Foreword

WICSA 2011

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 9th Working IEEE/IFIP Conference on Software Architecture – WICSA 2011. This year’s conference continues the tradition of being the premier forum for practitioners and researchers interested in finding out about and improving the state of practice of software architecture. Since its inception, WICSA has functioned as a working conference, where researchers meet practitioners and where practicing software architects can explain the problems that they face in their day-to-day work and so influence the future of the field. Next to traditional conference keynotes and paper sessions, WICSA includes interactive working sessions where practitioners and researchers discuss their experiences to understand the current state of the field, and identify opportunities to make a difference in the future.

For WICSA 2011 the theme is “Architecture across boundaries” – exploring the relations between software, system and enterprise architecture in cyberspace. The conference puts architecture in a global perspective and looks at the crucial role of architecture in integrating enterprises across business, technological, cultural and geographical boundaries, interconnecting systems of systems, providing a frame of reference for communication, evolution and change, as well as an instrument for continuous innovation.

This proceedings document contains the 33 main track papers accepted for the conference, which were selected from 71 high-quality submissions from both industry and academia. It is worth noticing that about half of the accepted papers report on industrial work – 6 papers are fully industrial, and 11 are joint industry-academia contributions, providing an exceptionally well-balanced program.

This year we are proud to present a number of innovative and exciting features. Next to working sessions and birds-of-a-feather sessions, we introduced reflection sessions meant to trigger reflection in the community, pave the way for new research directions, potential innovation, lively discussion, and possibly inspire further interchange in working sessions. For the first time, the program features demonstrations of six tools for architects. WICSA also includes four workshops and six tutorials addressing a broad spectrum of topics of great interest in the field.

This year WICSA is co-located with CompArch, the federated events on component-based software engineering and software architecture. CompArch and WICSA jointly feature keynote speeches by Pamela Zave (AT&T Laboratories – Research) on “The Next Internet Architecture”, Ian Gorton (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory) on “Cyber Dumpster Diving: creating new systems (that work) for Less”, Michael Stahl (Siemens) on “Good is not Good Enough: evaluating and improving software architecture”, and Bran Selic (Malina Software Corp.) on “Making Abstraction Concrete”. Finally, CompArch & WICSA jointly feature a dedicated Industry Day, with a rich program especially conceived to attract practitioners, and create new links and collaboration opportunities between academia and industry.

We would like to thank our programme committee for their thorough and timely reviews of the submissions, which enabled a rigorous selection of a very strong program for both tool demonstrations and the main track. We would also like to thank all members of our organization committee, for their tireless effort and enthusiastic contribution allowing for a very exciting program. The conference received great support from Siemens Corporate Research, Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, IBM, IEEE and IFIP.
We hope that these proceedings will serve as a valuable reference for software architecture researchers and practitioners.

Rich Hilliard, Freelance software system architect (Program Co-chair)  
Patricia Lago, VU University Amsterdam (Program Co-chair)  
Raghu Sangwan, Pennsylvania State University (General Chair)