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Preface

The BPM (Business Process Management) Conference series has the ambition to be the premier forum for researchers in the area of process-aware information systems. It has a record for attracting contributions in innovative research of the highest quality related to all aspects of business process management including theory, frameworks, methods, techniques, architectures, and empirical findings.

BPM 2009 was the 7th instantiation of this series. It took place in Ulm, Germany, September 8–10, 2009, organized by the Institute of Databases and Information Systems of the University of Ulm. This volume contains 17 contributed research papers and two contributed industrial papers selected from 116 submissions from 31 countries. The thorough reviewing process—each paper was reviewed by three to five Program Committee members—was extremely competitive as the acceptance rate of 16% indicates. In addition to the contributed papers, these proceedings contain two papers and an outline documenting the invited keynote talks. Furthermore, a report is included on the collaboration structure in BPM research derived from an analysis of papers accepted for all past BPM conferences.

In conjunction with the main conference, nine international workshops took place the day before the conference. These workshops fostered the exchange of fresh ideas and experiences between active BPM researchers, and stimulated discussions on new and emerging issues in line with the conference topics. The proceedings with the papers of all workshops will be published in a separate volume of Springer's *Lecture Notes in Business Information Processing* series.

This is the place to express our gratitude to all those who made BPM 2009 possible by generously and voluntarily sharing their knowledge, skills and time: the General Chairs Peter Dadam and Manfred Reichert and the Organization Chairs Jens Kolb and Rüdiger Pryss for providing an excellent environment for the conference, and all other colleagues holding offices. In particular we thank the senior and regular Program Committee members as well as the additional reviewers for devoting their expertise and time to ensure the high quality of the conference in an extensive review and discussion process. And last but not least, we are grateful to all the authors who showed their appreciation of the conference by submitting their valuable work to it.

September 2009

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