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Welcome message from the general chairs

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Welcome Message from General Chairs

ICDAR 2019

Our heartiest welcome to ICDAR-2019, the 15th IAPR International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition being held in Sydney, Australia. It is truly an honor to host our premier conference in the business capital of Australia, which is the most populous city in the country and is located in the premier State – New South Wales; this is the first time that the ICDAR conference is organized in this part of the world. Sydney is truly an international city, hosting world-famous icons such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. There are also many more natural wonders and cultural sites in our beautiful state of New South Wales, including the Blue Mountains and Hunter Valley (famous for its wines). We did our best to prepare every aspect of this conference and hope you will enjoy your stay in Sydney.

ICDAR is a very successful and flagship conference series, which is the biggest and premier international gathering for researchers, scientists and practitioners in the document analysis community. The conference is endorsed by IAPR-TC 10/11 and it was established nearly three decades ago. ICDAR 2019 is the fifteenth biennial meeting of our international research community which began in St. Malo, France in 1991. Since that time, we have met in Tsukuba, Japan ('93), Montreal, Canada ('95), Ulm, Germany ('97), Bangalore, India ('99), Seattle, Washington ('01), Edinburgh, UK ('03), Seoul, Korea ('05), Curitiba, Brazil ('07), Barcelona, Spain ('09), Beijing, China ('11), Washington DC, USA ('13), Nancy, France ('15) and in 2017 in Kyoto, Japan. ICDAR 2019 continues a long tradition of providing state-of-the-art snapshots of the research advances in our field and we hope that you will benefit from all that the conference has to offer. This conference will be highlighted by three keynote talks. The first keynote will be by IAPR/ICDAR Outstanding Achievements Award winner Andreas Dengel, a Professor from the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), our Second keynote will be delivered by Dr. Qiang Huo, a Partner Research Manager of the Speech Group at Microsoft Research Asia (MSRA), Beijing, China, and he will talk about OneOCR For Digital Transformation. The third keynote of ICDAR will be delivered by Enrique Vidal, Professor of Computer Science, Universidad Politécnic de Valencia, Spain, and he will discuss text search and information retrieval in large historical collections of un-transcribed manuscripts as part of his keynote.

Like past ICDARs, ICDAR 2019 also received high-quality paper submissions. This year we have received 403 papers and based on the reviews our Program Chairs accepted 52 papers oral presentations and 176 papers poster presentations. In addition to the regular papers, reports of 18 competitions in different areas of document analysis and recognition will be presented in oral and poster sessions at this ICDAR. Also 9 workshops will be organized during September 20-22, 2019 as part of this conference, hosted at the University of Technology Sydney. One novel initiative in ICDAR 2019 is the special session for the presentation of the papers of an ICDAR/ICDAR Special Issue, a set of high-quality journal standard papers. Also 5 tutorial talks will be delivered as part of this conference. We hope that this conference along with its associated events will provide a forum for generating new insights within the field of document analysis.

A large event like ICDAR depends almost exclusively on the team of volunteers who work hard on the program, infrastructure, and facilities. We would first like to thank the program co-chairs, Cheng-Lin Liu, Andreas Dengel and Rafael Dueire Lins who have worked hard towards creating a rigorous and interesting technical program. We would also like to thank the chairs of the workshops, tutorials, competitions and those supporting the publicity of ICDAR for their help and support. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of our sponsors which has helped to reduce the costs and provided various awards including student best paper awards. We would like to thank the sponsorship chairs and Arinex, our Professional Conference Organizer for helping us towards sponsorships and organization. We would also like to thank our publication chairs, Wataru Ohyama and Giuseppe Pirlo; Finance Chair, Wenjing Jia, and Web Chair Parikshit Acharya for their active support. Our special thanks to Organizing Chairs Nabin Sharma and Sean He for their endless support to make this event successful. Finally, we would like to express our deep appreciation and valuable guidance from our honorary chair, Prof. Ching Y. Suen.

Our sincere thanks to all the researchers who have showed interest in this ICDAR by sending contributed papers, tutorial proposals and by registering in competition tracks. Thanks also to the Program committee members, reviewers and local organizing committee members including Arinex, our event management team for their strong support and active participation. Last but not the least, our special thanks are due again to our valued sponsors of the conference.

We hope you will find your stay fruitful and rewarding. We wish you all the best for a productive exchange of technical and scientific ideas during ICDAR-2019, as well as having the opportunity to explore the sights, sounds and flavours of our beautiful host city – Sydney.

Let your visit for ICDAR-2019 be a memorable one!

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