognition.

The success of this conference largely depends on the contributions and devotion of many volunteers. First, I would like to thank all the program committee members, especially the co-chairs Hans-Dieter Ehrich and Klaus-Dieter Schewe, for setting up the technical program. Thanks are also due to the organizing committee, especially its co-chairs Regine Dalkiran and Karl Neumann, for their effort to provide the local support in Braunschweig. I would like to thank the steering committee, especially its chair T.H. Tse, for their strong support and most valuable advice to make this conference possible. Finally, I would like to express appreciation to the organizing institution, the Institut für Informationssysteme of the Technische Universität Braunschweig, for their strong support to this conference.

Herbert Weber