

PREFACE

It's been a pleasure to have the 15-th Conference on Very Large Data Bases in Amsterdam. An old Dutch saying is that All Good Things Come in Three. We as organizers of the conference were very keen on the following three:

- × The scientific quality of the conference. The two program committees, chaired by Peter Apers and Gio Wiederhold have selected from almost 200 submitted papers a very interesting set of 45 which were presented at the conference and reproduced in this Proceedings. Our thanks go to the 71 members of the two program committees, who did a tremendous amount of work, each one reading more than ten papers, the two chairmen, for organizing the distribution of the papers, chairing the meetings and coordinating the work of the two committees. Our thanks are also due to the authors of the accepted papers for their presentation and preparation of the manuscripts. Finally, we thank the many authors of the papers which were not chosen, for preparing their manuscripts. We hope that the remarks of the referees have been helpful and clear.

Also we wish to thank our key-note speaker: Hervé Gallaire for his speech on database research carried out in beautiful Laguna's and Open Waters. For someone working in Munich quite an experience, indeed.

We also thank the panel members for their contributions.

- × The tutorial program as given by Michael Brodie, John Mylopoulos, Chris Date, Shir Nijssen, Krzysztof Apt and Stan Zdonik. Their contributions with state-of-the-art exposés attracted many people, which also could participate in the scientific program.
- × The cultural events, of which we organized many in order to highlight Amsterdams cultural place in the world. Whether it was the Dutch evening, the mini-concerts or the pictures in the Van Gogh Museum, it was all worth while to do.

The three crosses above have also been used in our logo and were borrowed from the coat of arms of Amsterdam. The artist Vincent Bus created this logo as his impression of joining our field of research (data on disks) and the location of the conference.

A conference like the VLDB can only become a success when so many people put their skills together and do lots of work. I am, in particular thankful to Martin Kersten as the chairman of the organizing committee, to Wiebren de Jonge for coordinating the mailings and organizing the tutorial program, to Gerard Otten for a very successful sponsorship program, to Marien Krijger for handling so carefully the finances and to Warwick Longman for organizing the very interesting exhibition. It goes without saying that I am very grateful to the Organization Bureau of the RAI, in particular mrs. Isabella Oosterhout and Marlette Vercauteren, for doing the ground work.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude towards the VLDB Endowment, in particular its president Alfonso Cardenas, for giving us the opportunity to organize the fifteenth VLDB conference. Looking back at a fruitful cooperation during four years of preparation, I wish the Endowment and its local organizers much success in future VLDB conferences.

Reind van de Riet,

General Conference Chairman VLDB 89