Message from the General Co-Chairs

Welcome to the first IEEE Task Force on Cluster Computing (TFCC) sponsored event. The International Workshop on Cluster Computing (IWCC'99) is sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society through the TFCC with generous contributions from Hewlett Packard (USA), MPI Software Technology Inc. (USA), Asian Technology Information Program (ATIP, Japan), GENIAS Software GmbH (Germany), Sun Microsystems Inc. (USA), Compaq Computer Australia, Distributed Systems Technology Centre (Australia), and Monash University (Australia). We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all our supporters.

The Task Force itself was approved in late December 1998 and commenced its activities in February 1999. The TFCC sponsors professional meetings, brings out publications, sets guidelines for educational programs, and helps to co-ordinate academic, funding agency, and industrial activities. Since its inception the TFCC has been actively working on initiating its program for the benefit of cluster computing community. These activities are undertaken with the support of a group of volunteer members who comprise our executive and advisory committees. The TFCC has been successful in promoting cluster computing through its educational program. One aspect of this program that has been especially popular is our international book donation scheme. Here we requested that authors of cluster-related books ask their publishers to donate books to our program. In fact, the program has become so popular that the IEEE Computer Magazine editor invited us to write an article on this program — it appeared in the July 1999 issue of Computer under the Technical Activities Forum section. For further information about TFCC membership (which is free and we are always looking for new volunteers), its planned and future activities, please browse:

AU site: http://www.dgs.monash.edu.au/~rajkumar/tfcc/

UK site: http://www.dcs.port.ac.uk/~mab/tfcc/

The response to the workshop's call for papers has been excellent and we expect that attendance at the actual workshop will be equally impressive. The success of the workshop is wholly due to the hard work of the local organizing committee, publicity coordinators, and program committee. In particular Kenneth Hawick, and his associate Heath James, have put in an exceptional effort in to organizing the peer review process and selecting the highly recommended papers. We appreciate their hard work and commitment in formulating such an outstanding technical program. In addition to peer reviewed accepted papers, we also have industry track papers as part of our program. We thank our international program committee members for donating their precious time for reviewing and offering their expert comments on the papers.

The workshop was originally planned as one-day event. It was necessary to extend the workshop to two days due to the outstanding response that we received. The venue, Centra Melbourne, on the banks of the Yarra River, is located in the center of the city and near many major Melbourne attractions. We would like to thank the local organizing committee for arranging such an ideal venue. We acknowledge the support of Mahbub Hassan, Thomas C. Peachey, Jonathan Giddy, Jahan Hassan, and Shiranthi Ponniah in organizing the workshop. In addition we would like to thank the organizing committee of PART'99 for their support in hosting the workshop in conjunction with their conference.

We thank our keynote speakers Kai Hwang, Anthony Skjellum and David Abramson; and industry/invited speakers Patrick Estep, Ira Pramanick, Bruce Foster, and Matthew Bailes for sharing their expertise. We express our gratitude to Paul Roe for serving as the moderator for a panel on "Cluster Computing R&D in Australia". We would like to thank our plenary speaker Thomas Sterling for writing a foreword to the workshop proceedings.

Anthony Skjellum (MPI-SoftTech), David K. Kahaner (ATIP), Wolfgang Gentzsch (Genias), Ira Pramanick (Sun), Steve Tolnai (Compaq), David Barbagallo (DSTC), Daniel Charlu & Brian Cox (HP), and David Abramson & John Rosenberg (Monash) have received our request for financial support enthusiastically and were instrumental in getting generous donations from their respective organizations. We sincerely thank all of them.

We would like to thank David Abramson for his kind permission to use the services of Monash University finance management in handling the registration fee and supporting the involvement of the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering staff members in the organization of the workshop.

The staff members at the IEEE Computer Society have helped us cheerfully in numerous ways. Our special thanks to Tracy Woods (Volunteer Services Coordinator) who served as our first point of contact right from the submission of TFCC formation proposal to the creation of this conference series. It would have been impossible to bring out these proceedings without the timely support of IEEE CS press crew: Deborah Plummer (Manager Production), Thomas Baldwin (Proceedings Supervisor), and Danielle Martin (Production Editor). The event sponsorship was approved by Willis King (VP for Conferences and Tutorials) with the assistance from Anne Kelly (Director of Volunteer Services) and Maggie Johnson (Conference Finance Coordinator). Thank you all for your cooperation and timely assistance.

We hope that your participation in the event will create a new network of colleagues, friendship, and provide a great opportunity to see the latest developments in cluster computing research in both industry and academia.

By the way, our next event "International Conference on Cluster Computing" (Cluster'2000), a merger of IWCC and other major international workshops, is being scheduled to be held in Chemnitz (the former East Germany). We hope to see you all again in Germany next fall.

Enjoy your visit to the land of Kangaroos!

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