

Preface

ICWL constitutes an annual international conference on Web-based learning, which started in Hong Kong in 2002 and has so far been held in Asia (China, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan), Australia, and Europe (UK, Germany, Romania, Estonia, Italy). ICWL 2017, the 16th conference in the series, was organized by the Hong Kong Web Society.

This year's conference was located in Cape Town, South Africa. Cape Town, located on the shore of Table Bay, is one of the top tourist destinations in the world. The city has many attractions including Table Mountain, Cape Point, Winelands, Robben Island, and Boulders Beach, home to a penguin colony. In this beautiful city, researchers, scholars, students, and professionals in the field of educational technology from all over the world gathered to share and exchange their state-of-the-art outputs and ideas at this conference.

This year we received 56 submissions from 25 countries worldwide. After a rigorous double-blind review process, 13 papers were selected as full papers, yielding an acceptance rate of 23%. In addition, 9 more short papers and 3 poster papers were selected. These contributions cover the latest findings in various areas, such as: learning models, collaborative learning, serious games, massive open online courses (MOOCS), mobile learning, computer-supported collaborative learning, personalized learning, Web 2.0 and social learning environments, game-based learning, etc.

ICWL 2017 featured a technical program of refereed papers selected by the international Program Committee, keynote addresses, and a doctoral consortium. Furthermore, the conference continued the new initiative, started by ICWL 2016, of holding the "2nd International Symposium on Emerging Technologies for Education" (SETE) at the same location. SETE collected the traditional workshop activities managed by ICWL in the past years, and additionally featured a novel organization in tracks. Workshops and tracks added new and hot topics on technology enhanced learning, providing a better overall conference experience to the ICWL attendees.

Many people contributed to making the conference possible and successful. Firstly, we thank all the authors who considered ICWL for their submissions. We also thank the PC members for their evaluations, which made possible the selection of the accepted papers. For the organization of ICWL 2017, additional thanks go to the organization chair, Gerhard P. Hancke, the Steering Committee representatives, Qing Li and Ralf Klamma, the treasurer, Howard Leung, the publicity chair, Yacine Atif, the Web chair, Bruno Silva, and the joint ICWL-SETE doctoral consortium co-chairs, Zuzana Kubincova and Marco Temperini. We also thank Springer, who kindly offered their sponsorship.

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