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SCIENCES INSTITUTE CONFERENCE**

June 21 - 22, 1996, Hong Kong

Volume I

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Ho Geun Lee & Kar Yan Tam

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PREFACE

The Department of Information and Systems Management at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology is proud to host the First Asia-Pacific Decision Sciences Institute Conference (APDSI'96). The Pacific Rim is one of the fast growing regions in the world with a huge source of business opportunities which can best be realized using advanced techniques in decision and information sciences. The theme of APDSI'96, "Competitiveness of Asia-Pacific Region in the Global Marketplace: A Decision Sciences Perspective," reflects the growing importance of this region.

The purpose of APDSI'96 Conference is to promote discussion and interaction among members of both the academic and business communities interested in cutting-edge decision techniques. APDSI'96 seeks exchange of emerging and innovative research ideas and results which will not only lay foundation for further research, but also benefit the business community. The Organizing Committee has made every effort to make the programme a rewarding and interesting one.

APDSI'96 has received over 240 submissions from 18 countries. Judging by the quality and number of submissions, the First APDSI Conference is well received by the decision sciences community around the world. The three-volume conference Proceedings include three types of contributions: panel discussion, research papers and research-in-progress (abstracts). All together, they cover a wide range of theoretical and applied decision sciences-related research. A special effort of this conference is to encourage participation, in particular, participation from the Asia-Pacific region and to foster links with researchers worldwide.

Our most sincere thanks to all the authors, panelists, attendees, chairpersons, reviewers, program committee members, conference sponsors, and the administrative support staff to make APDSI'96 a success. We hope you find this year conference professionally rewarding and stimulating and these Proceedings a valuable resource for your research.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee,

Kar Yan Tam

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