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Preface

BPM 2008 is the sixth international conference in a series that provides the most distinguished specialized forum for researchers and practitioners in business process management (BPM). The conference has a record of attracting innovative research of the highest quality related to all aspects of BPM including theory, frameworks, methods, techniques, architectures, standards, and empirical findings.

BPM 2008 was held in Milan, Italy, on September 2–4, 2008, and was organized by the Information Systems Research Group of the Department of Electronics and Information of the Politecnico di Milano. The present volume contains the research, industry, and prototype demonstration papers accepted for presentation at the conference.

This year, we received 154 full paper submissions. These submissions came from authors located in 36 different countries, geographically distributed as follows: 101 submissions originated from Europe, 19 from Australia, 16 from Asia, 14 from America, and 4 from Africa. As in previous years the paper selection process was extremely competitive. After a thorough refereeing process in which every paper was reviewed by between 3 and 5 program committee members, only 23 of the 154 submissions were accepted, leading to an acceptance rate just below 15%. Among the 23 accepted papers, there are 20 research papers and 3 industry papers.

In addition to these 23 papers, 3 invited keynote presentations were delivered by Paul Harmon (Executive Editor and Founder, BPTrends, USA), Michael Rosemann (Queensland University of Technology, Australia), and Peter Dadam (University of Ulm, Germany). We are very grateful to the keynote speakers for their contributions.

In conjunction with the main conference, nine international workshops took place the day before the conference. These workshops have fostered the exchange of ideas and experiences between active BPM researchers, and stimulated discussions on new and emerging issues in line with the conference topics. The proceedings with the papers of all workshops will be published in a separate volume of Springer's *Lecture Notes in Business Information Processing* series. Finally, the present volume contains 6 prototype demonstration papers that were selected out of 15 demo submissions by the demo chairs and the reviewing committee they appointed.

We owe special thanks to all senior and regular members of the Program Committee of BPM 2008 as well as their sub-referees for their work. We are also very grateful to the numerous people who were involved in the organization of the BPM conference and its satellite events. In particular, we would like to thank the General Co-chairs – Barbara Pernici and Fabio Casati – as well as Danilo Ardagna for his outstanding support as Organization Chair of BPM 2008. We would also like to thank Massimo Mecella and Jian Yang (Workshop Co-chairs), Malu Castellanos

and Andreas Wombacher (Demo Co-chairs), Vincenzo d'Andrea and Heiko Ludwig (Tutorial / Panel Co-chairs), and the many other colleagues who contributed to the success of BPM 2008. Finally, we thank the conference sponsors for their support in making BPM 2008 another successful event in the series.

June 2008

Marlon Dumas
Manfred Reichert
Ming-Chien Shan

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