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João Falcão e Cunha (Eds.)

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Valencia University of Technology

Department of Information Systems and Computing

Camí de Vera s/n, 46022 València, Spain

E-mail: opastor@dsic.upv.es

João Falcão e Cunha

University of Porto

Faculty of Engineering

Centres of Competence in Electronic Commerce, Porto, Portugal

E-mail: jfcunha@fe.up.pt

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Preface

To write a preface means that we have reached the end of this long way, and that in some way all the incidences and problems have been overcome. We can now say that it is really a big pleasure for us to welcome all of you to the proceedings of CAiSE 2005 which was held in Porto.

CAiSE 2005 was the seventeenth in the series of International Conferences on Advanced Information Systems. Enforcing its tradition, since the late 1990s the CAiSE conferences have provided a forum for the presentation and exchange of research results and practical experiences within the field of advanced information systems engineering. In 2005, the conference was hosted by the Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto, Portugal, going back to southern Europe, in particular to the Iberian peninsula, where CAiSE 1997 was held in Barcelona.

The conference theme of CAiSE 2005 was “Improving Communication and Understanding — Systems and Citizens.” Behind this theme, we find the fact that the Internet has been changing societies and economies, and the way institutions and businesses operate has evolved rapidly. Most citizens are now expected to interact directly with technology-based systems without direct human intermediation, using different interface appliances. Moreover, many information systems interact with each other with limited human supervision. The Internet and its infrastructure play a critical role in this evolution, and it is of the utmost importance that semantic aspects are taken into consideration on a sound basis. Improved communication and understanding between people, the final objective of advanced information systems, requires improved communication and understanding between systems and their developers. Advanced information systems engineering therefore needs to keep improving its methods and technologies in order to support the proper development of our economies and of our societies.

This challenging proposal of CAiSE 2005 attracted scientists and practitioners from all over the world to submit their contributions. Up to 282 submissions were received, out of which the Program Committee selected 36 top-quality papers. This fierce competition produced an acceptance rate of 13%, which explains in itself the hard selection process that we faced. All the submissions were reviewed by at least three members of the CAiSE 2005 Program Committee, composed of well-known, relevant scientists related to the different CAiSE topics. The resulting program reflected the fact that the topic of information systems engineering encompasses human and organizational issues as well as technical issues, at all levels of the software production process. This includes different issues related to conceptual modelling, metamodelling, databases, query processing, process modelling and workflow systems, requirements engineering, model transformations, knowledge management and verification, Web services, Web engineering, software testing and software quality. All of these subject areas were covered as technical sessions of the final program.

Additionally, the authors of 31 papers presenting emerging ideas were invited to participate in the CAiSE Forum. The CAiSE Forum was initiated by the organizers of CAiSE 2003 in Velden as a means of stimulating scientific debate. It aims at introducing an agora for the presentation of fresh ideas, new concepts, and experience reports on application experiences and project reports, as well as demonstration of new and innovative systems, tools and applications. After the successful experiences of Velden and Riga, the Forum initiative was carried through to Porto.

The success of the CAiSE conferences is shown by the large number of co-located events. CAiSE 2005 was accompanied by 11 workshops and 6 tutorials that attracted a large number of participants. In addition, the edition of WER 2005 was co-located with CAiSE 2005. Furthermore, three very relevant keynote speakers provided a great complement for the technical program: Prof. Antoni Olivé (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya) with the keynote “Conceptual Schema-Centric Development: a Grand Challenge for Information Systems Research,” Prof. Jean Vanderdonckt (Université de Louvaine-la-Neuve) with the keynote “A MDA-Compliant Environment for Developing User Interfaces of Information Systems,” and Prof. Sudha Ram (University of Arizona) with the keynote “Toward Semantic Interoperability of Heterogeneous Biological Data Sources.” We thank them very much for accepting the invitations.

We devote a special thanks to the members of the Program Committee for doing excellent reviewing work. Their dedicated work was instrumental in putting together yet another high-quality CAiSE conference. We wish also to give special thanks to the local organizers at the “Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto” and at the “Departament de Sistemes Informàtics i Computació, Universitat Politècnica de València” for their hard work and devotion. Without their efforts, we would have had just nothing. Thank you very much.

Finally, the CAiSE 2005 organizers also thank the main conference sponsors: UPV, Univ. Politècnica de València, Spain; ERCIM, European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics; UP, Univ. do Porto, Portugal; FEUP, Faculdade de Engenharia da Univ. do Porto, Portugal; FCT, Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, Portugal; FLAD, Fundação Luso Americana para o Desenvolvimento, Portugal. Their support made possible the success of the conference.

Thanks for joining us, and we hope that all participants enjoyed CAiSE 2005!

June 2005

Oscar Pastor
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