Foreword

The excellent selection of tutorials, invited talks, scientific and industrial papers and panel sessions of VLDB '95 are the result of an industrious world-wide database community, but also of the hard work of those involved in the preparations of this year's conference. In the following we endeavour to thank all those whose contribution to VLDB '95 has been significant, in the certain and unfortunate knowledge that in doing so we also unintentionally omit many others who have helped in various capacities through-out the world.

The scientific-track papers have been organised on a regional basis by Peter Gray, Umeshwar Dayal and Shojiro Nishio; and similarly the industrial-track papers by Peter Lockemann, Hamid Pirahesh and Yoshifumi Masunaga. These are the people who have been primarily responsible for the conference's content, and have worked long and hard to achieve the programme reflected in these proceedings. We thank also those who submitted such exciting papers, on which a conference such as this thrives.

The conference itself, however, includes more than that which is reflected in these proceedings. In particular, the excellent selection of high-quality tutorials have been put together by Claude Delobel, and the challenging and important panel sessions by Stefano Ceri. For the organisational abilities of these two we are very grateful. However, when all is said and done, it is the performance of the tutorial presenters and panelists which make these events successful, in addition to the active participation of database experts from around the world.

Many others, including the 98 members of the programme committee, the 20 regional coordinators, the organising and supporting institutions, the in excess of 160 authors, and the 185 additional reviewers, have all played roles necessary to the conference's success. We are grateful for the faith all these have displayed by their tireless efforts for the success of the conference, and for their parts in ensuring that success. We are also particularly grateful to Peter Pistor at IBM Heidelberg and Tok Wang Ling at the National University of Singapore for their help in each hosting the PC meetings, and to Serge Abiteboul for his additional publicity work in France.

Locally, we have relied on the organisational committee co-opted, generously, primarily from the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich. This committee has been directed (also in the literal sense of *steered*) by Kurt Bauknecht and Carl August Zehnder. Their collective organisational abilities are grately appreciated. Next to mention are Andreas Geppert and Werner Schaad for their tireless flexibility in simply getting things done, and Stephen Blott for his help in preparing these proceedings. And finally, we thank all those who contributed so much locally to the detailed preparation of the conference: Thomas Barothy, Sabina Bräuer, Armin Fessler, Antoinette Förster, Corinne Maurer, Lotti Kündig, Beat Rageth, Kerstin Reiher, Walter Seitz, and Dimitrios Tombros.

The organisation of VLDB '95 has been tiring, trying and at times, dare we say, even tedious. However, it has also be very rewarding and exciting, and now (in July 1995) we look forward optimistically to the conference itself. We hope very much that you enjoy the conference and these proceedings, and that both will provide a useful contribution to the database community's progress as a whole.

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Klaus Dittrich and Hans-Jörg Schek
General Conference Chairs
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