Preface

We are very pleased to introduce the proceedings of the World Information Technology Forum 2016 (WITFOR 2016), held in San Jose, Costa Rica, during September 12–14, 2016.

WITFOR 2016 was the sixth edition of the World Information Technology Forum, and the first one organized as an academic conference. Previous editions were structured as discussion forums. Similar to previous events, WITFOR 2016 pursued the presentation and discussion of ICT-related strategies and projects to promote development worldwide. Therefore, this conference was aimed at the interface between development and technology.

A call for papers was issued under the general theme of "ICT for Promoting Human Development and Protecting the Environment." Within this theme, four major topics were included encompassing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recently adopted by the United Nations: ICT and cross-cutting development issues, ICT and environmental problems, ICT and human development problems, and ICT and economic development problems.

In all, 45 papers were submitted by authors from 25 countries, representing all continents. After a thorough peer-reviewed process—in which each paper was reviewed by at least three members from a distinguished Technical Program Committee (TPC)—24 papers were accepted; 22 of them are included in these proceedings. We would like to thank the members of the TPC for their valuable effort and contribution during the review process. Their work was of great importance to guarantee the quality of the conference.

The papers selected for WITFOR 2016 can be classified into seven broad topics: environment and sustainability; education; health; digital equity; gender; economic development and infrastructure; and e-government and smart cities. The broad range of issues dealt in these papers, and the different points of views reflected in them, make these proceedings valuable for researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers interested in using ICT for promoting human development and protecting the environment. In addition, they demonstrate that WITFOR can evolve into an academic conference to help further the objectives of IFIP to foster international cooperation; to stimulate research, development, and applications; and to encourage education, dissemination, and exchange of information on all aspects of computing and communication.

WITFOR 2016 was complemented by keynote speakers, demonstrations, and panel sessions. In addition, the Second Conference on Science, Innovation, and Information and Communication Technology of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was co-located with WITFOR 2016. This allowed for an exchange of opinions and discussions among participants in both events.

We would like to acknowledge the general chairs, Gabriela Marín Raventós and Ramon Puigjaner, for their huge effort in organizing this event. The same would not have been possible without their hard and enthusiastic work. We also appreciate the

work of everyone involved in the organization of the conference. Last, but not least, we also thank the authors and participants of WITFOR 2016.

We hope that the collection of papers in these proceedings assist in furthering the understanding of ICT issues and applications related to development, and also facilitate a fruitful exchange of experiences between academics, practitioners, and decision-makers.

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