Message from

The Second International Workshop on Challenges in Web Information Retrieval and Integration (WIRI 2006) Co-Chairs

This volume includes selected papers from the International Workshop on Challenges in Web Information Retrieval and Integration (WIRI 2006), which was held in conjunction with the 22nd International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE 2006), held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, April 3-7, 2006.

Web information retrieval has become a critical and emerging research area due to the exponential increase in the information availability and dissemination over the Web. Many challenging problems must be solved toward utilizing and exploiting the vast Web information sources which are highly heterogeneous and dynamic. Therefore, new research ideas or practices in this area are of crucial importance due to the difficulties raised by the diversity of the Web data structure and representation, the information distribution, and the communication and accessing costs. This workshop focuses on the models, technology, and practices for analyzing, integrating, and retrieving information on the Web.

In this context, WIRI workshop has attracted very interesting work which covers crucial and emerging research topics such as searching and querying on the Web, Web interfaces and information extraction, clustering of documents and elements, as well as Web data management in various frameworks such as CDNs or directories. There were 30 submissions from 14 countries, and three reviewers were assigned to each paper. The Program Committee has finally selected 12 regular papers and 6 short papers for presentation at the workshop. The innovative research presented at WIRI 2006 was very interesting and promising and the workshop involved live discussions and fruitful exchange of ideas and comments.

WIRI chairs thank all the Program Committee members for their dedicated effort to review papers in their area of expertise and in a timely manner. Their effort was valuable to accommodate high-quality papers in the WIRI program. Special thanks go to Professors Kenro Aihara and Atsuhiro Takasu from the National Institute of Informatics, Japan, for their diligence in organizing the workshop and technically supporting its activities.

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