Preface

By now, TOOLS has become a fixture on the object-oriented conference scene, with this conference being the twenty-fourth in the series. This year, we are privileged to be running the first TOOLS Asia conference in Beijing. This conference has tapped into an enormous wealth of object-oriented research and practice being carried out in the region as well as internationally. An examination of the submitted articles shows evidence of extremely high quality research from the Asia-Pacific region, including China, Malaysia, Taiwan, India, Australia, and Thailand. Papers are also being presented from as far afield as Slovenia, Brazil, Germany and Finland, ensuring that TOOLS maintains its reputation as a truly international meeting place for object-oriented researchers and practitioners.

Our special thanks go to Jian Chen and Mingshu Li for their tremendous dedication and hard work in bringing the conference to fruition with such a strong program, and to the National Neural Sciences Foundation of China for supporting the conferences from its inception.

We hope you will enjoy the depth and intensity of the contributions printed in the following pages, and share the authors' devotion to the most exciting task in the software field today: making object technology deliver on its promises.

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