Preface

CAiSE'03 is the 15th in the series of International Conferences on Advanced Information Systems Engineering. This edition continues the success of the previous conferences, a success largely due to that fact that, since its first edition, this series has been able to evolve in parallel to the evolution of the Information System methods and technology. CAiSE has been able to follow, and often to anticipate, the deep changes that have occurred, since the late 70s when the first CAiSE Conference was organised by Arne Sølvberg and Janis Bubenko.

"Information Systems for a Connected Society" is the theme chosen for CAiSE'03. The "Connected Society" is the goal of the confluence of information systems, telecommunication systems and their application in business as well as in everyday life. The pervasiveness of infrastructures for modern information systems greatly extends the demands on engineering information systems in terms of scale, quality, dependability and adaptability. Information Systems for a Connected Society will be multimedial, multi-lingual, and multi-cultural. Situation and location awareness will allow users to cope with the complexity of these systems. The necessary technologies for building, deploying and maintaining such information systems will are in the focus of CAiSE'03.

This CAiSE Forum is an experiment for the CAiSE series. Additional to the highly competitive program of regular original scientific contributions we want to offer an additional communication channel for short focused contributions, with a short time between writing and printing, nevertheless rigorously peer reviewed for quality assurance. We called this new channel the "CAiSE Forum" in analogy to Roman market squares which always also were places for spreading news. The presentation of these innovative ideas and fresh results of scientific explorations in form of posters and demos in a pleasant communicative environment will contribute to their fast dissemination, as we hope, and will bring together people with shared interests.

We wish to devote a special thanking to the young colleagues who dedicated a great amount of energies to support the local organisation, the PC activities, the organisation of the publishing of this volume.

Finally, we wish to thank our sponsors that helped, with their support, the organisation to offer a nice environment and enjoyable services, while keeping the fees in a reasonable range.

May 2003 Klagenfurt and Maribor

Johann Eder and Tatjana Welzer