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Volume Editors

Howard Leung

Qing Li

City University of Hong Kong

Department of Computer Science

83 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong, China

E-mail: {howard, itqli}@cityu.edu.hk

Frederick Li

Rynson Lau

University of Durham

Department of Computer Science

South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, UK

E-mail: {frederick.li, rynson.lau}@durham.ac.uk

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Preface

This year, we received a record high of about 180 submissions to ICWL 2007. From these, a total of 55 full papers plus one keynote paper were accepted for this LNCS proceedings volume, representing an acceptance rate of about 30%. The authors of these accepted papers were of a remarkable international diversity. We would like to thank all the reviewers for spending their precious time reviewing the papers and for providing valuable comments that aided significantly in the paper selection process. Authors of the best papers presented at this conference will be invited to submit extended versions of their papers for possible publication in 1) a special issue of *IEEE Trans. on Knowledge and Data Engineering*, for those papers relevant to knowledge and data engineering; and 2) a special issue of the *International Journal of Distance Education Technologies (JDET)*, for papers of other areas.

This was the first time that the ICWL conference was organized in Europe and 27 papers were from European researchers. We would like to thank our Organization Chair Dr. Taku Komura for spending an enormous amount of energy in coordinating the local arrangements. In fact, we would like to thank the entire conference organization committee for their hard work in putting together the conference. In particular, we would like to express our appreciation to our Registration Chair Dr. Jiying (Jean) Wang for her tremendous efforts in communicating with the authors regarding registration matters and keeping the registration and accommodation booking lists up-to-date. Our Workshop Co-chairs, Dr. Joseph Fong and Dr. Philips Wang, organized a Workshop on Blended Learning (WBL 2007), which was co-located with ICWL 2007. At this workshop, participants could share their ideas and experiences on supplementing e-learning with classroom learning.

We would also like to thank Prof. Nadia Magnenat-Thalmann, Prof. Myunghee Ju Kang and Prof. Won Kim for delivering keynote speeches and sharing their insightful views on web-based learning research issues. Finally, we would like to thank all the authors of the submitted papers, whether accepted or not, for their contribution to the high quality of this conference. We count on your continued support of the web-based learning community in the future.

December 2007

Howard Leung
Frederick Li
Rynson Lau
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