The grid and P2P systems hold a more and more important position in the landscape of the research on distributed systems, and the applications that require effective management of voluminous, distributed, and heterogeneous data. This importance comes out of characteristics offered by these systems: the autonomy of peers, the decentralization of control, and the effective and transparent sharing of large-scale distributed resources.

Today, the grid and P2P systems intended initially for the intensive computing and sharing files, open toward the management of voluminous, heterogeneous, distributed data on a large scale. The management of distributed data on these systems raises new problems and presents real challenges.

The third international workshop on grid and P2P computing impacts on large-scale heterogeneous distributed database systems continues a series of successful workshops dedicated to this topic.

This year, we have the pleasure and honour of welcoming Prof. Guy Bernard (National Telecommunication Institute, Evry, France) and Prof. Witold Litwin (CERIA Paris-Dauphine University, France) to present a part of their research activities concerning Middleware for Next Generation Distributed Systems and Pattern Matching Using n-Gram Sampling of Cumulative Algebraic Signatures, respectively.

In response to the call for papers, we received 10 papers. The GLOBE '06 Program Committee finally accepted 6 papers for publication in the proceedings of the 17th International Workshop on Database and Expert Systems Applications (DEXA 2006) to be held 4–8 September 2006 in Krakow, Poland.

The selected papers related to grid and P2P computing are focused on data partitioning, load balancing, dataspace, query processing, and data mining and mobility.

I would like to express thanks to the authors who submitted papers, to the invited paper presenters, and to the whole Program Committee for the thorough review process. Special thanks go to Madame Gabriela Wagner (FAW, University of Linz) and local organizers.

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May 2006
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