Greetings from the General Chair

These manuscripts constitute the papers accepted for presentation at the fifth meeting of the RIDE group. These meetings started as the International Symposium for Interoperability in Multidatabase Systems. It was then felt that it would be more useful to hold these IMS meetings once every two years and to alternate them with other timely issues. Examples of issues were a workshop on the interaction of transaction and query processing, active databases, and now this workshop on object management. As a natural result of this progression we now are discussing forming a foundation to promote Interoperability.

As can be seen in the following papers and in the introduction by my good friends Tamer and Ming-Chien, there are eight sessions that include panels, paper sessions and invited talks. As is the tradition with RIDE, the presentations and the discussions are informal and encourage interaction among the speakers and the attendees.

The quality of the scientific content of the Workshop is the responsibility of the team consisting of the program committee and headed by Omran Bukhres, M. Tamer Özsu and Ming-Chien Shan. Omran, Tamer and Ming-Chien worked tirelessly over a long period of time to achieve this high quality and selective program. I want to thank them and each of the members of the technical program for a job well done.

As we all know, two very important roles are those of local arrangements and publicity. In fact, publicity determines the financial success of the workshop and local arrangements determines the quality of life of the attendees. I want to thank Ken Barker and Gary Gong for a superb job with publicity. I also would like to thank C.J. Cherem for his work on local arrangements. As some of you know I was unable to participate as I should have and many stepped in to take a part of my tasks. Ming-Chien interacted with the local arrangements chair to make sure that all was fine. While the steering committee sets and makes decisions regarding the choice of topics and selection of the team that will run the workshop, an unexpected task is to be called on to assist with the actual implementation of some of the steps. When I was unable to perform some of the duties, my co-chair on the steering committee, Joe Urban, stepped in on a moment’s notice and offered tremendous help that taxed his time. Thank you, Joe, for being there when I was desperate for help. In any meeting of this type there is always someone who drives the project. In this case my thanks go to Dr. Shan.

Finally, I want to thank our notable chair, Yun Kuo of the Institute of Information Industry, who provided considerable support and logistics during the planning of this workshop. His relentless energy helped make this Workshop possible.

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