

Preface

The 2nd International Conference on Product Focused Software Process Improvement (PROFES 2000) continued the success of the PROFES'99 conference. It was organized in Oulu, Finland, June 20-22, 2000. The PROFES conference has its roots in the PROFES Esprit project (<http://www.ele.vtt.fi/profes/>), but by 1999 it had already evolved into a full-fledged general purpose conference gaining wide-spread international popularity.

The main theme of PROFES 2000 was professional software process improvement (SPI) motivated by product and service quality needs. SPI is facilitated by software process assessment, software measurement, process modeling, and technology transfer and has become a practical tool for quality software engineering and management. The conference addresses both the solutions found in practice as well as relevant research results from academia. The purpose of the conference is to bring into the light the most recent findings and results of the area and to stimulate discussion between the researchers, experienced professionals, and technology providers for SPI.

With the tremendous growth of Internet and telecommunication applications, it is ever more important to emphasize the quality in software products and processes. With plenty of new people and new software-based applications emerging at a very fast pace, it is easy to forget the importance of product and process improvement, and to repeat the same mistakes already made in more traditional software development. The PROFES conference has addressed this issue by explicitly enhancing the conference topics towards Internet and telecommunication applications.

Another important addition is the Learning Software Organizations (LSO2000) workshop, which was organized in conjunction with PROFES 2000. The LSO workshop series is a communication forum that addresses the questions of organizational learning from a software point of view and builds upon existing work on knowledge management and organizational learning. LSO complemented the PROFES program encouraging fruitful discussions and information exchange between the participants of PROFES 2000 and LSO 2000.

The conference program included three top level keynote speakers (Bill Curtis, Roger Fordham, and Dieter Rombach) and an invited talk from the European Commission (Corinna Amting). We once again received plenty of high quality submissions. Each paper was reviewed by three independent reviewers. The program committee was very critical in its reviewing and selected 36 papers from the submitted 60 full papers. In addition, the committee selected six half-day tutorials and one panel.

We wish to thank DaimlerChrysler, the European Commission, Fraunhofer IESE, Infotech Oulu, Nokia, Q-Labs, the University of Oulu, and VTT Electronics for supporting the conference. We are also grateful to the authors for providing high quality papers, the program committee for reviewing and participating in the design of the program, the organizing committee, and numerous individual contributors who helped in organizing this conference.

April 2000

Frank Bomarius
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