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Preface

CAiSE*98 was the 10th in the series of CAiSE conferences and was promoted by the CAiSE Advisory Committee. The aim of this series of conferences is to give researchers and professionals from universities, research centres, industry and government the opportunity to meet annually to discuss evolving research issues and applications in the field of information systems engineering; to assist young researchers in establishing relationships with senior scientists in their areas of interest; to enable review and discussion of research under way in the world of information systems engineering; to stimulate researchers, especially young scientists, to explore new areas of interest in information systems development.

A special theme of the CAiSE*98 Conference was *"Information Systems Engineering in Public Administrations"*. Information systems in the public administration domain present particular features in terms of users, goals, and requirements that characterise them with respect to other business information systems. In addition, an important issue concerns harmonisation of public administration procedures and data, and public administrations in a multinational community, for instance, for exchanging data of common interest.

An international programme committee was set up for this conference with representatives from 19 countries. It received 102 full papers, each paper was evaluated by 3 reviewers, and 21 papers of high academic quality were selected for presentation. These papers cover a wide spectrum of topics which include design, data warehouses, workflow management and groupware, reuse, and web-based application design. Three invited talks and poster and panel sessions were also included in the programme.

The conference was preceded and accompanied by a number of scientific events. Six tutorials on hot topics (Multimedia Databases, Distributed Heterogeneous Information Services, Introduction to the Unified Modelling Language, Electronic Commerce: State of the Art and Research Directions, Web-Based Information Systems: Design and Maintenance, Component Databases) were given by well known experts in the field. Two one-day tutorials preceded the conference while the four half-day ones were included in the conference programme. Five thematic two-day workshops (Innovative Internet Information Systems, Evaluation of Modelling Methods in Systems Analysis and Design, Requirements Engineering: Foundation for Software Quality, Component-based Information Systems Engineering, Doctoral Consortium) preceded the conference.

We would like here to thank all those institutions and individuals who made this conference possible: CNR, Politecnico di Milano, CAiSE Advisory Committee, the programme committee members, the invited speakers, the tutorialists, the panellists, the poster presenters, the sponsors, and of course all the participants.

March 1998

Barbara Pernici
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