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OTM 2003 General Co-chair's Message

We as General Chairs are rather proud to announce that the conference series we started in Irvine last year proved to be a concept that continues to attract a representative selection of today's research in distributed, heterogeneous yet collaborative systems, of which the Internet and the WWW are its prime examples.

Indeed, as large, complex and networked intelligent information systems become the focus and norm for computing, software issues as well as methodological and theoretical issues covering a wide range of topics, such as data and Web semantics, distributed objects, Web services, databases, workflow, cooperation, ubiquity, interoperability, and mobility for the development of Internet- and Intranet-based systems in organizations and for e-business, need to be addressed in a fundamental way. The second, 2003 edition of the "On The Move" (OTM) federated conference event provided an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to understand and publish these developments within their respective as well as within their broader contexts. It co-located the three related, complementary and successful conference series: DOA (Distributed Objects and Applications), covering the relevant infrastructure-enabling technologies, OD-BASE (Ontologies, DataBases and Applications of SEmantics) covering Web semantics, XML databases and ontologies, and CoopIS (Cooperative Information Systems) covering the application of these technologies in an enterprise context through, for example, workflow systems and knowledge management. Each of these three conferences treated its topics within a framework of theory, conceptual design and development, and applications, in particular case studies and industrial solutions.

In 2003 we also invited a number of workshop proposals to complement the more archival nature of the main conferences with research results in a number of selected and more avant garde areas related to the general topic of distributed computing. For instance, the so-called Semantic Web has given rise to several novel research areas combining linguistics, information systems technology, and artificial intelligence, such as the modeling of (legal) regulatory systems and the ubiquitous nature of their usage. One such event was continued from last year, a so-called "Industry Program" workshop soliciting relevant case studies and best practice results from industry in the areas covered by On The Move 2003.

All three conferences and the associated workshops therefore shared the distributed aspects of modern computing systems, and the resulting application pull created by the Internet and the so-called Semantic Web. For DOA 2003, the primary emphasis stayed on the distributed object infrastructure; for OD-BASE 2003, it became the knowledge bases and methods required for enabling the use of formal semantics; and for CoopIS 2003, the main topic was the interaction of such technologies and methods with management issues, such as occur in networked organizations. These subject areas naturally overlap and many sub-

missions in fact also treat an envisaged mutual impact among them. As for the 2002 edition in Irvine, the organizers wanted to stimulate this cross-pollination with a program of shared famous keynote speakers (this year we got Sycara, Goble, Soley and Mylopoulos!), and encouraged multiple attendance by providing authors with free access to another conference or workshop of their choice.

We received an even larger number of submissions than last year for the three conferences (360 in total) and the workshops (170 in total). Not only can we therefore again claim a measurable success in attracting a representative volume of scientific papers, but such a harvest allowed the program committees of course to compose a high-quality cross-section of worldwide research in the areas covered. In spite of the increased number of submissions, the Program Chairs of the three main conferences decided to accept only approximately the same number of papers for presentation and publication as in 2002 (i.e., around 1 paper out of every 4–5 submitted). For the workshops, the acceptance rate was about 1 in 2. Also for this reason, we decided to separate the proceedings into two volumes with their own titles, and we are grateful to Springer-Verlag for their collaboration in producing these two books. The reviewing process by the respective program committees was very professional and each paper in the main conferences was reviewed by at least three referees. The On The Move federated event organizers therefore also decided to make both (sizeable) books of proceedings available to all participants of the conferences and workshops. Even though this meant that participants had extra weight to carry home.

The General Chairs are especially grateful to all the many people directly or indirectly involved in the setup of these federated conferences, and who in so doing made them a success. In particular we thank our eight conference PC co-chairs (DOA 2003, Bernd Krämer, Maarten van Steen, and Steve Vinoski; ODBASE 2003, Roger (Buzz) King, Maria Orlowska, and Rudi Studer; CoopIS 2003, Elisa Bertino and Dennis McLeod) and our 13 workshop PC co-chairs (Angelo Corsaro, Corrado Santoro, Priya Narasimhan, Ron Cytron, Ernesto Damiani, Brian Blake, Giacomo Cabri, Mustafa Jarrar, Anne Salaun, Elizabeth Chang, William Gardner, Tharam Dillon, and Michael Brodie), our publicity chair (Guillaume Pierre) and our publication chair (Kwong Lai), who together with their many PC members did a superb and professional job in selecting the best papers from the large harvest of submissions.

We do hope that again the results of this federated scientific event may contribute to your work and that we may see you all again, as well as many others, for next year's edition!

August 2003

Robert Meersman, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
 Zahir Tari, RMIT University, Australia
 Douglas Schmidt, University of California at Irvine, USA

Organizing Committee

The OTM (On The Move) 2003 Federated Workshops involved a series of workshops co-located with the OTM 2003 Federated Conferences (namely CoopIS, DOA and ODBASE). These workshops were: Workshop on Human Computer Interface for Semantic Web and Web Applications (HCI-SWWA); Industry Program Workshop (IPW); Workshop on Java Technologies for Real-Time and Embedded Systems (JTRES); Workshop on Regulatory Ontologies and the Modeling of Complaint Regulations (WORM CoRe); Workshop on Metadata for Security (WMS); and Workshop on Reliable and Secure Middlewares (WRSM).

The OTM 2003 Federated Workshops were proudly supported by the following institutions: RMIT University (School of Computer Science and Information Technology, Australia), Vrije University of Brussels (Department of Computer Science, Belgium), and University of Catania (Italy).

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