Preface

The annual International Conference on Web-Based Learning (ICWL) started in Hong Kong in 2002 and has so far been held in Asia (China, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan), Australia, and Europe (Estonia, Germany, Romania, UK). ICWL 2015, the 14th edition in the series, was organized by Sun Yat-sen University (China) and the Hong Kong Web Society.

This year's conference was held in Guangzhou, the third largest Chinese city and the capital and largest city of Guangdong province in South China, located near Hong Kong and Macau. In 2012, Guangzhou was identified as a Beta+ World City by the global city index produced by the GaWC. It owns a large tertiary education complex, housing ten higher education institutions that educate up to 200,000 students. We therefore believe the location offered an appropriate educational and technical context for the ICWL conference.

This year we received 79 submissions from 27 countries worldwide. After a rigorous double-blind review process, 18 papers were accepted as full papers, yielding an acceptance rate of 22.8 %. In addition, two invited papers and seven short papers were accepted. These contributions covered the latest findings in various areas, such as: collaborative and peer learning; computer-supported collaborative learning; e-learning platforms and tools; intelligent tutoring and tools; pedagogical issues and learning analytics; personalized and adaptive learning; Web 2.0 and social learning environments.

Moreover, ICWL 2015 featured two distinguished keynote presentations and four workshops, which covered a wide range of active and emerging topics in Web-based learning, complementing the main conference areas. The good number of workshops indicated that ICWL is not only a forum for presenting results, but is also the meeting place for an active community in which new research foci are collectively explored and brought to a new level of maturity.

We would like to thank the entire Organizing Committee and especially the finance chair, Dr. Howard Leung, for his tremendous efforts in communicating with the authors regarding registration matters. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Program Committee members for their timely and helpful reviews. And last but not least, we would like to thank all the authors for their contribution in maintaining a high-quality conference – we count on your continual support for playing a significant role in the Web-based learning community in the future.

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Frederick W.B. Li
Mart Laanpere
Ralf Klamma
Jun Zhang
Baltasar Fernández Manjón
Rynson W.H. Lau
</div>

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