Message from the Chairs

Yokoso SANER 2016 He!

Welcome to SANER 2016, the 23rd IEEE International Conference on Software Analysis, Evolution, and Reengineering in Suita-City, Osaka, Japan. SANER is the premier conference on the theory & practice of recovering information from existing software systems. It features the newest advances to the state of the art in software analysis, evolution, and reengineering. It also explores innovative methods for extracting the many kinds of information of interest to software developers and examines innovative ways of using this information in system renovation and program understanding. SANER combines the Working Conference on Reverse Engineering (WCRE) series, i.e., the premier conference series on the theory and practice of recovering information from existing software and systems, and the European Conference on Software Maintenance and Reengineering (CSMR) series, i.e., the premier European conference series on the theory and practice of maintenance, reengineering, and evolution of software systems. SANER 2016 follows the successful CSMR-WCRE Software Evolution Week held in Antwerp, Belgium in 2014, and SANER 2015 in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

The SANER 2016 week takes place from Monday, the 13th of March, to Friday, the 18th of March. It starts on Sunday with a co-located workshop, the 7th IEEE International Workshop on Empirical Software Engineering in Practice (IWESEP), followed by The Leaders of Tomorrow: Future of Software Engineering Symposium on Monday. Four workshops (Software Clones IWSC, Open and Original Problems in Software Language Engineering OOPSLE, Pattern Promotion and Anti-Pattern Prevention PPAP, and Validating Software Tests VST), the doctoral symposium, and the poster presentation take place on Tuesday, and the main conference is held on Wednesday through Friday. The main conference features two keynote presentations, 13 technical research paper sessions, two early research achievements (ERA) sessions, an industry paper session, and a tool demonstration session. It thus packs a lot of knowledge and events in a single week!

Research papers

SANER 2016 has received 140 full paper submissions from 399 authors and 32 countries. All papers went through a rigorous reviewing process that involved a program committee consisting of experts, both from industry and academia, form around the world. Each paper was reviewed by at least three members of the program committee. Once the reviews were submitted, all papers were discussed among the program committee in an open fashion. The program committee selected papers for inclusion in the program without targeting any acceptance rate.

In total, the PC members wrote 421 reviews. In the few cases in which both PC co-chairs had conflicts of interests with the submissions, we asked Gabriele Bavota (SANER 2017 Program co-chair) to step in for us. Based on the reviews and discussions among the committee, 52 papers (37.1%) were selected for inclusion in the proceedings and presentation at the conference.
We selected 5 papers as “best paper candidate” (BPC). The winner will be announced at the conference. Finally, we are delighted to present the Most Influential Paper (MIP) award to a paper chosen from both CSMR 2006 and WCRE 2006 that proved to be highly impactful on its domain in terms of theory and practice over the last 10 years. The selection of the award-winning paper was a joint decision by the MIP chair (Massimiliano Di Penta) and the SANER 2016 PC.

Workshops

SANER includes four workshops that offer attendees great opportunities to present and discuss their research with others: the 10th International Workshop on Software Clones (IWSC 2016), the 3rd International Workshop on Patterns Promotion and Anti-patterns Prevention (PPAP 2016), the 4th International Workshop on Open and Original Problems in Software Language Engineering (OOPSLE 2016), and the 1st International Workshop on Validating Software Tests (VST 2016). We would like to extend our gratitude to their organizers for creating these exciting events.

ERA Track

The SANER ERA Track received 35 paper submissions. All papers went through a rigorous reviewing process in which they received at least three independent reviews in all but one case, followed by discussions among the assigned reviewers. The PC members submitted 104 reviews followed by several comments in the discussion phase. We also received 8 reviews from 7 external reviewers. Among the papers that have been submitted, 13 have been accepted for the ERA Track (37%). One of the 13 accepted papers will be presented with a best paper award.

Industry Track

The aim of the SANER industry track is to bring together practitioners and academic researchers to perform joint research work, and to provide the industry with a platform for reaching out to academia. The track received 14 submissions (two more than in 2015); one of the submissions was desk rejected. The remaining 13 papers were each reviewed by 3 program committee members. After the reviews were submitted, the PC members discussed the papers to reach a final decision. The Industry Track Chairs coordinated the discussion. Five out of the 14 submissions were accepted (acceptance rate 34%). The Program Committee consisted of 16 PC members from industry and academia from 10 different countries.

Tool Track

SANER also features a tool demonstrations track, with the goal of showcasing the live presentation of tool prototypes. The tools track received 12 paper submissions out of which 6 were accepted (acceptance rate 50%). Tool papers were each evaluated by at least 3 members of a dedicated committee, using the
same acceptance criteria as the main research track, complemented by tool-specific criteria like explaining the tool's novelty, goals, requirements, architecture and inner workings, and providing a screencast of the main functionality of the tool. These criteria follow directly SANER’s vision of providing a platform for sharing new advances and results with fellow researchers and practitioners for the rapid progress of the field.

**Doctoral Symposium**

At the doctoral symposium, attending PhD students will give a presentation on their thesis work to panel of veteran researchers from the SANER community, who will in turn provide constructive feedback. Prior to the symposium, the PhD students submitted a one-page description of their research plan; the accepted students were invited to prepare a 15-20 minute presentation for the symposium. To foster a more intimate environment, the symposium is be closed to outsiders; only the evaluators and the other PhD students are allowed to observe the talks and participate in discussions. This should lead to an environment where participants feel comfortable and are able to share ideas and feedback without fear of being judged harshly.