

Preface

Welcome to the proceedings of the 19th International Conference on Principles and Practice of Multi-Agent Systems (PRIMA 2016) held in Phuket, Thailand, during August 22–26, 2016.

Started as an Asia-Pacific workshop in 1998 and run as a full conference since 2009, PRIMA has become one of the leading and influential scientific conferences for research on multi-agent systems. Each year, PRIMA brings together researchers, developers, and practitioners from academia and industry to showcase research in several domains, ranging from foundations of agent theory and engineering aspects of agent systems, to emerging interdisciplinary areas of agent-based research. Previous successful editions were held in Nagoya, Japan (2009), Kolkata, India (2010), Wollongong, Australia (2011), Kuching, Malaysia (2012), Dunedin, New Zealand (2013), Gold Coast, Australia (2014), and Bertinoro, Italy (2015).

The 2016 edition was a special one for a number of reasons. (1) To foster a larger Asia-Pacific community, it was co-located with the 14th Pacific Rim International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (PRICAI 2016). (2) To foster interdisciplinarity, we ran a *social science* track, whose accepted papers will be fast-tracked into the *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation*. (3) To foster student participation, we ran a special *student session* track. Student authors of accepted papers received free registration for the conference.

We received 50 full paper submissions from 22 countries. Each submission was carefully reviewed by at least three members of the Program Committee (PC) composed of 107 prominent international researchers. The review period was followed by PC discussions moderated by Senior Program Committee (SPC) members. The PRIMA SPC has been part of the PRIMA reviewing scheme since 2010, and this year it included 21 members. At the end of the reviewing process, in addition to the technical reviews, each paper received a summary meta-review by an SPC member. The PC and SPC were truly international, involving researchers from 28 countries.

PRIMA 2016 accepted 17 full papers, giving an acceptance rate of 34 %; 16 papers are included in this volume. Moreover, the volume contains three extended abstracts, accepted for the presentation in the social science track, and nine promising early innovation short papers. Further, we accepted seven submissions for the student session track. In addition to paper presentation sessions, the conference also ran a workshop, a mini-school, and three keynote talks.

We would like to thank all the individuals, institutions, and sponsors who supported PRIMA 2016. We thank the authors for submitting high-quality research papers, confirming PRIMA's reputation as a leading international conference in multi-agent systems. We are indebted to our SPC and PC members and additional reviewers for writing insightful reviews and recommendations for the submissions. We are grateful to members of the PRIMA 2016 Organizing Committee, who worked behind the scenes

to make PRIMA 2016 successful. These include the social science track chair, Michael Mäs; workshop chairs, Jamal Bentahar and Masayuki Numao; publications chair, Neil Yorke-Smith; publicity chairs, Nadin Kökciyan and Tenda Okimoto; mini-school chairs, Bo An and William Yeoh; Web chair, Federico Capuzzimati; finance chairs, Chutima Beokhaimook, Choermath Hongakkaraphan, and Nongnuch Ketui; and the local organizing chairs, Jantima Polpinij, Virach Sortlertlamvanich, Thepchai Supnithi, Nattapong Tongtep, and Rattana Wetprasit. We thank Enrico Pontelli, Pradeep Varakantham, Makoto Yokoo, and Aditya Ghose for holding tutorials in the mini-school; we also thank Jörg P. Müller, Phan Minh Dung, and Toru Ishisa for the keynotes. Special thanks to some individuals who have consistently supported this conference, in particular the senior advisers of PRIMA 2016, Aditya Ghose, Guido Governatori, and Makoto Yokoo.

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We hope you enjoy the proceedings!

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