Preface

Twenty-seven years ago, a group of computer science experts from the Austrian Computer Society, led by Prof. Roland Wagner and Prof. A Min Tjoa, started ICCHP conference. Since the first conference in Vienna (Austria) back in 1989, ICCHP has evolved as a unique and one of the few long-term references of R&D in the field and is evidence of how information and communication technology (ICT), assistive technology (AT), and eAccessibility have been implemented and have significantly contributed to the improvement of the life of people with disabilities. ICCHP had the honor of accompanying and supporting the revolutionary developments of Assistive Technology and eAccessibility over the last decades. It can be proud to serve as a platform for exchange and communication in this context. The UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is the globally accepted reference and expression of the societal transformation toward effective inclusion and participation of all people with disabilities in society. The UNCRPD refers to AT, eAccessibility, eInclusion, and design for all as a precondition and means of support. Exactly these issues are also the core science topics of ICCHP.

ICCHP's scientifically based mission for inclusion and participation in the information society strives for better AT for support, enhancement and restoration of resources of people with disabilities, and compensating limitations of standardized HCI. This mission continues to gain more importance owing to the ongoing ICT revolution (Internet/Web of Things/ubiquitous computing/cloud-based services). The ICT revolution brings along an increased potential for inclusion and participation, but also risks for exclusion and thus the responsibility for implementing eAccessibility. It provokes a growing number of challenging research questions. Old boundaries of concepts dissolve, new approaches and fresh thinking are needed: not only in technical terms but also in legal, social, economic, pedagogic, and other terms. ICCHP is open to all these aspects and invites one to, and provides a platform for, a holistic discussion for improving the lives of people with disabilities in every corner of our world.

ICCHP is proud of its history and to this day it provides one of the few comprehensive and complete collections of scientific work in the field of AT and eAccessibility. All proceedings covering more than 2,300 reviewed articles have been published by Springer in their *Lecture Notes in Computer Science Series*. Since 2006, they have been available online with more than 100,000 (some almost 200,000) downloads of articles. This makes ICCHP a well-recognized reference and a unique source for learning and understanding the theoretical, methodological, and pragmatic specializations of this growing and expanding R&D field.

The proceedings of the 15th edition constitute a collection of high-quality, well-reviewed submissions by scientists, users, practitioners, educators, and policy makers from around the world. Each of the 239 eligible submissions was carefully reviewed by at least by three members of the international Programme Committee composed of

129 experts from all over the world and listed herein. The panel of 18 conference chairs analyzed the review results and prepared the final decisions. Based on this intense and careful analysis, ICCHP 2016 accepted 115 submissions as full papers and 48 as short papers (acceptance rate 59 %). These data provide evidence of the highly competitive process guaranteeing for the scientific quality of the proceedings and the conference.

ICCHP 2016 in Linz hosts high-quality, well-reviewed submissions from scientists, users, practitioners, educators, and policy makers and discussions among more than 500 participants from around the world. In particular ICCHP welcomes young researchers, the next generation of experts in our field, and invites them to contribute to the Young Researchers Consortium as well as to the Coding for a Cause (C4C) competition. "Universal Learning Design" has become a central topic which is taken care of by the Teiresias Center at the Masaryk University Brno. The Roland Wagner ICCHP Award, the C4C Competition, the Young Researchers Consortium, the Summer University on Math, Science, and Statistics for Blind People, and a series of parallel workshops and meetings make ICCHP a unique meeting place to drive AT and eAccessibility forward.

We welcome the attendees valuable contribution to ICCHP 2016 and encourage them and their colleagues to become regular participants in its most important mission. It is here that research, innovation, and practical endeavors in important topics of AT and eAccessibility come together to be shared, explored, and discussed.

ICCHP 2016 is proud to be under the patronage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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