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Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the 15th International Conference on Logic for Programming, Artificial Intelligence, and Reasoning (LPAR) held November 22–27 in Doha, Qatar on the premises of the Qatar campus of Carnegie Mellon University.

In its 15th edition, LPAR looked back at a rich history. The conference evolved out of the First and Second Russian Conferences on Logic Programming, held in Irkutsk, in 1990, and aboard the ship “Michail Lomonosov” in 1991. The idea of organizing the conference came largely from Robert Kowalski, who also proposed the creation of the Russian Association for Logic Programming. In 1992, it was decided to extend the scope of the conference. Due to considerable interest in automated reasoning in the former Soviet Union, the conference was renamed Logic Programming and Automated Reasoning (LPAR). Under this name three meetings were held during 1992–1994: again on board the ship “Michail Lomonosov” (1992), in St. Petersburg, Russia (1993), and on board the ship “Marshal Koshevoi” (1994). In 1999, the conference was held in Tbilisi, Georgia. At the suggestion of Michel Parigot, the conference changed its name again to Logic for Programming and Automated Reasoning (preserving the acronym LPAR!) reflecting an interest in additional areas of logic. LPAR 2000 was held on Reunion Island, France. In 2001, the name (but not the acronym) changed again to its current form. The 8th to the 14th meetings were held in the following locations: Havana, Cuba (2001) Tbilisi, Georgia (2002); Almaty, Kazakhstan (2003); Montevideo, Uruguay (2004); Montego Bay, Jamaica (2005); Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2006); and Yerevan, Armenia (2007).

Following the call for paper, LPAR 2008 received 207 abstracts which materialized into 154 actual submissions. Each submission was reviewed by at least three Program Committee members. Of these, the Program Committee selected 42 regular papers and 3 tool papers. The Committee deliberated electronically via the EasyChair system, which proved an egregious platform for smoothly carrying out all aspects of the program selection and finalization. It has been a tradition of LPAR to invite some of the most influential researchers in its focus area to discuss their work and their vision for the field. This year’s distinguished speakers are Edmund Clarke (Carnegie Mellon University, USA—2007 Turing Award recipient), Amir Pnueli (New York University, USA—1996 Turing Award recipient), Michael Backes (Saarland University and MPI-SWS, Germany), and Thomas Eiter (Technical University of Vienna, Austria). This volume contains the revised versions of the 45 papers as well as the abstracts of the invited talks.

The conference was held in Doha, Qatar, where Carnegie Mellon University has recently established a branch campus with the goal of promoting the same high standards of research and education for which its original campus in Pittsburgh, USA is internationally recognized. Carnegie Mellon Qatar is located in

Education City, a 2,500 acre campus which provides state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities to branches of six of the world's leading universities. It is part of an unprecedented commitment of resources made by the Qatari leadership to position Qatar as a world-class center of education and research.

Many people have been involved in the organization of this conference. In particular, we wish to thank the Steering Committee for endorsing the candidacy of Doha for this year's edition of LPAR. This conference would not have been possible without the hard work of the many people who relentlessly handled the local arrangements, especially Thierry Sans and Kara Nesimiuk. We are most grateful to the 35 members of the Program Committee who did an excellent job in handling the large number of submissions, and the 202 additional reviewers who assisted them in their evaluations. We greatly appreciate the generous support of our sponsors, the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), the Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP), iHorizons, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Microsoft Research and the Kurt Gödel Society. Finally we are grateful to the authors, the invited speakers and the attendees who made this conference an enjoyable and fruitful event.

October 2008

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