

# Preface

The 18th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED 2017) was held from June 28 to July 1, 2017, in Wuhan, China. AIED 2017 was the latest in a longstanding series of biennial international conferences for high-quality research in intelligent systems and cognitive science for educational computing applications. The conference provides opportunities for the cross-fertilization of approaches, techniques, and ideas from the many fields that comprise AIED, including computer science, cognitive and learning sciences, education, game design, psychology, sociology, linguistics, as well as many domain-specific areas. Since the first AIED meeting over 30 years ago, both the breadth of the research and the reach of the technologies have expanded in dramatic ways.

There were 121 submissions as full papers to AIED 2017, of which 36 were accepted as long papers (12 pages) with oral presentation at the conference (for an acceptance rate of 30%), and 37 were accepted for poster presentation with four pages in the proceedings. Of the 17 papers directly submitted as poster papers, seven were accepted. Apart from a few exceptions, each submission was reviewed by four Program Committee (PC) members including one senior PC member serving as a meta-reviewer. In addition, submissions underwent a discussion period to ensure that all reviewers' opinions would be considered and leveraged to generate a group recommendation to the program chairs.

Four distinguished speakers gave plenary invited talks illustrating prospective directions for the field: Ronghuai Huang (Beijing Normal University, China), Sanya Liu (Central China Normal University, China), Antonija “Tanja” Mitrovic (University of Canterbury), and Riichiro Mizoguchi (Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Japan). The conference also included:

- A Doctoral Consortium that provided doctoral students with the opportunity to present their ongoing doctoral research at the conference and receive invaluable feedback from the research community.
- An Interactive Events session during which AIED attendees could experience first-hand new and emerging intelligent learning environments via interactive demonstrations.
- An Industry and Innovation Track intended to support connections between industry (both for-profit and non-profit) and the research community. The participating companies presented the need of and involvement with educational technologies with five (out of nine accepted) industry papers and engaged with AIED researchers to learn about the most promising new developments in the field and connect with academic partners.

AIED 2017 hosted four workshops focused on providing in-depth discussion of current and emerging topics of interest to the AIED 2017 community, including:

- Second International Workshop on Intelligent Mentoring Systems: Linking Learning in Real and Virtual Environments
- Workshop: Sharing and Reusing Data and Analytic Methods with LearnSphere
- Workshop: How Do We Unleash AIED at Scale to Benefit all Teachers and Learners?
- Workshop: Turn Theories into Products: Implementation of Artificial Intelligence in Education

In parallel with the workshops, two tutorials presented advanced topics and current developments that have a level of maturity in AIED research.

The conference was co-located with EDM 2017, the 10th International Conference on Educational Data Mining, and shared some workshops with it.

We offer our most heartfelt thanks to our colleagues at Central China Normal University for hosting AIED 2017. We also wish to acknowledge the considerable effort by our colleagues at the Ateneo de Manila University in making this conference possible. We would also like to thank Marija Filimonovic from Augsburg University for providing excellent support when editing the proceedings. Special thanks goes to Springer for sponsoring the AIED 2017 Best Paper Award and the AIED 2017 Best Student Paper Award.

We also want to acknowledge the amazing work of the AIED 2017 Organizing Committee, the senior PC members, the PC members, and the reviewers (listed herein), who with their enthusiastic contributions gave us invaluable support in putting this conference together.

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