Paris, the City of Lights, France was the venue for WETICE 2007 (the 16th WETICE) from June 18-20, 2007, hosted by Groupe des Ecoles de Télécommunications (GET/Institut des National Télécommunications (INT)). There were two new workshops: CoMA and ISWS, and seven ongoing workshops: ACEC (fifth year), COPS (third year), DMC (fifth year), ETNGRID (fourth year), ProGility (second year—this was a workshop combined from two earlier workshops: PINCET and PROFLEX of WET ICE 2006), ST (twelfth year—formerly known as the ES workshop), and TICE (second year). The workshops focused on various aspects of collaboration technologies—the binding thread that holds them together. The accepted papers came from 21 different countries—in keeping with the international nature of WETICE. The colors of the cover of the Proceedings represent the drapeau tricolore/drapeau bleu-blanc-rouge of the host country.

Italy was the winner in sending the maximum number of participants although the General Chair and host, Dr. Samir Tata, almost convinced everybody that France was the true winner if we considered his colleagues and staff, and all the graduate students who worked behind the scenes for the conference. For the first time this year, we had several Brazilian participants at the conference. We were also delighted to know that in Brazil the research funding agencies ranked WET ICE to be a first class conference judged by the number of years it was held, its IEEE sponsorship, and the quality of the papers.

This year, a total of 115 papers were submitted, and 57 full papers (50% acceptance) and 22 short papers were selected for publication in the WET ICE 2007 Proceedings. The format of the WET ICE was kept the same with interleaving joint sessions and parallel sessions. The joint sessions were devoted to plenary talks, panel discussions, individual workshop summary reports, and best paper summary presentations. The parallel sessions were devoted to individual workshops where the authors presented their papers followed by interesting discussions. In the Table of Contents, the best paper from each workshop is marked with an asterisk. Some of the workshops did not designate a best paper.

I would like to thank Guy Bernard of the Computer Department, Stanislaw Budkowski and François Simon, the Research Deputy Directors of INT, and Christian Margaria, the General Directeur of INT, for their support of WET ICE; the plenary speakers Drs. Rainer Ruggaber, Franck Cappello, and Fabio Casati for delivering very interesting lectures; the reviewers of the papers for their diligent work; the Steering Committee members for reviewing the new workshop proposals; all the authors for participating in WET ICE; and the IEEE Computer Society for co-sponsoring WET ICE. Very special thanks and appreciation go to all the workshop chairs for ensuring high quality of the workshops, for managing and conducting the workshops, and also for the panel discussions. My sincere thanks go to the WET ICE General Chair, Dr. Samir Tata, for hosting and paying attention to all the details—big and small—which made the conference a great success. The reception held on campus and the conference dinner aboard a cruise boat on the Seine River were truly of high standard and enjoyed by everybody. Finally, we are very grateful to Dr. Tata’s colleagues, Alda Gancarski, Bruno Defude, Amel Bouzeghoub, Djamel Belaid, Brigitte Houassine, and all the graduate students for their outstanding contributions.

WET ICE 2008 will be held in the historic city of Rome, Italy, on June 16-18, 2008. Professor Michele Angelaccio of Università degli Studi di Roma “Tor Vergata” will be the General Chair. The Call for new workshop proposals and papers will be posted at http://wetice.org. I look forward to seeing you all in Rome at WET ICE 2008.

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