MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL CHAIR

Welcome to the First Asia-Pacific Conference on Quality Software held here in Hong Kong. Information Technology is impacting the world economy and the quality of our life in a more dramatic way than ever before, driven by the worldwide acceptance of the Internet that is not far from becoming as important to us as the telephone. We, as software scientists and practitioners, understand too well that in order for mankind to succeed in this so-called e-commerce era and to exploit the potentials of information technology in business and in our lives, not only do we need an effective regulatory framework; sound business models; and innovative ideas, but we also need reliable and dependable software that turn hardware boxes into useful real life applications. This is exactly what this conference is all about in essence — how to achieve quality in software.

As Head of IT at the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation, software quality is one of my major concerns at work. I believe it is very important to have conferences like this one to provide forums for software scientists and practitioners to get together to discuss approaches to improve the quality of software that all of us are so dependent upon in modern life. I am very pleased to see that the Program Committee has selected 35 very high quality papers for presentation in this two-day conference, from formal methods to industrial experience. I am sure all of you, besides attending the presentations, will also take the opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones and, of course, discuss possible collaboration in software quality projects. On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like, once again, to welcome you to the conference, and to wish you a fruitful two-day meeting.

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