

Message from the General Chair

On behalf of the Organizing, Program, and Steering Committees of the IEEE Computer Society's 15th Symposium on Modeling, Analysis and Simulation of Computer and Telecommunication Systems (MASCOTS), it is a great pleasure to welcome you to MASCOTS 2007, in Istanbul, Turkey, a city that is the quintessential historical bridge between cultures, a striking geographic and architectural landmark, and also a very dynamic modern metropolis and business centre. MASCOTS has enjoyed the constant support of a very dedicated Steering Committee, with strong continuity from the very beginnings, and I need to mention in particular Prof. Kallol Bagchi who has chaired the committee since the very beginning.

It was a pleasure to work with the very active teams that have helped organise and host this event, but I have also had the honour of being involved with MASCOTS since its beginnings, and have organised previous meetings in 1994 and 1995. MASCOTS has established itself as a high-quality scientific conference series and it is truly international since it has taken place in the Netherlands, Israel, now Turkey, and next year in Thessaloniki, Greece, which is close to Istanbul both in location and culture, in addition to the many previous conferences that have taken place in the United States.

For this year's conference, I need to thank in particular Professor Mehmet Ufuk Çağlayan for helping us host MASCOTS 2007 in the beautiful Bogaziçi University Campus. Boğaziçi University is one of the most selective in Turkey and its founding goes back some 150 years to the mid 19th century. Despite the fact that I am not a "regular alumnus" of this University, I also need to thank them for awarding me an Honorary PhD in 2004, at the explicit request and vote of its Computer Engineering Department, and I am particularly grateful to them for generously hosting our conference this year.

Professor Çağlayan and Dr Tony Field had the demanding task of Chairing the Programme Committee, and I am deeply grateful to them for the excellent technical presentations that they have selected via a rigorous refereeing process. Special thanks also go to Dr Fatih Alagöz, also of Boğaziçi University, who helped with all aspects including the technical programme and the local arrangements, as well as in preparing the CD based proceedings. The enthusiastic team of student volunteers, lead by Rabun Koşar and Burak Turhan, has been of great help. My thanks also go to Dr George Riley, who was the main organiser of last year's event, and to Dr Helen Karatza who will be hosting next year's conference.

Special thanks go to the keynote speakers and to all the authors who submitted papers, and also to all those who attended this meeting. Their participation has made this event a truly worthwhile experience for me and for all of the organizers of MASCOTS 2007.

Erol Gelenbe, *Imperial College London*
General Chair, MASCOTS 2007