Welcome to the Sixth International Conference on Computer Systems and Applications (AICCSA08) held in Doha, Qatar between March 31st and April 3rd, 2008. The program of this year’s conference exhibits diversity in a number of ways. The program includes both theoretical and practical type papers. Those papers were received from researchers in the industry and academia. And, papers were received from 39 countries in six continents. As Technical Program chair, and with the help and dedication of the Technical Program Vice-Chair, the Track Chairs, the Track Technical Program Committees and the additional reviewers, we have endeavored to select papers with the highest quality in order to ensure a technically strong conference program.

The technical program of this year’s conference was selected to present the latest advances and research results in the dynamic and fast-moving areas of computer systems and applications. The conference received a record number of 404 submissions, and 112 papers were accepted as regular papers, while 22 papers were selected for presentation as short papers. The full paper acceptance rate is 28%, and the overall acceptance rate is less than 33%. This is a very good acceptance rate, and is an indication of the quality of accepted papers.

The conference this year has been organized into eight tracks, and each track was handled by a track chair, and the technical program committee of the track which was assembled by the track chair. We were fortunate this year to have eight very competent track chairs, who are recognized experts in their own fields of research. The tracks and their chairs are:

- **Algorithms and Bioinformatics**: Dr. Srinivas Aluru, Iowa State University, U.S.A.
- **Computer Systems and Architecture**: Dr. Mostafa Abdel-Barr, Kuwait University, Kuwait
- **Databases and Data Mining**: Dr. Thomas Risse, L3S Research Center, Germany
- **Networking and Multimedia**: Dr. Ozan Tonguz, Carnegie –Mellon University, U.S.A.
- **Parallel and Distributed Systems**: Dr. Tarek Abdelrahman, University of Toronto, Canada
- **Pattern Recognition and Image Processing**: Dr. Mohamed Kamel, University of Waterloo, Canada
- **Security and Information Assurance**: Dr. Iliano Cervasto, Carnegie-Mellon University, Qatar Campus, Qatar
- **Software Systems and Applications**: Dr. Serge Haddad, Université Paris-Dauphine, France

The track chairs handled the papers promptly and professionally, and made sure that most papers received at least 3 reviews from highly qualified reviewers. I wish to express my deepest gratitude for all the efforts taken by the track chairs, and their track committees, in order ensure a high quality program. Without their commitment and knowledge, the construction of this fine technical program would not have been possible.

From the set of accepted papers, six papers were nominated to receive the best paper awards. Those papers are:

1. “*Active Contours Initialization for Ultrasound Carotid Artery Images*”, by Sherif Moursi and Mahmoud El-Sakka. The paper appears in the Pattern Recognition and Image Processing Track.
4. “*Modeling Variability in Component and Connector View of Architecture Using UML*”, by Maryam Razavian and Ramtin Khosravi. This paper appears in the Software Systems and Applications Track.
5. “*Handover and Class-based Call Admission Control Policy for 4G-Heterogeneous Mobile Networks*”, by Tarek Bejaoui and Nidal Nasser. This paper appears in the Networking and Multimedia Track. And,
6. “*Traffic-Aware and Low-Overhead Routing Protocol for MANETs*”, by Fahed Awad and Mohammed Alsheakhali, which also appears in the Networking and Multimedia Track.
The nominations were made by the track chairs and technical program committee, and were based on the reviewers’ assessments and recommendations, and on the papers’ potential impact. Three best paper awards will be made out of these six nominations, and these will be announced at the conference in Doha. Congratulations to the authors of all nominated papers.

I wish to thank the Technical Program Vice Chair, Dr. Bin Wang. His hard work, promptness and attention to details have been of a great help to me, and have been instrumental to the quality and success of the technical program. I would also like to thank Drs. Hossam Hassanein and Qutaibah Malluhi for inviting me to serve as the technical program chair and for all their cooperation during the assembly of the technical program. I am grateful to the publicity chair Dr. Mohamed Younis who played an important role in attracting this record number of submissions, and has thus contributed immensely to the quality of the conference program. Finally, I would like to thank the authors who chose to submit their work to AICCSA08.

I hope that you will enjoy the contents of the technical sessions, and your stay in Doha.

Ahmed E. Kamal, Iowa State University
Technical Program Chair, AICCSA08