ACLing 2015 Preface

The Arabic Computational Linguistics conference (ACLing 2015) was the first event in the Arabic Computational Linguistics series aiming to bring together international researchers and developers to exchange new ideas and the latest results in Arabic Computational Linguistics. The field has become increasingly important, as more and more information in the Arabic language is becoming available at homes and businesses through the Internet and Intranet services. The scope of the conference encompassed the theory and practice of all aspects of Arabic Computational Linguistics in text, audio, image, video, and multimedia data. More details on the ACLing series can be found on http://www.ACLing.org; this event’s website is http://www.CICLing.org/2015/aclling.

ACLing 2015 was organized in conjunction with the 16th International Conference on Intelligent Text Processing and Computational Linguistics, CICLing 2015. The CICLing series is highly reputed and well recognized by the computational linguistics research community. We hope that the ACLing series spun off from it will follow the same steps and become a mature venue for Arabic Computational Linguistics work. In particular, all ACLing 2015 papers have been reviewed by a joint reviewing committee consisting of ACLing and CICLing reviewers in the framework of a common reviewing process.

A total of 68 submissions on Arabic language were received by ACLing-CICLing 2015; of them, 22 were accepted for publication in this volume, a 32% acceptance rate.

The conference featured keynote lectures by Erik Cambria of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Mona Diab of the George Washington University, USA; Kais Haddar of the Faculty of Sciences of Sfax, Tunisia; and Joakim Nivre of the Uppsala University, Sweden. The cultural program of the conference included tours to the Giza pyramids and the Sphinx, Old Cairo and Cairo Museum, and the Fayoum Oasis.

The success of this conference has been possible due to the support of all of the authors who submitted papers for review and the Program Committee members who supported this Arabic-centric venue for Computational Linguistics research and development. Special thanks go to Ted Pedersen, Savas Yildirim, Roberto Navigli, Manuel Vilares Ferro, Kenneth Church, Dafydd Gibbon, Kais Haddar, and Adam Kilgarriff for their invaluable support in the reviewing process.

For a conference to run smoothly, much behind-the-scene work was necessary, most of which was largely unseen by the authors and the delegates. We would like to thank Professor Tarek Khalil, president of Nile University (NU), for welcoming ACLing at NU. We also want to cordially thank the conference staff, volunteers, and the members of the local organization committee headed by Professor Samhaa R. El-Bletagy and advised by Professor Hussien Anis. In particular, we are very grateful to Ms. Aleya Serag El-Din for her great effort in coordinating all aspects of the conference and to Ms. Omnia Zayed for graphics designing and support in other activities. We wish to thank the Center for Informatics Science for all the support they have provided. We are deeply grateful to the administration of the Nile University for their helpful support, warm hospitality, and in general for providing this wonderful opportunity of holding ACLing-CICLing in Egypt. We are also grateful to members of the Human Foundation for their great effort in planning the cultural program. We acknowledge support from Microsoft Research. We would also like to thank STDF for their support.

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Khaled Shaalan
ACLing 2015 General Chairs