

Message from the 50 Years of Software Engineering Chairs of ICSE 2018

ICSE 2018 marks a dual milestone for the software engineering community: We are celebrating the 40th ICSE conference, as well as the 50th anniversary of the 1968 NATO Conference on Software Engineering. The latter was held in Garmisch, Germany and is considered to be the birth event of our discipline. In celebration of the 50th birthday of Software Engineering, we have organized a series of keynote talks and panels involving several of our field's pioneers, including some of the original participants of the Garmisch Conference. We are celebrating the 40th installment of ICSE with a gathering of many General and Program Chairs of prior ICSEs, all of whom have also been invited to write a short reminiscence about "their" ICSE and to provide a few photographs from the conference they may have in their possession. The resulting write-ups and accompanying photographs have been collected in a souvenir booklet that is made available to the ICSE 2018 attendees.

The chairs of the previous ICSEs were given a great deal of leeway regarding the content of their write-ups. They could have chosen to talk about memorable things that happened during their conference and its organization; memorable talks or keynotes that took place at their conference; particularly important research topics that were prevalent at the time of their conference; important trends that were going on in the community at the time their conference; or anything else that they thought would be of interest. In addition, the General and Program Chairs who are able to come to ICSE 2018 will be introduced to the attendees in a plenary session during the middle day of the main conference, Thursday, May 31.

While incredibly rewarding, this project required contacting and coordinating among a large number people (including over 80 former ICSE chairs and around a dozen Garmisch veterans), not a small number of whom have retired and even changed careers. Two additional colleagues were integrally involved with our work on this task. We must first acknowledge Ivica Crnkovic, the ICSE 2018 General Chair, who worked tirelessly to assist us with the plethora of practical details we faced, and to provide generous financial and logistical support to ensure a memorable celebration. We also thank Domenico Bianculli, the ICSE 2018 Celebrations Media Chair, who spearheaded the design and production of the souvenir booklet.



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