Message from the Program Chairs

Please accept our sincere welcome to the 6th ACIS International Conference on Software Engineering Research, Management and Applications!

The fact that the conference is moving into its sixth year made the position of the program chairs different from past years—we could rely on an already established conference foundation and use it to pursue further goals. At a time when multiple general software engineering conferences compete for attention, our goal was to distinguish SERA in the eyes of the potential authors through both the choice of the conference topics and the quality of the selection process.

A glance at the call for papers reveals that we have kept the spectrum of topics fairly broad, covering the complete software lifecycle from design through deployment to evolution. Rather than focusing the conference on a few trendy topics, we have attempted to target the ever present problems of combining research with applications across all the topics. Besides expressly encouraging contributions at the junction of theory and practice, we have also reflected this direction in the structure of the Program Committee, having program chairs from academia and industry and introducing a similar distinction for the Program Committee members.

The paper selection process followed the established pattern of peer reviewing, with all members of the Program Committee bidding for papers based on their expertise. We have adjusted the bids to cover the entire body of submissions, ensuring that papers are evaluated both by specialists and generalists. With a few exceptions, mostly for submissions that were rejected as off topic for SERA, we have kept to the rule of having a minimum of three reviews per paper. Major criteria used in the reviews were technical soundness, originality, and clarity, together with the detailed reviewer comments that were used to select 62 of 147 submissions for presentation. As usual, the Program Committee members were screened from reviewing papers with a potential conflict of interest.

Of the many people whose time and effort went into organizing the conference, and to whom we are duly grateful, we would like to single out two groups. The work of the program chairs would not be possible without the Program Committee members and external reviewers. We therefore offer our sincere thanks for their contribution, hoping that our decisions of the border cases were satisfactory from the reviewer perspective. And the conference would not happen without the authors—which is why we very much appreciate the effort that went into all the submissions and the revised versions for the final publication.

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