

## Preface

The aim of the annual W<sup>2</sup>GIS workshop is to provide an up-to-date review of advances on recent development of Web and wireless geographical information systems, and new challenges and opportunities for researchers, developers and users in the GIS community. The main topic of the W<sup>2</sup>GIS workshop is theoretical and technical issues of Web and wireless geographical information systems. This workshop followed the successful 2001, 2002 and 2003 editions, held in Kyoto, Singapore and Rome, respectively. The 2004 edition was held in Goyang, Korea.

In its 4th year, W<sup>2</sup>GIS reached new heights of recognition as a quality workshop for the dissemination and discussion of new ways of accessing and analyzing geospatial information. This year, 39 papers were submitted from 15 countries, and 20 papers were accepted from 11 countries. Similarly, the Program Committee consisted of 39 members from 16 countries.

We had the privilege of having three distinguished invited talks: “Eliciting User Preferences in Web Urban Spaces,” Yanwu Yang and Christophe Claramunt, Naval Academy Research Institute, France; “Discovering Regional Information from Web: Localness and Landmark Computation,” Katsumi Tanaka, Department of Social Informatics, Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto University, Japan; and “Towards Knowing, Always and Everywhere, Where Everything Is, Precisely,” Christian S. Jensen, Department of Computer Science, Aalborg University, Denmark.

The workshop was organized by the Internet Information Retrieval Research Center (IRC) of Hankuk Aviation University, Korea. The IRC was established in 2001, sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Korea, KOSEF (the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation), Gyonggi-do (local government) and various venture companies (over 20). The research term of the IRC is 9 years, and its research fund is 9 million dollars total.

We wish to thank the authors for the high quality of their papers and presentations, and the Program Committee members for their timely and rigorous reviews of the papers. We thank the Steering Committee members for organizing and supporting this event. Finally, special thanks go to Stefano Spaccapietra for his advice and help.

November 2004

Yong-Jin Kwon  
Alain Bouju  
Christophe Claramunt  
Workshop Chairs  
W<sup>2</sup>GIS 2004

## **In Memory of Prof. Yahiko Kambayashi (February 15, 1943 – February 6, 2004)**

We are deeply saddened by the sudden and untimely passing away of Prof. Yahiko Kambayashi, Dean of the School of Informatics, Kyoto University, Japan. His unexpected departure is a tremendous shock to everyone who knew him. He was 60.

Prof. Kambayashi was one of the pioneers of database research as well as a leader of the international database research community. He published numerous articles in major database journals and conferences such as Information Systems, SIGMOD, VLDB and ICDE. He was also the author and the editor of many books and conference proceedings. Prof. Kambayashi was an IEEE fellow, a trustee of the VLDB Endowment, a member of the SIGMOD Advisory Committee, a vice-chair of the ACM Tokyo/Japan Chapter, the chair of the DASFAA Steering Committee, a co-chair of the WISE Society and the WISE Steering Committee, a member of the W<sup>2</sup>GIS Steering Committee, a member of the CODAS Steering Committee, a member of the ER Steering Committee, a member of the RIDE Steering Committee, a co-editor-in-chief of the World Wide Web Journal, an associate editor of ACM TODS, and a member of the editorial board of several international journals. He was a winner of the ACM SIGMOD Contribution Award in 1995 for his many professional services in Japan and worldwide.

Prof. Kambayashi had been making great efforts to organize this W<sup>2</sup>GIS 2004 workshop, just before his sudden passing. Together with all the authors and the participants, we are taking this opportunity to express our heartfelt condolence and our deepest sympathy to his family.

November 26th, 2004

W<sup>2</sup>GIS 2004 Workshop Committee

# W<sup>2</sup>GIS 2004 Workshop Committee

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