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Welcome

Welcome to the 18th European Conference on Information Systems and the first ECIS conference held outside Europe and the United Kingdom. The theme "IT to Empower" is very appropriate for this South African version of the conference. Rather unusually, ECIS occurs immediately before the FIFA Soccer World Cup, which is also being held in Africa for the first time. We hope that the World Cup excitement will give you a good introduction to our multicultural society and a sense of the anticipation all South Africans are experiencing as they prepare to offer hospitality to so many new visitors.

ECIS 2010 has been organized by the Department of Informatics in the Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology, at the University of Pretoria. The name of the department is unusual here in South Africa and does cause some confusion as we offer Information Systems programmes and define "Informatics" in much the same way as the University of Washington does (**http://www.ischool.washington.edu/informatics/default.aspx**).

Since its beginning in 1993 ECIS has set an extremely high standard, attracting scholars from all over the world and we are confident that this year's conference will maintain that standard. Of 481 submissions, from 20 countries, 170 papers will be presented. In addition, seven excellent panels enrich the programme. These papers can be downloaded individually from the Table of Contents.

We have relied heavily on the Conference Chairs (Roy Johnson and Carina de Villiers), the Research Paper Chairs (Neels Kruger and Dieter Bartmann), the Research-in-Progress Chairs (Machdel Matthee and Gert-Jan de Vreede), Panels Chairs (Trish Alexander and Robert D Galliers), Doctoral Consortium Chairs (Niels Bjorn-Andersen and Hugo Lotriet), Sponsorship chair (Sumarie Roodt), the Local Organisation Committee Chair (Johan van Loggerenberg), large numbers of Associate Editors, and countless reviewers. We are enormously grateful to them all for their tireless work!

Finally, we look forward to meeting our delegates, presenters, and session chairs, who will be the people who will make the conference come alive. We are sure the programme and the quality of the participants will make ECIS 2010 in Pretoria an unforgettable event.

Welcome to ECIS 2010, 7-9 June 2010, Pretoria, South Africa

Conference Chairs: Carina de Villiers and Roy Johnson
Editors of the ECIS 2010 Conference proceedings: Trish Alexander, Marita Turpin and JP van Deventer

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