Preface

I TAKE PLEASURE IN INTRODUCING THE PROCEEDINGS of the 1997 Third Working Conference on Massively Parallel Programming Models (MPPM'97) Workshop held in London at the premises of the Royal Society of Arts from the 12th to the 14th of November, 1997. This bi-annual workshop addresses the issues involved in programming massively parallel systems, particularly those issues concerned with developing suitably abstract computational models to simplify the programming task while retaining sufficient control over execution to guarantee efficiency.

This year's workshop proved to be particularly timely and productive for several reasons. Massively parallel machines have now become a reality in the marketplace. Their domain of application has widened from narrow scientific and engineering "Grand Challenge" problems to encompass vital commercial and financial areas. Finally the convergence between parallel and distributed computing has opened up the fascinating possibility of parallel machines as network servers easily accessible and usable in an general internet setting.

The workshop was fortunate to attract a distinguished list of international speakers who addressed topics in the areas of programming models, network embedded supercomputing, architectures and systems and applications.

I am grateful to the Royal Society of Arts for all their help in mounting this workshop; their gracious premises provided a relaxed and historic setting. Mrs. Susan Brookes, Dr. Wing To, and Mr. Martin Kohler earned the gratitude of all the delegates for their tireless and professional efforts in organisation. Finally, particular thanks are due to Fujitsu and the Fujitsu Centre for Information Technology for their generous sponsorship and support of the event.

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