This is the second instance in this new series of professional meetings on “Applications and the Internet”. As we are engaging in an uphill battle against the severe economic downturn, the very spirit of ensuring the quality of technical ingredient and maintain its international flavor had been preserved from the first instance (SAINT 2001). As program chairs accountable for the quality task we are very pleased with the outcome of the team efforts throughout the entire duration of program development: Out of 73 submissions from 15 countries the program committee accepted only 28 and redirected many papers to the SAINT workshops because of the consideration of technical scope and lateness in completing the Web-based submissions. We apologize for the early deadline for submissions because coordinating such an event between two major professional societies, Information Processing Society of Japan and IEEE Computer Society, as equal partners is a very complex task and we are still learning how to do things right.

This year we are fortunate to have the dedicated services of ten vice chairs in charge of ten technical areas:

1. Agents on the Internet
2. Collaboration Technology
3. Internet Based Data Engineering
4. Internet Security
5. Mobile Computing
6. Multimedia Computing
7. Operation Technology and Performance
8. Parallel and Distributed Computing
9. Services for Information Society and E-Economy
10. Software Engineering on the Internet

We have learned from the submitted papers and numerous discussions in the program committee that Internet based computing has emerged into an even broader context of our profession and society that is quickly becoming a tremendous driving force to address three issues: mobility, ubiquity and agility. We name these new trends as mobile computing, pervasive computing, and agile computing.

Mobile computing is becoming widespread in recent years and is largely supported by emerging wireless technologies. As the work force in the entire world rapidly becomes more and more mobile, business and industry needs better techniques and tools to support mobility. Pervasive computing represents the emergence of a new era of “convergence” to permit us to access information and services from anywhere and at anytime via a wide spectrum of appliances and devices with radically different modalities. This is possible because of the recent advances in standard software platforms and the ever-decreasing cost and physical size of hardware. It is imperative that researchers and industrialists gather to work on standards and interoperability. As in mobile computing, many technical issues arise: software architecture, information security and assurance, power management, radiation, etc. Agile computing is the ultimate goal of modern-day computing. Entities at various levels in the computational hierarchy all need to maintain agility. Agile computing requires frequent run-time (dynamic) adaptation in such applications as automated manufacturing, military command and control, mobile inventory check-up or customer support. They all are required to be self-aware, self-reconfigurable, and to possess a certain amount of intelligence. One cross-cutting issue that most researchers share the same sense of urgency is of course information security. We are pleased to see that most of these timely and burning issues are addressed in our technical program. Please share your own experience with the authors, speakers, and all participants.

We would like to express our special thanks to the chair of the steering committee, Dr. Iwao Toda, for his strong leadership and constant advice. Professor Mike (Ming) Liu, as always, played a key role to guide us through various stages of program development and conference matters. We definitely would not be able to complete the task without the great assistance by the Vice Chairs and program committee members who helped select the best quality papers. Thanks to all chairs of various conference committees and we truly feel it involved great teamwork. From the start, SAINT2002 has always been under close supervision by general chairs, Toshiharu Aoki and Joseph Urban, and they took the conference to their heart to make sure that we were always on schedule and on target. We enjoyed this journey and wish you all the best.

Carl K. Chang and Jun Murai, Program Chairs