Message from the General Chair

Welcome to the 6th IEEE International Conference on Software Testing, Verification, and Validation!
Welcome to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, a pioneer of the European Union with an astonishingly cosmopolitan atmosphere!
Welcome to Luxembourg City, a modern and dynamic city in the heart of Europe based on a solid historical heritage (a UNESCO world heritage site since 1994)!
Distances are short and I hope you will enjoy visiting this place when the ICST program will let you some time free.

This is the sixth edition of ICST, that was launched to offer a dedicated IEEE event for researchers and practitioners who want to share their advances, issues and achievements in the broad field of software testing, verification and validation. ICST has successfully reached this objective by attracting many paper submissions each year, and also by its attendance. It is thus not surprising that ICST 2013, like previous editions of ICST, attracted an impressive number of submissions both from academia and industry, resulting in a program that I am sure can live up to the high standard set by earlier ICSTs and the high expectations of all its attendees.

I am especially pleased that ICST hosts three exceptional keynote speakers: Ross Smith (Microsoft Corporation, USA), Stephanie Forrest (Univ. of New Mexico, USA), and Jean Hilger (BCEE, Luxembourg). We are very honored to receive such personalities.

It was a great pleasure to work with the program chairs, Benoit Baudry (INRIA-Bretagne Atlantique, France) and Alessandro Orso (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA) who managed all the selection process to build the outstanding program of the Research and Industrial Track.

This year we innovated in two aspects. The first one is the creation of a mentoring program (17 papers to mentor) and I especially thank Per Runeson (Lund university, Sweden) who has been able to successfully set up this new program in a very short time. The second aspect is the creation of the Testing Tool Track, to promote and valorize the development of efficient testing tools. Manuel Oriol (ABB Corporate Research) and John Penix (Google, USA) have enthusiastically launched this new track with a clear success (41 submissions and 17 accepted presentations). I really encourage you to attend these tools presentations.

I also appreciated working with: the industrial chair, Sigrid Eldh (Ericsson, Sweden) who helped a lot defining an alternate track related to industrial practice, the workshop chairs Gordon Fraser (University of Sheffield, UK) and Levi Lucio (McGill University) who had the difficult task to manage all the satellite workshops, the PhD symposium chairs Jeff Offutt (George Mason University, USA) and Hyunsook Do (North Dakota State University, USA), the posters chairs Roland Groz (Grenoble Institute of Technology, France) and Tanja Vos (Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain), and all the publicity chairs Eduardo Cunha de Almeida (Federal University of Paraná, Brazil), Fabrice Bouquet (INRIA, France), Yue Jia (CREST, UK), James A. Jones (University of California, Irvine), Eda Marchetti (CNR, Italy), Mercedes G. Merayo (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain), Gilles Perrouin (University of Namur, Belgium), Vipul Shah (Tata Consultancy Services, India), Stephan Weißleder (Fraunhofer, German), Ji Wu (Beihang University, Beijing, China).
I am equally indebted for their great works to: the local arrangements chairs Stephanie Annet, Cecile Petit and Ragnhildur Edda Eyjolfsdottir (SnT, Luxembourg), the reactive webmasters Phú H. Nguyễn and Christopher Hénard (SnT, Luxembourg); the publications chair Martin Monperrus (University of Lille, France). A special thank to Bjorn Ottersten, head of the SnT laboratory, who constantly provided all the help and support I needed for organizing this event. I would also like to convey a special thanks to Elizabeth Brookes Little from IEEE, for her support in setting up the conference.

Last but not least, without the substantial and friendly help of our financial chair, Laurent Bétry (SnT, Luxembourg), and of the organizing chair Jacques Klein (SnT, Luxembourg) this conference would not have been possible.

Any scientific conference needs money and support to live. This is why I have been really impressed by the number and quality of the corporate donors who have contributed to increase the conference budget: Platinum: EPT; Golden: IEE and SES; Silver: Google, IBM, Cisco, BCEE; Bronze: Microsoft Research, Smartesting, UBS, Tata Consultancy services, Luxemburgish Testing Board.

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a small but dynamic state eager to promote innovation by research. I must mention the very generous financial and human support provided by our public supporters: FNR (Fond National de la Recherche, Luxembourg), VdL (Ville de Luxembourg), University of Luxembourg (Lassy, CsC, SnT), Luxinnovation, and HotCity.

If you need some help or guidance, try to find a volunteer with a red T-shirt with the ICST logo. Please, thank them directly… indeed these students are really nice to help us during the week of the conference.

Finally, I would like to express my special thanks to all contributors and participants for attending ICST 2013 and I sincerely hope that they will enjoy both the scientific event and the opportunity to enjoy Luxembourg-city.

Enjoy the conference!

Yves Le Traon
General Chair