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The Evolution of a Conference: A Message from the Program Chairs

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Since the inception of the Information Systems (IS) discipline scholars have questioned and debated what constitutes the domain of IS research. Diversity is not simply desirable it is essential for a discipline that demands understanding of both information technology and contexts of application. The pervasive use of information technology, throughout the economy and society, together with the volatility in interest and support for the discipline, have made the defining of the domain of IS more than just of academic interest. For ACIS for 2009 we seek not to look back at what the IS domain has been, but to look forward to what it is to become. We seek to examine the definition of the IS discipline not by reflecting on where the IS discipline came from, but by exhibiting research at the forefront of where the discipline is heading into the future.

ACIS2009 is pleased to bring to you a programme, featuring aspects of Information Systems that signify the pervasive nature of our discipline. With papers on topics from design science to IS strategy, from collaborative applications to individual behaviour, the full diversity of IS research is represented. We seek to prompt debate with panel discussions on topics ranging from the "cultural divide between business and IT" to "Common method variance".

In keeping with the conference theme, "Evolving Boundaries and New Frontiers: Defining the IS Discipline", we have keynote speakers that are at the forefront of these evolving boundaries and new frontiers. Professor Vallabh Sambamurthy, discusses the digital transformation of organizations, society and the new frontiers and research opportunities it provides. Professor Peter Weill reminds us that research must ultimately have impact as he explores the boundaries between academic research and IS management practice.

ACIS 2009 received over 192 submissions from 16 countries in response to our Call for Papers. Following a rigorous double-blind review process involving at least two reviewers for every paper, assessment by the programme track chairs, and quality assurance of the revised submissions, 92 papers and 12 posters were initially accepted, for an acceptance rate of 54%. The final programme includes 104 papers across nine tracks (with poster case studies, completed research and research-in-progress submissions).

On behalf of the 2009 Conference Committee we would like to thank all our authors and reviewers for their contributions. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the contributions of our track chairs in organising and managing the nine tracks included in the conference.

We take this opportunity to welcome you to 20th Australian Conference on Information Systems in Melbourne, Australia. The programme features many interesting papers, keynote speakers, and panels. We sincerely hope you will find this conference enjoyable and rewarding.

Helana Scheepers and Michael Davern

Programme Chairs, ACIS 2009