It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Fourth International Workshop on Assurance in Distributed Systems and Networks. The workshop was initiated in Vienna in 2002, and continued in Providence in 2003 and in Tokyo in 2004. After great success of three continent events, we have moved to Columbus in June, 2005.

Along with recent rapid growth of the Internet and ubiquitous networks, autonomous decentralized systems are connected with each other. In these distributed systems and networks, heterogeneous requirements are independently generated and the requirements themselves are frequently changing. Assurance in these distributed systems and networks is defined as capability of adaptability to heterogeneous and changing requirements. The workshop theme is important because requirements for assurance systems and networks are increasing in the future Internet and ubiquitous networks. Technologies supporting assurance including integration of various technologies such as real time, fault tolerance, autonomy, mobility and intelligence will have to be incorporated in complex distributed systems and networks.

In response to the Call for Papers, sixteen papers have been submitted to the workshop. As a result of comprehensive reviews by the Program Committee, we have selected twelve high quality technical papers.

It is our hope that the workshop will stimulate fruitful discussions and generate numerous ideas and that all participants will attain an aura of excitement and accomplishment from the process of paving the way for the foundations to the design of assurance systems and networks.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our deep thanks to the members of the Program Committee for their hard work, especially Program Chair Sandeep Kulkarni, Vice Program Chairs Yinong Chen, Miroslaw Malek, Hidenori Nakazato, who completed rigorous selection of the technical papers. We are also grateful to the ICDCS 2005 organizers, especially Steering Committee Chair Ming T. (Mike) Liu and Workshops Chair Philip McKinley for their constant advice and support. We would also like to acknowledge the support of several organizations including the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Distributed Processing, the IEICE Technical Committee on Information Networks and the IEICE Technical Committee on Dependable Computing.

General Chair

Kinji Mori, Tokyo Institute of Technology

Vice Chair

Yoshiaki Kakuda, Hiroshima City University