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Third International Conference, COCOA 2009
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Preface

The Third Annual International Conference on Combinatorial Optimization and Applications, COCOA 2009, took place in Huangshan, China, June 10–12, 2009. Past COCOA conferences were held in Xi'an, China (2007) and Newfoundland, Canada (2008).

COCOA 2009 provided a forum for researchers working in the areas of combinatorial optimization and its applications. In addition to theoretical results, the conference is particularly focused on recent works on experimental and applied research of general algorithmic interest. The Program Committee received 103 submissions from 17 countries and regions: Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Poland, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK, and USA.

Among the 103 submissions, 50 papers were selected for presentation at the conference and are included in this volume. Some of these will be selected for publication in a special issue of *Journal of Combinatorial Optimization*, a special issue of *Theoretical Computer Science*, and a special issue of *Discrete Mathematics, Algorithms and Applications* under the standard refereeing procedure. In addition to the selected papers, the conference also included one invited presentation by Panos M. Pardalos (University of Florida, USA).

We thank the authors for submitting their papers to the conference. We are grateful to the members of the Program Committee and the external referees for their work within demanding time constraints. We thank the Organizing Committee for their contribution to make the conference a success. We also thank Donghyun Kim for helping us create and update the conference website and maintain the Springer Online Conference Service system.

Finally, we thank the conference sponsors and supporting organizations for their support and assistance. COCOA 2009 was supported in part by the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Grant No. 10531070, 10771209, 10721101 and the Chinese Academy of Sciences under Grant No. kjcx-yw-s7. COCOA 2009 was held at Huangshan International Hotel, Huangshan, China.

June 2009

Ding-Zhu Du
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