The enchanting historic city of Rome, Italy was the venue for the 17th WETICE-2008 (full name is Workshops on Enabling Technologies: Infrastructure for Collaborative Enterprises) held on June 23-25, 2008 under the joint leadership of Professors Michele Angelaccio and Andrea D’Ambrogio, both of University of Rome, Tor Vergata. This is the second time WETICE was held in Italy. The colors on the cover of the Proceedings reflect the colors of the national flag of the host country, Italy, as was in 2004 with red and green reversed on the design.

This year we had seven parallel workshops - all of which were ongoing workshops. These are (1) The Security Technologies of Collaborative Architectures (ST workshop, formerly Enterprise Security-ES workshop) in its 13th year, (2) Agent-based Computing for Enterprise Collaboration (ACEC) - 6th year, (3) Distributed and Mobile Collaboration (DMC) - 6th year, (4) Emerging Technologies for Next-generation Grid (ETNGRID)- 5th year, (5) Collaborative Peer-to-Peer Systems (COPS) - 4th year, (6) Agile Cooperative Process-Aware Information Systems (Progility: a merger of two former workshops PROFLEX and PINCET) - 3rd year, and (7) Coordination Models and Applications: Knowledge in Pervasive Environments (CoMA)- 3rd year.

A total of 91 papers were submitted to WETICE-2008 workshops. 37 full papers (41% acceptance rate) and 8 short papers were accepted for presentation and inclusion in the Proceedings. This year we had a Showcase Poster session under the guidance of Professor Berta Buttarazzi of University of Rome, Tor Vergata. The posters are also included in the Proceedings. The format of WETICE-08 was same as in the previous years: the workshops were held in parallel, and the joint sessions were held where the delivery of plenary talks, showcase poster presentations, the final workshop report session with best papers presentation, and the opening and closing of WETICE-08 were conducted. The speakers came from 15 different countries with speakers from Israel, Oman and Tunisia participating for the first time at WETICE. The highlight of the social events was the conference dinner at the Roman Forum Hotel terrace restaurant overlooking the historic sites. The view from the rooftop was simply magical.

I want to express my thanks to the organizers of all the workshops for their hard work to organize high quality workshops, to the Program Committee members for reviewing the papers, to the authors, paper and poster presenters, to the invited speakers for delivering very interesting and stimulating talks, and to the WETICE Steering committee members for their guidance. Special thanks go to all who helped things go smoothly on site at the La Sapienza campus. My heartfelt thanks go to the General Chairs Professor Michele Angelaccio and Professor Andrea D’Ambrogio for an outstanding job in making WETICE-2008 a memorable event.

Next year 18th WETICE will be held on June 29-July 1, 2009 in Groningen, The Netherlands located 146 km (91 miles) northeast of Amsterdam. The General Chair will be Professor Marco Aiello of University of Groningen who gave an excellent presentation about the venue to the WETICE-08 audience. There will be two major changes next year. First, the types of papers will include (i) Regular papers, (ii) Work in Progress papers, and (iii) PhD track papers. The second change is the time for the Proceedings which will be distributed on site instead of mailing as the Post conference Proceedings. This means all the deadlines have to be moved much earlier. I hope you will continue to support WETICE in some capacity and spread the word to other researchers. See you all next year in Groningen.

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