MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL CO-CHAIRS

WORDS2003F – the Fall 2003 edition of WORDS – took place during October 1-3 in Anacapri, inside the wonderful and world-famous island of Capri in the Naples’ bay. This was the 9th edition of the series, and an outstanding success according to all participants! The final number of participants, 63, far exceeded the initially established capacity limit of 50. They were all very active and leading researchers in three areas of computer system engineering technologies (CSETs): Object-oriented (OO) CSET, Real-time (RT) CSET, and Dependable CSET. The beauty of the island and that of the workshop venue Villa Orlandi – a facility operated by the “Federico II” University of Naples – greatly contributed towards the excellent and stimulating atmosphere of the event, which inspired many interesting discussions.

WORDS2003F continued the established tradition of the WORDS series of gathering contributions that represent significant advances or new thoughts in integrating any two of the three CSET fields. Also in the tradition of WORDS, the majority of participants were invited senior researchers and all participants exchanged and discussed views, experiences, recent advances and new ideas on research issues and trends in object-oriented, real-time and dependable computing.

WORDS2003F was meant to be a special WORDS in two major respects. One is the timing. WORDS events usually occur in January or February but this time we chose October to take advantage of the favorable weather in Capri. The other special aspect is the dedication of this WORDS event to the honor of a person. The person is none other than late Prof. Edsger W. Dijkstra, who passed away in summer 2002. He influenced computer science evolution in profound ways during at least 3 decades of 1960’s, 1970’s and 1980’s. We were not personal acquaintances of Prof. Dijkstra but we thought that it would be highly meaningful to reminisce about the thinking and articulation styles of Prof. Dijkstra during the three days. Mrs. Dijkstra graciously gave us permission to use her husband’s name in our workshop program. A memorable banquet speech by Prof. Brian Randell of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, guided all participants in a tour of the seminal work of Dijkstra in several areas of computer science, enriched here and there with a flavour of the traditional humour of British orators. His speech was of course based on his 40 years of close interaction with Prof. Dijkstra and we were very fortunate to have him as the banquet speaker. The text of this speech is a part of the proceedings.

The quality and the success of the workshop are due to all participants. Nevertheless, we wish to give special recognition to the work of uncommon quality of several people, which largely contributed to this success: Luiz Bacellar for the scientific program, Luigi Romano for publications, and Domenico Cotroneo for local arrangements, along with Generoso Paolillo. Thanks also to Isabella Scarpa for organizing social events (that included an outstanding concert of traditional neapolitan songs), that rewarded participants for working hard along all three very intensive days despite the natural beauty and seductive settings of the island and the bay!

We are also grateful to various organizations which provided financial or publicity support for this special WORDS. We hope that this proceedings be of good value to many researchers. We will cherish the wonderful memories of WORDS 2003F in years to come!

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