QUATIC 2007

Message from the Conference Chairs

The Caparica campus of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa will host the 6th International Conference on the Quality of Information and Communications Technology (QUATIC 2007). Just across the river where 5 hundred years ago dauntless sailors departed to find new routes and worlds, east and west, this campus gave birth to the first computing graduation in Portugal, more than thirty years ago.

QUATIC was first launched in the mid-nineties and is steered and promoted by CS03, the Commission for Quality in Information and Communication Technologies of the Portuguese Institute for Quality. Since its inception, this triennial conference has kept a tradition of a forum where researchers and practitioners have the opportunity of refreshing and exchanging ideas on best practices on Quality in ICT. QUATIC became an international conference in 2001 and its frontiers have kept enlarging since then.

In this edition we have speakers from a dozen countries in 4 continents that allowed conceiving a scientific track of the conference organized in three kinds of contributions: (1) two invited speakers that will provide an in-depth experience on the usage of standards and maturity models to improve the quality of ICT systems and solutions; (2) eighteen regular papers that will provide a balance of theoretical contributions and practical applications in a variety of relevant areas, showing the benefits of using methodological approaches to design ICT systems and solutions; (3) six short papers from the SEDES 2007 workshop, each one with the description of one PhD thesis proposal devoted to a particular research work within the area of software engineering and methodologies.

The number of submissions to QUATIC 2007 was 31 papers. The papers were reviewed by the Programme Committee, with every member receiving, on average, 2 papers for review. Every regular paper was revised by 3 different reviewers. A total of 16 regular papers were accepted. The geographic distribution of the accepted papers was (based on the home country of the corresponding author): Brazil - 4, Portugal - 3, Spain - 2, USA - 1, Argentina - 1, Austria - 1, Finland - 1, Italy - 1, Japan - 1, The Netherlands - 1.

Although these proceedings only reflect material from the scientific track, the QUATIC 2007 Conference also embraces an industrial track that promotes a significant set of technical workshops, tutorials, panels and tool demos whose contents is accessible in the conference’s website.

Organizing this event would not have been possible without the engagement of a large team of people. We thank all the authors of submitted papers for their contributions, Programme Committee members and other reviewers for selecting an excellent programme.

We acknowledge the following institutions for the scientific sponsoring and cooperation they kindly established with QUATIC 2007: Software Group of the European Organization for Quality, itSMF Portugal, APQ (Associação Portuguesa para a Qualidade), ipBPM (Instituto Português de BPM), APDSI (Associação para a Promoção e Desenvolvimento da Sociedade da Informação), Ordem dos Engenheiros.
We are grateful to Patrick Kellenberger from the IEEE Computer Society for collecting the final versions of the accepted papers and preparing the proceedings. We also acknowledge the IEEE Computer Society Press (Los Alamitos, California, USA) for having accepted to publish the proceedings of QUATIC 2007. We are also grateful to Sue Carroll, editor-in-chief of the Software Quality Professional Journal of the American Society for Quality, for her decision to produce a special edition of SQPJ with extended versions of a QUATIC 2007 papers selection.

We want to acknowledge the enthusiastic participation of our CS03 colleagues, all the members of the QUATIC 2007 Steering Committee, the UNL campus direction and staff and our student volunteers. From the supporting organizations (Universidade do Minho and Universidade Nova de Lisboa) we want to specially thank Maria João Nicolau and Miguel Goulão for their dedication to all those “invisible issues” related with the Web and Internet services, local arrangements and travel and tourism. Maria João Nicolau was also a precious support within her duties as PC co-chair. Last, but not the least, we want to thank the important collaboration of the financial sponsoring organizations of this event.

We sincerely hope that your participation in the QUATIC 2007 Conference will become a rewarding experience.

Ricardo J. Machado, Universidade do Minho
(Program Committee Chair)

Fernando Brito e Abreu, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
(Organizing Chair)