

Message from the Task Force Co-Chairs

Welcome to the third annual IEEE international cluster computing technical conference sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society's Task Force on Cluster Computing (TFCC). The conference is being held in cooperation with the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and hosted by the California Institute of Technology, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and University of California at Irvine.

We would like to take this opportunity to say few words about TFCC activities and acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our members and volunteers. The TFCC has been in existence since early 1999 and within its short life it has started to have an impact on the cluster computing community in academia, industry, and business. The TFCC is committed to the development of cluster computing research, development and education, both in academia and industry. Towards this end, we have undertaken a number of activities including promoting open community discussion, holding events that bring together leading experts, the instigation of a book donation programme and the provision of guidance and advice to commercial bodies. One particularly successful activity has been the TFCC's educational programme. Here we are attempting to promote the take-up of cluster-related technologies in the core curriculum of educational institutions around the world. In conjunction with this effort is our book donation programme, which has enabled the TFCC to donate nearly a thousand books to academic institutions around the world.

Earlier this year, the TFCC actively promoted the formation of a new Computing Research Repository (CoRR) dedicated to Cluster Computing literature. The aim of CoRR e-Print Archive is to promote science and technology by providing an information repository that is internationally accessible. Together with the TFCC, this activity is sponsored and promoted by the ACM, the Los Alamos e-Print archive, and Networked Computer Science Technical Reference Library.

In association with the TOP500 list organizers, the TFCC has instigated a similar new list dedicated to clusters. The new list (<http://www.topclusters.org>) is not just about reporting peak-performance; it also includes various other parameters including database, web, communication, and application level performance. We thank the TFCC members for contributing their time and energy to this effort during the initial discussions about the formation of this list.

The TFCC's activities are undertaken with the support of a group of active volunteer who are part of its executive and advisory committees. The executive committee comprises chairs, vice chairs, technical area coordinators, and regional area coordinators. The TFCC has a presence on all continents with backing from regional coordinators in: Africa, Australia, Canada, China, Europe, Hong Kong, India, Japan, the middle-east, South America, Thailand, Taiwan, and USA. We appreciate and acknowledge their support.

The TFCC has organised and sponsored a number of other events in addition this annual conference. Further information about membership of the TFCC, its planned and future activities can be found on our Web pages¹. It should be noted that TFCC membership is free and we are always looking for willing volunteers to actively engage in organization and management of TFCC activities.

The response to our previous annual conferences² held in Melbourne, Australia in 1999 and Chemnitz, Germany in 2000 has been first-rate and attracted hundreds of participants from all over the world. We expect a similar response for this year's conference. The success of the conference is wholly due to the hard work of the local organising committee, the publicity co-coordinators, as well as the program and steering committees. We would like to thank Thomas Sterling, Daniel Katz, and Larry Bergman for volunteering to lead organizational efforts. Thomas and Dan managed submissions, reviews, and selection of papers with the help of program committee members. We thank members of the international programme committee for volunteering their precious time and effort.

¹ TFCC – <http://www.ieeetfcc.org>

² TFCC Annual Conference – <http://www.clustercomp.org>

We acknowledge Kai Hwang for his initial efforts on the organization of the conference. We appreciate the efforts of Nalini Venkatasubramanian for handling many aspects of local organizational matters. We also thank Rick Stevens for his support and advise. Our thanks also go to Ira Pramanick, Marcin Paprzycki, Hai Jin, and Tim Pinkston for serving as tutorial, proceedings, publicity, and finance chairs respectively.

We also would like to thank the IEEE Computer Society for their continued support of the TFCCs activities and for formally sponsoring this conference. We thank Tom Baldwin, the IEEE CS Proceedings Manager for helping us out with proceedings' publication contractual matters. Our special thanks also go to Anne Jacobs for managing the final proceeding publication.

We hope that your participation in this event will help you create a new network of colleagues, engender friendship, and provide a great opportunity to see the latest developments in cluster computing in both industry and academia.

Enjoy your visit to Newport Beach, California and the USA!



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