Workshop of Business Process Design (BPD 2006) Preface

Business Process Management (BPM) remains of high popularity as a paradigm for the evaluation and design of organizational and IT systems as well as an increasingly attractive domain for academic research. There are definite signs of maturity in the operationalization and value generation of process-based management approaches and communities of practice (e.g., BPMG.org), and events like the annual Business Process Management conference contribute to a fast growing body of knowledge on BPM.

However, it is surprising to note that the actual process of process management still remains largely unstructured. Unlike other areas such as Project Management (e.g., PMBOK) or Software Engineering (e.g., Spiral Model, RUP), the Business Process Management community lacks a well-accepted and empirically evaluated procedure model. This is even more disturbing as "process" is the core focus of BPM.

On the one hand, a high number of idiosyncratic methodologies have been developed in-house or are distributed as vendorized packages by consulting companies. Furthermore, related concepts such as Six Sigma are often used in practice as the main reference point for the design of BPM initiatives. On the other hand, the academic community tends to focus its attention on the intellectually stimulating parts of the business process lifecycle such as issues related to modeling and executing business processes. The core challenge of a BPM initiative, generating improved, more compliant or entire new business processes, however, seems to remain based on the ATAMO principle ("and then a miracle occurs").

The aim of this Second Workshop on Business Process Design was to continue the discussion initiated at last year's event and to further nurture the development of a body of knowledge on the disciplined, well-understood and appropriately evaluated design of business processes.

The Call for Papers for this workshop attracted 12 high quality international submissions. Within a rigorous process, in which each paper was reviewed by at least two experts, we selected 7 papers for inclusion in this workshop.

We are very grateful to the efforts of all authors related to writing, revising and presenting their papers. Finally, we appreciate the indispensable support of the members of the Program Committee who provided excellent feedback and valuable directions.

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Tom Davenport
Selma Mansar
Hajo Reijers
Michael Rosemann
(Editors)
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Workshop Organization

Co-chairs

Tom Davenport
School of Executive Education
Babson College at Wellesley
Babson Park, MA 02457-0310
USA

Selma Limam Mansar
College of Business Sciences
Zayed University
P.O. BOX 19282, Dubai
U.A.E.

Hajo Reijers
Department of Technology Management
Eindhoven University of Technology
5600 MB, Pav.D14, Eindhoven
The Netherlands

Michael Rosemann
BPM Research Group
Queensland University of Technology
126 Margaret Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
Australia

Workshop Program Committee

Wil van der Aalst (The Netherlands)
Wasana Bandara (Australia)
Hyerim Bae (Korea)
Injun Choi (Korea)
Leonid Churilov (Australia)
Eric Deakins (New Zealand)
Peter Green (Australia)
Lilia Gzara (France)
Kees van Hee (The Netherlands)
Monique Jansen-Vullers
    (The Netherlands)

Peter Kueng (Switzerland)
Jan Mendling (Austria)
Trevor Naidoo (USA)
Stephan Poelmans (Belgium)
Brad Power (USA)
Manfred Reichert (The Netherlands)
Andrew Spanyi (USA)
Robert van der Toorn
    (The Netherlands)
Roger Tregear (Australia)
Michael zur Muehlen (USA)