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Yuhua Luo (Ed.)

Cooperative Design, Visualization, and Engineering

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Preface

The 5th International Conference on Cooperative Design, Visualization and Engineering was a reunion of researchers in the field from five continents and over 25 countries. During the conference, participants had a great opportunity to present their most recent research and development results and exchanged experiences with each other. The conference was the forum to publish their brand new methods, new systems and new findings. In this volume, we are excited to see that cooperative design, visualization, engineering and other cooperative applications have had a deeper development and reached a higher level. New environments, new modalities and new forms of cooperation are emerging. Virtual reality is getting more popular and now plays a more important role in cooperative design and cooperative engineering. Synthetic environments that combine visual virtual reality and haptic virtual reality are coming to life. A notable emerging use of new modalities for cooperative interaction such as haptic modality was presented in different papers this year. We can predict that new modalities for cooperative interaction in cooperative design, cooperative simulation and other cooperative working activities will become more and more popular.

For better support of the cooperative work in design, visualization and engineering, the architecture of cooperative supporting tools is evolving from centralized to peer-to-peer (P2P) systems. There are papers in this volume about reconciliation of XML documents in P2P environments and distributed P2P Wiki server networks etc. The authors show that the cooperation is critical in many application areas such as cooperative decision making, simulation, authoring etc. Results about cooperative learning are particularly emphasized in the presented papers, which reflects the importance of this cooperation in the teaching and learning process.

It was my pleasure to be the editor of this volume and to be the first to see the achievement of our authors in their research and development. I would like to thank all the authors who submitted their papers to the CDVE 2008 conference. It is their enthusiasm, hard work and excellent results that make this conference unique. I would also like to express my thanks to our Program Committee and Organizing Advisory Committee for their great effort in paper reviewing and conference organization. I would especially like to thank the many volunteer experts all over the world for reviewing our papers and providing generous help to assure the quality of the papers. They form an important part of our CDVE community.

September 2008 Yuhua Luo

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