

## **PREFACE**

This volume contains the papers and panels presented at the Twentieth International Conference on Very Large Data Bases held in Santiago de Chile on 12-15 September, 1994.

To mark the 20th anniversary of VLDB, special efforts have been made to further the goal of leading the field of databases in reporting and stimulating new research directions. The Programme Committee had to work arduously and under considerable pressure on the difficult process of selection of the best of the 293 papers submitted from around the world. Every paper was reviewed by at least three referees, and often by more, including reviews from outside the geographical area in which the paper was evaluated. This has resulted in a very high quality programme with many papers on speculative and futuristic topics. This is proof that databases remains a lively, healthy and exciting field and we are extremely pleased to offer this proceedings as testimony.

A new aspect in the 20th VLDB and highlighted in this proceedings is the Industrial Cases programme. In addition to the papers submitted to the normal scientific track a significant number of papers were submitted directly for consideration for this track. A programme committee with a strong representation from industry selected and recommended a collection of excellent papers describing work of significant industrial interest.

The Co-chairs of the Programme Committee are responsible for the full and final programme. We hope it matches the expectation raised by 20 years of distinguished history of VLDB at the centre of the international database community. The proceedings contains papers from two invited talks, 54 contributed talks, 9 industrial cases and 4 panels.

This programme and proceedings could not have happened if not for the dedication of many individuals and organizations dotted around the globe. I fear that if I tried to list them I would surely forget someone. Instead, let me take this opportunity to thank sincerely: the contributors, Programme Committee members and reviewers, Organizing Committee members, sponsoring organizations, supporters and individual helpers around the world. Thank you all!

**Jorge B. Bocca**

**June 1994**