



Message from the VLDB President

Gerhard Weikum, President of the VLDB Endowment Board of Trustees



A warm welcome to all participants of the VLDB 2006 conference. I hope you are enjoying the morning calm in Seoul, the exciting days, and the wonderful atmosphere at this VLDB as much as I do. My most sincere thanks go to the entire conference team, headed by Kyu-Young Whang, for their excellent work and great dedication.

The VLDB Endowment is a non-profit foundation which primarily serves as the steering committee for the VLDB conference series. The VLDB Endowment also sponsors various scholarly activities. It has established a program, unofficially coined SPEND (for Surplus Provided to Educate Nations on Databases), which supports summer schools, tutorials and other training activities of this kind, in countries that could otherwise not afford the expenses for such events. Furthermore, it supports the DBLP bibliography service and runs a joint program with ACM SIGMOD to donate DVDs with the SIGMOD Anthology to libraries in developing countries.

The VLDB Endowment is also the main sponsor of the biennial Conference on Innovative Data Systems Research (CIDR), which serves as a complement to mainstream database conferences like VLDB or SIGMOD, by soliciting and accepting system-oriented papers that pursue speculative directions off the beaten paths.

Last but not least, the VLDB Endowment runs the VLDB Journal, one of the most successful journals in the database area. Thanks to the great work of its Editors-in-Chief, the VLDB Journal has achieved one of the highest citation factors across all fields of computer science.

The VLDB Endowment is run by a board of 21 elected trustees. The board is continuously renewed, with one third of its members being replaced every two years. Until spring 2005, Hongjun Lu served as the VLDB Endowment's secretary, and he was also the designated program chair of this VLDB in Seoul. We were all deeply saddened by his untimely passing. We are dearly missing not only an excellent researcher and promoter of database research in Asia, but also a wonderful colleague and friend. This conference is in memoriam of Hongjun Lu.

The next VLDB conference, in September 2007, will be held in Vienna, the charming capital of Austria and one of the culturally richest cities of the Western hemisphere. Wolfgang Klas and Erich Neuhold are the general chairs of the conference: Johannes Gehrke, Minos Garofalakis, and Divesh Srivastava serve as general program chair and track chairs.

In 2008, we will move to the almost exact antipode on the globe: Auckland in New Zealand, an exciting country with one of the highest living standards world-wide and a booming economy. Gillian Dobbie and Laura Haas will be the general chairs of the 2008 conference.

The path of the VLDB conference locations in previous and coming years underlines the mission of the VLDB Endowment: promote database research and education in all regions of the world, and assist the development, growth, outreach, and networking of database research communities. We highly encourage and appreciate proposals for future conferences. I hope to see many of you again next year in Vienna.

The Ten-Year Best Paper Award Winners

The annual VLDB Ten-Year Best Paper Award is given to the authors of the paper that turned out to be most influential from the VLDB conference ten years earlier. The award has been bestowed since 1995.

This year the award committee consisting of Umeshwar Dayal, Oded Shmueli, and Kyu-Young Whang has given the VLDB 2006 Ten-Year Best Paper Award to **Alon Halevy, Anand Rajaraman, and Joann J. Ordille** for their paper entitled "*Querying Heterogeneous Information Sources Using Source Descriptions.*"



The award winners will deliver the talk entitled "Data Integration: the Teenage Years."

Dr. Alon Halevy received his Ph.D in Computer Science from Stanford University in 1993. Dr. Halevy was a Sloan Fellow (1999-2000), and received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) in 2000. He serves on the editorial boards of the VLDB Journal and served as the program chair for the ACM SIGMOD 2003 Conference.

Anand Rajaraman obtained his M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science from Stanford University. He is a co-founder of Kosmix, a company creating the next generation of web search technology. He is the recipient of the Best Paper Award, ACM SIGMOD 1996, the 10-year Best Paper Award at SIGMOD 2006, and the Best Student Paper Award at ICDT 1997.

