Preface

With the rapid development of Web-based learning and new concepts like virtual classrooms, virtual laboratories and virtual universities, many issues need to be addressed. On the technical side, there is a need for effective technology for deployment of Web-based education. On the learning side, the cyber mode of learning is very different from classroom-based learning. How can instructional development cope with this new style of learning? On the management side, the establishment of the cyber university imposes very different requirements for the set-up. Does industry-university partnership provide a solution to addressing the technological and management issues? Why do we need to standardize e-learning and what can we do already? As with many other new developments, more research is needed to establish the concepts and best practice for Web-based learning.

ICWL 2004, the 3rd International Conference on Web-Based Learning, was held at the Tsinghua University (Beijing, China) from August 8th to 11th, 2004, as a continued attempt to address many of the above-mentioned issues. Following the great successes of ICWL 2002 (Hong Kong) and ICWL 2003 (Australia), ICWL 2004 aimed at presenting new progress in the technical, pedagogical, as well as management issues of Web-based learning. The conference featured a comprehensive program, including a tutorial session, a keynote talk, a main track for regular paper presentations, and an industrial track. We received 120 papers and accepted only 58 of them in the main track for both oral and poster presentations.

A conference like this can only succeed with an excellent team effort. We would like to acknowledge the great contribution from our program committee members and paper reviewers who helped review submitted papers, select high-quality papers, and provide valuable comments for the authors. We are particularly indebted to Dr. Liu Wenyin, the publication chair as well as the tutorial chair, who did much more than what the roles asked him to. Special thanks go to Guo Ling and Xiang Xin, who did wonderful jobs as the conference secretary and Web master, respectively. Sponsorships from Tsinghua University, City University of Hong Kong, CELTSC, and the Hong Kong Web Society are gratefully acknowledged.

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Organization

ICWL 2004 was organized by Tsinghua University (Beijing, China) in conjunction with the Hong Kong Web Society.

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In addition to all members of the Program Committee, the following people were also involved in reviewing the papers:

Enyi Chen	Quanbin Chen	Jianhua Feng	Ling Guo	Jinyu Li
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