

Preface

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the twelfth International Conference on VLDB in Kyoto. The third VLDB Conference was held in Tokyo nine years ago. In the intervening years, the social structure has rapidly been moving from an industrial to a high grade information society. Considerable advances in information technology have accelerated this trend, where database and communication technologies are playing significant roles in constructing information networks. I expect that this conference will provide you with information on new advancement of theories and practices in database technology and will give you an opportunity to personally exchange new concepts and ideas.

It must be emphasized that this conference is linked to the Pre-VLDB Symposium in Beijing which has been organized by the Chinese Academy of Science and Technology and the University of Maryland in cooperation with the VLDB Endowment. This affiliation should prove to be very valuable and meaningful and the mutual benefits will be enhanced by the exchange of information.

As you know, Kyoto is one of the oldest cities and a past capital of Japan. Here, much of old Japanese culture was born. Now, in modern times, many new technologies and venture businesses have been created here. The department of Information Science was also first started in Kyoto University in Japan fifteen years ago. As this ancient city is now developing into a higher grade information city, the VLDB Conference will have a strong impact upon it and is therefore heartily welcomed.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. A. F. Cardenas, President, and other members of the VLDB Endowment for the opportunity of holding this conference in Kyoto and also Prof. S. B. Yao and Dr. V. Lum, the Steering Committee Co-chairpersons. I would also like to thank Prof. W. Chu, Dr. G. Gardarin and Prof. S. Ohsuga, the Program Co-chairpersons and the members of the Program Committee who gave me every cooperation in preparing the technical program. Particular thanks must go to Prof. H. Sakai, the Chairperson of the Japanese Executive Committee, and the members of the Committee who handled all other affairs besides the technical program. Sincere thanks and appreciation are also extended to Prof. S. Sa, Dr. E. Lowenthal and Prof. G. Schlageter, the regional Conference Chairpersons for the Far East, America and Europe, who publicized this event in each region, and to the Japanese Organizing Committee, who supported these preparations.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the sponsoring organizations, VLDB Endowment, IFIP, INRIA, IPSJ, and others.

Yutaka OHNO

General Chairperson