Message from the Workshop General Chair

Welcome to the 1996 IEEE Second International Workshop on Systems Management. Since the first Systems Management Workshop in 1993, the world of systems and application management has grown and moved simultaneously in different directions: the growing acceptance of object-oriented technology to model and implement management activities and computing environments; more concern about end-to-end quality of service, especially with the emergence of ATM technology; the further blurring of the boundaries between telecommunications and computer communications; the growing reality of distributed computing environments with personal computers, workstations, servers and mainframes; the growth of the Internet as the means for distributed operations and services.

This workshop provides a collection of papers from many of the leading experts in these fields and from many of the leading research and development groups. Following the lead of the first international workshop in this area, this Workshop is meant to be one in which there are ample opportunities for interaction, networking (the human-to-human kind), and sharing of successes and failures as well as problems and possible solutions. Hence, the workshop attendance has been intentionally limited and only a single stream of presentations provided. Many of the papers in the proceedings represent work in progress or personal experiences. The topics cover a number of the areas currently important in systems and application management. Given the global nature of telecommunications and computer communications, one would expect management issues to be of a global nature as well. This is also reflected in the global nature of the participants — from four continents.

While these proceedings represent a tangible result from and an archive of the Workshop, the real benefit lies in the interactions and discussions among the participants; the presentations offer starting points for stimulating discussions and exchange. I hope that all participants will actively engage in discussions so that all will take away the intangible benefits of the Workshop.

Finally, this Workshop could not have come together if it was not for the support from a number of people. First and foremost, my thanks to the authors and the Program Committee. From the Department of Computer Science at The University of Western Ontario, I would like to acknowledge Dr. Hanan Lutfiyya and Mrs. Janice Wiersma. From the IEEE I would like to acknowledge Ms. Kathy Bainbridge-East, Ms. Magdalene Johnson, Ms. Anne Marie Kelly, and Ms. Penny Storms. Finally, I would like to offer special thanks to Ms. Sandy Alfs of the Department of Computer Science at The University of Western Ontario for looking after the myriad of administrative details associated with such a workshop and for keeping me on track when I drifted.

Michael Bauer
Workshop General Chair