

## ODBASE 2008 PC Co-chairs' Message

Welcome to the proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Ontologies, Databases, and Applications of Semantics (ODBASE 2008) held in Monterrey, Mexico, November 11 – 13, 2008.

We are now moving towards meaningful Internet systems and ubiquitous computing, earmarking the significant transitions of semantic technologies in the years since the first ODBASE conference in 2002. Recent methods allow us to scale semantic technologies to handle trillions of triples; to compose intriguing semantic applications within a few days; to address target applications from science up to e-commerce and e-health; and to develop or choose among plenty of ontologies and RDF stores, inferencing engines, ontology mapping, maintaining, and evaluation systems, to name but a few.

The ODBASE conferences provide a forum for the sharing of original research results and practical development experiences in the areas of ontologies, databases, and applications of data semantics. This year's conference included technical sessions organized around such important subtopics as semantic matching and similarity measuring, semantic searching, ontology development, maintenance and evaluation, applications of ontologies to Semantic Web and intelligent networked systems, etc.

This high-quality program would not have been possible without the authors who chose ODBASE as a venue for their publications. Out of 78 submitted papers, we selected 19 full papers, 5 short papers, and 6 posters.

To round up this excellent program, Richard Hull from IBM T.J. Watson Research Center agreed to be our keynote speaker.

A conference such as this can only succeed as a team effort. We would like to thank the program committee members and reviewers for their invaluable efforts. We are grateful to Robert Meersman and Zahir Tari for their support in organizing this event. Finally, we are deeply indebted to Vidura Gamini Abhaya, who was immensely helpful in facilitating the review process and making sure that everything stayed on track.

We hope that you enjoyed ODBASE 2008 and had a wonderful stay in Monterrey, Mexico.

November 2008

Fausto Giunchiglia  
Ling Feng  
Malu Castellanos