

# Editor's Note

Pen Yew

**F**IRST, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very successful and happy New Year! In welcoming a new year, I am extremely pleased to report some of the exciting events that have occurred in the past year and the opportunities that lie ahead of us.

Through a tremendous effort by our editorial board, staff, and reviewers, *IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems* is in its best state in recent years. We have observed a dramatic reduction in the average review time for our papers, a very healthy increase in the number of paper submissions, an extremely high level of satisfaction among our authors in the surveys conducted this past year, and the introduction of Manuscript Central this past spring. *TPDS* is also among the five titles in the Computer Society that have held or improved the subscriber retention rate this past year.

We have improved our peer review process over the last few years and have cleared all of the backlog from before 2001. We are in the process of completing a small number of remaining papers submitted in 2002. Our submission-to-publication time has been reduced by almost one-third since 2000. Our current goal is to further reduce the average processing time. This is an extremely challenging goal. However, with the help of our reviewers, the associate editors on our editorial board, and our staff, we believe it can be achieved. We are also quite confident that the new Manuscript Central will provide the necessary infrastructure to help us achieve that goal.

Due to a stricter enforcement of paper length, we are able to publish more papers within our allocated page budget, increasing to around 100 papers in 2003, which is an almost 10 percent increase from the 91 papers published in 2002. We also are maintaining the high quality and the full content of the submitted papers by publishing the excess materials as supplements to the papers online in the CS Digital Library. The use of the CS Digital Library by our subscribers has increased substantially over the last few years. To further improve submission-to-publication time, the IEEE has decided to make preprints available online two months before the scheduled issue dates. This program will start this year. As a result of this change, readers will be able to access the papers online long before they receive the hardcopies.

*TPDS* held its editorial board meeting early last year in conjunction with the International Conference on Parallel and Distributed Systems (IPDPS) in Nice, France. Many constructive and useful suggestions were brought up and discussed in the meeting. We are planning to make it an annual event and will hold the board meeting again at IPDPS in Santa Fe, New Mexico in April 2004. If you have any suggested items that you would like the board to consider, please forward them to any associate editor or me.

We have been making every effort to keep *TPDS* the premier journal in the field of parallel and distributed systems. We would like to keep reminding our readers that *TPDS* is among the most important resources shared by our research community. We could make *TPDS* a better journal by submitting our best papers to *TPDS*. We could also contribute to *TPDS* by being a timely reviewer when called upon to review its submissions. Most importantly, we should continue to use *TPDS* as an important resource in our research endeavor and career development. With everyone's effort and involvement, we could make *TPDS* an even better journal than it is now.

In this issue, we list all of the reviewers who have contributed to the review process in 2003. They spent a great deal of time and effort to review and select the highest quality papers for *TPDS*. I would like to express our deepest appreciation for their contributions.

Pen-Chung Yew  
Editor-in-Chief