

Preface

The 9th International Conference on Knowledge Science, Engineering, and Management 2016 (KSEM 2016) was the latest in the KSEM series, building on the success of eight previous events held in Guilin, China (KSEM 2006); Melbourne, Australia (KSEM 2007); Vienna, Austria (KSEM 2009); Belfast, UK (KSEM 2010); Irvine, USA (KSEM 2011); Dalian, China (KSEM 2013), Sibiu, Romania (KSEM 2014), and Chongqing, China (KSEM 2015). The series was initiated in 2006 by Prof. Ruqian Lu from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, with the aim of providing a forum for researchers in the broad areas of knowledge science, knowledge engineering, and knowledge management to exchange ideas and to report state-of-the-art research results.

KSEM 2016 was held in Passau, an ancient city located almost exactly in the geographic center of Europe, close to the metropolitan area of Munich. Passau looks back to more than 2,000 years of history and according to a statement attributed to Alexander von Humboldt, Passau was referred to as one of the seven most beautiful towns of the world. Passau is located at the confluence of three rivers, one of them being the Danube, the second longest of Europe. The appearance of the town itself is characterized by medieval, narrow allies and cobblestone streets, with buildings originating from the medieval times. The conference was hosted by the University of Passau, founded in 1978 and being the youngest university in Bavaria. Nevertheless, it has developed into one of the best academic addresses in Germany due to its high academic standard as regularly confirmed by rankings.

Today, knowledge management is from a scientific perspective a highly heterogeneous field combining the influences and ideas of various disciplines. Therefore, the main orientation of KSEM 2016 was influenced by the interdisciplinary character of knowledge management. The conference provided space for discussions on scientific as well as practice-oriented contributions and promoted the exchange of experiences, ideas, and opinions among all participants. The topics covered a broad field of theoretical and practical contributions ranging from classification and clustering, text mining and content analysis, knowledge management and systems, semantics and ontologies, to neural networks, artificial intelligence, and recommendation systems.

KSEM 2016 attracted a total of 116 submissions from 28 countries all over the world. The Program Committee members together with external reviewers contributed 238 reviews. As a result, 49 full papers were selected to be included in the proceedings with a very competitive acceptance rate of 42 %.

Moreover, we were honored to have two prestigious scholars giving keynote speeches at the conference, Prof. Bernd Krieg-Brückner, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence DFKI and University of Bremen, and Prof. Eric Tsui, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The abstracts of their talks are included in this volume.

KSEM 2016 would not have been possible without the contributions and efforts of a large scientific community. We thank our authors for being willing to submit their work

to KSEM. We sincerely appreciate the large amount of valuable and timely reviews from the members of the Program Committee, the members of three special session committees, and helpful external reviewers. Moreover, we would like to express our gratitude to the conference general chair, Prof. Martin Wirsing (University of Munich, Germany), as well as to the conference general co-chairs, Prof. Zili Zhang (Southwest University, China) and Prof. Dimitris Karagiannis (University of Vienna, Austria). We are also grateful to the team at Springer led by Alfred Hofmann for publication of this volume.

Many thanks also go to our sponsors, msg systems AG and 4process AG for their kind support of KSEM 2016. The conference management system EasyChair was used to handle the submissions, conduct the electronic Program Committee meetings, and assist with the assembly of the proceedings.

The conference proceedings are dedicated to Prof. Ruqian Lu, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, who founded the KSEM conference series. We feel very honored that Prof. Ruqian Lu personally attended the conference and would like to cordially thank him for his extraordinary contributions and the continuous support over the years.

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