Preface

Major economic upheavals can have the sort of effect that Schumpeter foresaw 60 years ago as creative destruction. In science and technology, equivalent upheavals result from either scientific revolutions (as observed by Kuhn) or the introduction of what Christensen calls disruptive technologies. And in software engineering, there has been no technology more disruptive than outsourcing. That it should so quickly reach maturity and an unparalleled scale is truly remarkable; that it should now be called to demonstrate its sustainability in the current financial turmoil is the challenge that will prove whether and how it will endure. Early signs under even the bleak market conditions of the last 12 months are that it will not only survive, it will firmly establish its role across the world of business.

Outsourcing throws into sharp focus the entire software engineering lifecycle. Topics as diverse as requirements analysis, concurrency and model-checking need to find a composite working partnership in software engineering practice. This confluence arises from need, not dogma, and the solutions required are those that will have the right effect on the associated activities in the world of the application: e.g., reducing the time for a transaction or making the results of a complex analysis available in real-time. While the business of outsourcing continues to be studied, the engineering innovations that make it compelling are constantly changing. It is in this milieu that this series of conferences has placed itself.

SEAFOOD 2008, the Second International Conference on Software Engineering Approaches to Outsourcing and Offshore Development, was held in Zurich during July 2-3, 2008. There were outstanding invited talks by Ashish Arora (then at the Heinz School, Carnegie-Mellon University) and Dick Simmons (Texas A&M University), the first on how outsourcing has grown in countries as different as India, Israel and Ireland, and the second on the effects of outsourcing on software engineering in the past, the present and the future.

SEAFOOD 2008 received submissions spanning a wide range of topics, from processes, and risks to education in distributed software development. This volume includes 14 papers from the conference selected after review by the Program Committee. SEAFOOD 2008 received 50 submissions; the acceptance rate was 28%. Papers covered areas such as extreme programming and code review, predicting timelines in software development subject to changes and software process improvement in small companies. There was an outstanding panel discussion (not reported in this volume) organized by Peter Kolb with speakers from banking, insurance and engineering industries.

Many people contributed to SEAFOOD 2008. We thank the Program Committee and the external reviewers for their excellent work in reviewing and selecting papers. SEAFOOD 2008 was co-located with TOOLS 2008; we are grateful to Manuel Oriol and Marco Piccioni for their support and to Claudia Günthart
for once again providing with unwavering efficiency the organization that made SEAFOOD 2008 a success.

March 2009

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