Dr. Joann J. Ordille is a consulting research scientist in the Software Technology Research Department of Avaya Labs. She invented meta-

directories for which she received the "Best Paper Award" at the International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems.

The VLDB 2006 Best Paper Award Winners

This year the best paper award winners are **Soumyadeb Mitra** (UIUC), **Windsor W. Hsu** (IBM Almaden Research center), and **Marianne Winslett** (UIUC) with their paper entitled "*Trustworthy Keyword Search for Regulatory-Compliant Record Retention*". The paper will be presented on Friday morning at Session 28 in Room 311.

The Best Paper Award Committee consists of Umeshwar Dayal (Chair), Divyakant Agrawal, Fabio Casati, Mary Fernandez, and Christian S. Jensen.

Announcements

● **Today's lunch** will be served at **Room 401**. The lunch begins at 12:30PM. Today's lunch is entitled as a business lunch as it will include the ceremony of the best paper award and other certificates of appreciations to sponsors. The lunch is co-sponsored by SK Telecom, Google, Naver, HP, and Samsung SDS.

● **Refund for student banquet tickets:** All the student registrants who purchased banquet tickets can get a refund at the Conference Office located in Room 317A. The refund must be requested by 5:30PM, Thursday, September 14. No refund will be given after that date.

● A hard copy of the **VLDB 2006 Proceedings**, which consist of two volumes, is sold at 50,000 Won.

● There are some leftover copies of various **workshop proceedings**. Some workshop proceedings produced by Springer Verlag must be purchased. Other workshop proceedings that were locally produced can be acquired free of charge. Go to the Registration desk in Room 317A to inquire about either purchasing a copy of some proceedings or getting others free of charge.

● **Google offers the Google Reception** on Thursday evening from 5:30PM to 9:00PM at **Jangbogo Hall**. All attendees and their spouses are welcome. Enjoy plenty of food, drinks, and Google swag.

● **Soliciting comments on the book entitled "Land of Morning Calm"**. All the registrants received a complimentary book entitled "Land of Morning Calm" in the conference bag. If you have any interesting comments on the book or learned any new facts on Korea from the book, please send your comments to Prof. Hwan-Seung Yong at hsyong@ewha.ac.kr by the midnight of Thursday (September 14, 2006). The organizing committee will select several interesting comments and will list them in the post-conference newsletters.

● **List of Participants** is now available at the registration desk.

Tomorrow's Events

● **Complimentary Conference Tour.** Tomorrow afternoon, there will be a complimentary conference tour to Gyeongbok Palace, National Folk Museum, and Insadong Antique Valley. **The tour buses will leave at 13:00 at the South Gate.** Please note the time change. In the Program, it was announced that the buses leave at 13:30, but due to expected heavy traffic, we will leave at 13:00. A total of five buses will leave. A boxed lunch will be provided in the bus. **The tour is expected to end at 17:30 and the tour buses will bring you back to the hotel.** After the tour, you may stay in that area to explore the center of Seoul. There are plenty of shops for your curiosity. You may also even visit *Namdaemoon Market* (meaning South Gate Market) near the City Hall for extra shopping. The market is only a few minutes away by taxi.

Yesterday's Events

● On Wednesday morning, Vishal Sikka (Senior VP and GM, SAP AG) delivered a keynote speech. The talk, chaired by Program Co-Chair Gustavo Alonso, was followed by numerous questions for almost 30 minutes.



● **Bong-Eun-Sa Walk.** On the pleasant Wednesday afternoon, about 50 attendees and spouses enjoyed visiting the near-by temple called Bong-Eun-sa by walk. The visit was led by three accompanying guiders.






VLDB 2006 Snaps

We are all here to help you!



Weather

THU	FRI	SAT
Sept. 14	Sept. 15.	Sept. 16
		
16 ~27	17 ~27	16 ~23
61F~81F	63F~81F	61F~73F

Editors: *Il-Yeol Song, Sungwon Jung, and Soon Cheol Park.*