Message from the Conference Chairs

Welcome to the Third International Conference on Application of Concurrency to System Design (ACSD 2003). This edition of ACSD will take place in the cities of Guimarães and Braga, located in the Minho province of Portugal that forms the northwest corner of Portugal and is included in the Costa Verde (Green Cost) region, by virtue of its outstanding natural beauty.

The technical program of the conference consists of three kinds of contributions: invited talks, regular papers, and tool demonstrations. Two of the invited speakers come from the industry. They will provide a valuable, first-hand experience on applications of concurrency to industrial practice. The third invited talk will introduce some very exciting recent theory advancements. The regular papers provide a balance of theoretical contributions in a variety of relevant areas and case studies showing benefits of using concurrency in a wide range of applications. Finally, tool demonstrations will showcase emerging university tools that automate many phases in the design process of concurrent systems.

The conference is structured to allow ample time for interaction. In addition, ACSD 2003 social program includes a small walk, before the Wednesday Welcome Reception, to see the baroque churches and the splendid 18th century houses in the city of Braga (considered Portugal’s main religious center), a guided tour, before the Thursday Conference Banquet, to the UNESCO World Heritage historical city of Guimarães (known as the birthplace of the nation), and a Saturday Douro River Cruise to see the vineyards of the world famous Port wine.

The number of submissions to ACSD 2003 was 50 papers, an increase of 12 from ACSD 2001. Papers were submitted from 21 countries on 4 continents. We feel that this is a good sign, and shows that the conference is gaining a truly international following. We hope that the next ACSD conference will get even more submissions.

The papers were reviewed by the Program Committee, every member receiving on the average 7 papers for review. The papers were submitted with an electronic submission system, which helped the PC chairs organize the work. The system automatically produced summaries of the reviews for each paper that were distributed to the members of the PC who have been reviewing the paper. The system also provided the chairs with a total summary listing of all reviews which made it easy to get an overview and summary of the reviews.

A summary of the review results with an initial proposal of acceptance, discussion, and rejection was distributed to the PC members and the e-mail discussion was initiated. Due to the geographical distribution of the PC members, the discussion settled into a natural 24-hour rhythm. The discussion was mainly conducted between the PC members with conflicting views of a paper, with the co-chairs providing summaries of the state of the discussion every day in the morning (Finnish local time), and the necessary push to keep the discussion going. Thanks to a very constructive approach of all the PC members, the discussion converged very quickly and within a little over a week we had a list of accepted papers.

A total of 22 regular papers were accepted. The geographic distribution of the accepted papers was (based on the home country of the corresponding author): UK - 3, France - 3, Finland - 2, Germany - 2, Italy - 2, The Netherlands - 2, Portugal - 2, USA - 2, Belgium - 1, Singapore - 1, Spain - 1, Switzerland - 1.

In a separate review process done by the co-chairs, 11 tool presentations were also selected. These will be presented in 2 separate sessions on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon.

We acknowledge the following institutions for the scientific sponsoring and cooperation they kindly established with ACSD 2003: IFIP WG10.5 and SIG-ES, Colégio de Engenharia Informática da Ordem dos Engenheiros Portuguesa, Formal Methods Europe, ACM Special Interest Group on Software Engineering, ACM Special Interest Group on Design Automation, and EU ACiD-WG. We also thank IEEE Computer Society Press (Los Alamitos, California, USA) and ACM (Digital Library) for agreeing to publish the ACSD 2003 proceedings, and EATCS for its decision to produce a special edition of the Fundamenta Informaticae journal (edited by IOS Press, The Netherlands) with extended versions of an ACSD 2003 papers selection.

Finally, we extend a special thanks to the Universidade do Minho and to the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia for having logistically and financially supported the Organizing Committee of ACSD 2003.
Last, but not least, we thank all the authors of submitted papers for their contributions, Program Committee members and other reviewers for selecting an excellent program, and the local organizers for making sure that ACSD 2003 is a pleasant and useful experience for everybody involved.

Once again, welcome to ACSD 2003! We hope you will enjoy the conference.

Program Committee Co-Chairs
Johan Lilius
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Ricardo J. Machado