MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR

Welcome to the proceedings from the first Agile Development Conference, held in Salt Lake City in June 2003.

A new conference should have a specific purpose of existence before being unleashed upon the world. In fact, each part of the conference should have such a purpose.

The overarching purpose of the Agile Development Conference is to provide a place where people can discuss every aspect of software development, equally the human, social and psychological issues, as technical design issues. For reasons relating to the people starting the conference, its timing in the industry, and the priority that agile development places upon the human issues in development, the conference starts by being centered around the word "agile." Those who attended the conference noted, however, that many of the discussions were generally applicable: how to run a good meeting or retrospective, how to persuade management to pay attention to people issues in development, how to create a malleable enterprise design.

The research papers and experience reports carry the central purpose forward, each adding its own additional special purpose.

- The research papers intend to capture the output of research on the range of agile development, human, and technical issues. Six research papers were selected, through the usual IEEE peer-review process. These papers range from the ethnographic study of an Extreme Programming group to a framework for contrasting and moving between agile and plan-driven development approaches.

- The experience reports are intended to capture data from the field, to provide not only ideas for other practitioners, but also raw project data for researchers. Since they are written by people not practiced in the writing of papers, each report went through a revision process in which a shepherd or coach assisted the author in bringing out the pertinent details of the situation. All of us at the conference thank these shepherds for the otherwise anonymous contribution they made to the reports.

This book captures only the research papers and experience reports from the conference. Outputs from the other tracks — the technical exchanges, tutorials, and open-space sessions, can be found on an as-available basis at the conference website: AgileDevelopmentConference.com

I would like to once again thank the conference track chairs, the paper selection committees, the shepherds, and the sponsors for helping put together a memorable conference. I want to thank the attendees for making it a spectacular memory.

Alistair Cockburn
2003 Agile Development Conference Chair