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The Semantic Web

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Preface

This volume contains the main proceedings of the 3rd Annual Asian Semantic Web Conference (ASWC 2008) held in Bangkok, Thailand, during December 8–11, 2008. As such, ASWC 2008 showcased the latest results in the research and application of Semantic Web technologies—applying semantics at a planetary scale.

Over the last few years we have been witnessing a trend in which the Semantic Web has been transforming from a niche research area to the mainstream in academia and industry. The European Semantic Web Conference, held earlier this year in Tenerife, saw a growth in the participation and engagement from semantic start-up companies. This conference, showcasing an Asian perspective and now having established itself, is also a sign that the Semantic Web is moving to the mainstream.

In addition to the emergence in the mainstream, the Semantic Web continues to generate a significant volume of scientifically interesting research articles. Research submissions to ASWC 2008 were scrutinized and filtered via a three-phase reviewing process. First, each submission was evaluated by three members from the Program Committee. Second, papers and the associated reviews were meta-reviewed by members of the Senior Program Committee. In this second phase the meta-reviewers led discussions between reviewers and produced an acceptance recommendation. In the last phase, on the basis of the reviews and associated meta-review recommendations, the final selections were made jointly by the Programme Chairs. Although this process required substantial efforts from the members of the Program Committee, it ensured that only papers of the highest quality were accepted. The final acceptance of 37 papers for publication and presentation at the conference out of the 118 submissions resulted in an acceptance rate of 31%. Of the papers we accepted these are split between Asia (18) and Europe (17), with an additional 2 from the USA. The accepted papers cover topics including: scalable reasoning and logic, ontology mapping, ontology modelling and management, ontologies and tags, human language technologies and machine learning, querying, Semantic Web services and Semantic Web applications.

We would like to thank all members of the Program Committee and Senior Program Committee and the additional reviewers for their considerable and timely efforts in reviewing the submissions, particularly during a period when holidays are traditionally taken in many parts of the globe.

ASWC this year was fortunate to have three very compelling keynotes. Fabio Ciravegna, Professor of Language and Knowledge Technologies at the University of Sheffield, gave a talk entitled “Supporting Knowledge Management in Large Distributed Organizations Using Semantic Web Technologies.” In his talk he covered the challenges and requirements for Semantic Web technologies when

confronted with the task of knowledge acquisition and sharing in large complex distributed environments giving examples from industrially focused projects.

Amit Sheth, Director of Kno.e.sis Center, at Wright State University, gave the talk “Computing for Human Experience: Sensors, Perception, Semantics, Web N.0, and Beyond.” Amit outlined an era of “computing for human experience” incorporating seamless interaction between the physical and virtual worlds facilitated by advances in sensor technology and “edge computing” and linked to emerging areas such as Internet of Things, Intelligence@Interfaces, Humanist Computing, Relationship Web, PeopleWeb, EventWeb, and Experiential Computing. In his presentation Amit highlighted the role that semantics would play in this new era.

In his talk “Common Web Language for Humans and Computers,” Hiroshi Uchida, Director of the UNDL Foundation, outlined the Universal Networking Language and discussed its applications in a number of diverse areas of human activity.

Six workshops were accepted at this year’s conference covering areas ranging from new forms of reasoning to health care, life sciences, and human factors.

All members of the Organizing Committee were very dedicated to their tasks and deserve our special gratitude. In particular we wish to thank the Conference Chairs, Jerome Euzenat and R.K. Shyamasundar, the Steering Committee Chair, Riichiro Mizoguchi, and all members of the Steering Committee for their valuable advice and constant support to make this conference a success.

We would also like to thank Marco Ronchetti for his organization of the ASWC workshops, Michal Zaremba and Elena Simperl for their work on the Demos and Posters, respectively, and Huajun Chen for his efforts as Metadata Chair at ASWC 2008. Huajun now joins the elite group of “Dogfood Czars” who promote the use of Semantic Web technologies by the Semantic Web community.

On the business side we would like to thank the Industrial Track Chairs, Roberta Cuel, Lyndon Nixon, and Laurentiu Vasiliu, for their innovation in creating a “Software Solutions Track” with commercially inspired criteria and an associated cash prize.

One of the main aspects which made this conference special was its particular location in Bangkok, Thailand. We were there only because of the efforts of our Local Organization Chairs, Asanee Kawtrakul and Rachanee Ungrangsi; our Local Organizing Committee, Photchanan Ratanajaipan and Krissada Maleewong; and our Local Organizing staff.

We thank Alessio Gugliotta for his unwavering support to the Program Chairs in organizing the refereed paper program. We are also grateful to Springer for agreeing to publish the proceedings in its *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* series. Our gratitude also goes to all of our sponsors and STI International for their continued organizational support. Finally, we would like to thank all the colleagues who submitted their papers to the conference, and all the participants who contributed to the interesting presentations and fruitful discussions.

We are happy that ASWC 2008 was a thrilling event and once again showed the high levels of motivation, dedication, creativity, and performance of the Semantic Web community.

December 2008

John Domingue
Chutiporn Anutariya

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ASWC 2008 was organized by the Asian Institute of Technology, National Electronics and Computer Technology Center, and Shinawatra University, Thailand.

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