General Chair’s Welcome Message

RIDE-VE ’99 is the ninth workshop in a series of annual workshops on Research Issues in Data Engineering (RIDE) which are held in conjunction with the IEEE CS International Conferences on Data Engineering. The ongoing general objective of the RIDE workshops is to provide a dynamic discussion point for new ideas, as well as current research directions amongst the global database community. The 1999 RIDE workshop is focusing on Information Technology for Virtual Enterprises, bringing together researchers, developers and users working in this area. Information technology for virtual enterprises is a topic that has been consistently recognized as a key challenge, and a promising opportunity within both the business world and amongst worldwide information technology researchers.

As in previous years, this workshop has once again benefited from the dedication and hard work of a number of key people. In particular, Dimitrios Georgakopoulos, the Program Chair, has not only provided a solid reference point for a lot of organizational activity, but has also produced an exceptional and exciting technical program for RIDE-VE ’99. The international Program Committee of 22 members has ably assisted him in selecting high quality papers and presentations for this workshop.

Special thanks are also in order for other key people who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the RIDE-VE ’99 workshop. Leszek Maciaszek undertook the important role of Publication Chair; the result of which is this impressive volume of cutting edge information. Both Xue Li (Publicity Chair) and Xuemin Lin (Local Chair) have worked diligently to ensure a strong turn out and international presence at the 1999 workshop, as well as providing a wonderful introduction to the Sydney region for all attendees. Registration coordination was superbly handled by Uma Srinivasan. RIDE-VE ’99 also extends its thanks to the invaluable efforts of all support and administrative staff who have assisted the various workshop office bearers.

RIDE-VE ’99 also gratefully acknowledges the valuable financial support from the IEEE Computer Society, and thanks must also go to the RIDE Steering Committee: Ahmed Elmagarmid, Joseph Urban, Yahiko Kambayashi and Marek Rusinkiewicz, who have provided support and guidance during the planning and organization of this workshop.

This 1999 RIDE-VE workshop is being held from 23-24 March in Sydney, Australia, which is, of course, the location of the Year 2000 Olympics. It's a dynamic city with brilliant sunny weather and extraordinary scenic spots like the harbour with its famous Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. If you wish to venture further from the city there are numerous and accessible national parks and reserves for more quiet recreation.

Finally, I would like to thank all participants for your valuable participation in RIDE-VE ’99, and we look forward to the continuing success of these important meetings.

Maria E. Orlowska
General Chair