

The purpose of this twelfth Conference of the Very Large Data Bases series is to provide an international forum for the promotion of an understanding of current research, and the exchange of ideas, experiences and future directions in database systems.

Database techniques are expanding into many novel environments and application areas, such as office systems, database machines, Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacturing, historical database systems, distributed database systems, knowledge-based systems, and managing of unformatted data, such as text and graphical images. The contents of this proceedings reflect these areas.

This proceedings contains 46 full papers, 2 short papers, and position papers for 2 panel sessions. These papers were selected from 247 papers submitted to the program committee from Asia, Europe, and the Americas. With so many good papers submitted, selecting this set of papers was a difficult task. We wish to thank the program committee members and referees for their time in reviewing and selecting the papers. Their efforts play a major role in assuring the high quality of the VLDB program. The selection criteria is mainly based on originality and quality as well as the relevant interest for VLDB participants. In this Conference, we are also including two special project sessions, one presents current VLDB projects in Japan, and the other presents the advanced VLDB projects.

Major credit for the success of the conference goes to all of our colleagues who submitted papers for consideration and to those who organize and participate in the panel and special sessions. On behalf of the Program Committee, we wish to express our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation.

The Technical Program Committee