

# Message from the General Chairs

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Welcome to the 2007 IEEE International Conference on Web Services (ICWS 2007)! ICWS 2007 is now in its fifth year. The long-term goal of ICWS is to establish a reputable and respectable conference at which an international community of researchers and practitioners can exchange information regarding advancements in the state of the art and practice of Web services, and to identify the emerging research topics and define the future of Web services computing. ICWS 2007 is sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Services Computing (TC-SVC) and is co-located with the 2007 IEEE International Conference on Services Computing (SCC 2007). Both ICWS 2007 and SCC 2007 are the flagship conferences in the 2007 IEEE Congress on Services (SERVICES 2007). These conferences are celebrating their third gathering along with other events to explore “Services Computing” (Science and Technology), which was promoted by the IEEE Computer Society in 2003! From a technology foundation perspective, Services Computing has become the default discipline for the emerging modern services science.

Web services are Internet-based application components published using standard interface description languages that become universally available via uniform communication protocols. As of its fifth year, the ICWS 2007 program continues to feature research papers with a wide range of topics, focusing on various aspects of IT services such as Web services specifications and enhancements, Web services discovery and integration, Web services security, Web services modeling, Web services-based applications and solutions, and semantics in Web services.

As the most prestigious academic conference in the field of Web services, the first International Conference on Web Services, ICWS 2003, was held at the Monte Carlo Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 23–26, 2003, attracting hundreds of participants from 25 countries. ICWS 2004 was held at the Westin Horton Plaza in San Diego, California, July 6–9, 2004, attracting about 250 registered participants from 22 countries and regions. The joint ICWS 2005 and SCC 2005 conferences were held at the Sheraton Safari Hotel in Orlando, Florida, July 11–15, 2005, attracting more than 300 registered participants. The joint ICWS 2006 and SCC 2006 conferences were held at the Hyatt Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, September 18–22, 2006, again attracting more than 300 registered participants. ICWS 2003, ICWS 2004, ICWS 2005, and ICWS 2006 have proven to be excellent catalysts for research and collaboration, and we fully expect that this coming ICWS 2007 conference will continue this trend.

Many people have worked very hard to make this conference possible. We would like to thank all who have helped in making ICWS 2007 a success. The Program Committee members and referees all deserve credit for producing the excellent final program that resulted from the diligent review of the submissions. Special thanks go to the program chairs and all the other organizing committee members. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Services Computing Professional Interest Community (PIC) at IBM Research, SAP Research, and IEEE IT Professional Magazine. Clearly, there are still many unresolved research issues with regard to Web services computing, which is a very young field. We hope you enjoy the conference and plan to contribute to future ICWS events as authors, speakers, panelists, and volunteer conference organizers. Finally, ICWS belongs to you, the audience.

**Frank Leymann, Ph.D.**

*University of Stuttgart, Germany*

**Ming-Chien Shan, Ph.D.**

*SAP Research, USA*