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Johann Eder
Universität Klagenfurt, Institut für Informatik-Systeme
Universitätsstr. 65-67, 9020 Klagenfurt, Austria
E-mail: eder@isys.uni-klu.ac.at

Michele Missikoff
Istituto di Analisi dei Sistemi ed Informatica - CNR
Viale Manzoni, 30, 00185 Roma, Italy
E-mail: misskoff@iasi.rm.cnr.it

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Preface

CAiSE 2003 was the 15th in the series of International Conferences on Advanced Information Systems Engineering. This edition continues the success of the previous conferences, a success largely due to that fact that, since its first edition, this series has been able to evolve in parallel to the evolution of the information system methods and technologies. CAiSE has been able to follow, and often to anticipate, the deep changes that have occurred since the late 1970s when the first CAiSE conference was organized by Arne Sølvberg and Janis Bubenko.

In all these years, the mission of information systems has been inherently the same, but it is not too excessive if we say that nothing seems to be the same. This edition of the conference, the CaiSE 2003, falls into a very special historical contingency. The incredible expansion of the Internet and the Web has contributed to make our planet smaller – probably we are actually in the process of building the Global Village, as prophesized by Marshall McLuhan. From personal digital assistants to global broadcasting systems over the Internet, information systems, with all its possible variations and derivatives, represents one of the key elements of this increasingly connected society. Researchers have been challenged by all these changes, and the CAiSE conferences represent important occasions for presenting and debating important scientific results. In fact, the CAiSE series has been able to build a strong tradition, while being … *non-traditional,* in the sense that CAiSE is positioned in the middle of this tumultuous process, hosting new emerging ideas and fostering innovative solutions, but always being subject to rigorous scientific selection.

In CaiSE 2003, we decided to select a theme, a sort of "fil rouge," aimed at giving a more comprehensive perspective to the scientific event. We also intended to stimulate a reflection about our work, after putting so much energy into it. The theme we suggested is: "Information Systems for a Connected Society." A connected society is the goal of the confluence of information systems, telecommunication systems and their application in business, government, and everyday life. The scenario is complex from a technological point of view. As already stated in the Call for Papers, the pervasiveness of infrastructures for modern information systems greatly extends the demands on engineering information systems, in terms of scalability, quality, dependability and adaptability. Information Systems for a Connected Society will be multimedial, multimodal, multilingual, and multicultural. Situation and location awareness will allow users to cope with the complexity of these systems.

The challenge has been accepted, as witnessed by the significant number of submissions, 219, out of which the PC was able to select 45 top-quality papers. The selection was very hard, due to the very high standard of the submitted papers. Here it is mandatory to thank all the authors and, on the "other side of the fence," all the PC members who did tremendous work (indeed, their workload was heavier than expected … this is the "cost" of the success of the conference!). Another remarkable aspect was the high profile of the co-located events, workshops, panels, keynote addresses, demo and poster sessions, that we collectively grouped into the CAiSE forum: a new space

for confronting emerging ideas. We wish to thank collectively all colleagues who accepted working hard to support all these initiatives.

We wish to devote a special thanks to our young colleagues who dedicated great amounts of energy to support the local organization, the PC activities, and the organization of the publishing of this volume.

Finally, we wish to thank our sponsors who helped with their support, and the organization for offering a nice environment and enjoyable services, while keeping the fees in a reasonable range.

A final word, to remind us, is due to the city of Velden that is hosting the conference, with its magic lake and the atmosphere of Carinthia. Another word is due to the University of Klagenfurt that promoted and made possible the whole event.

April 2003 Johann Eder and Michele Missikoff
Klagenfurt and Rome

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