



WESTERN DECISION SCIENCES INSTITUTE

Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting, April 7-11, 2009

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to present the *Proceedings* of the Western Decision Sciences Institute's Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting, held at the Hilton Kauai Beach Resort from April 7-11, 2009. We have 17 tracks and about 180 papers, abstracts, panels, and workshops by authors from around the globe. Each full paper submission was peer-reviewed by at least two anonymous referees under the supervision of the Program Chair and the Track Chairs.

Organizing a conference of this magnitude requires the unyielding efforts of countless volunteers. The 2009 WDSI Annual Meeting was supported by an excellent Program Planning Committee consisting of Track Chairs and Country Contacts. We would like to thank each member of the Committee for their role in managing the review process, organizing sessions on schedule, and assisting in the planning of the conference. We are also indebted to the many volunteers who carefully reviewed the submissions. Lastly, we certainly want to thank the authors for submitting their research to this conference.

Several individuals provided valuable assistance and support to the organization of this conference. In particular, I wish to thank Mahyar Amouzegar, Abbas Heiat and Rick Henage for their outstanding and timely support. I benefited greatly from wisdom and experience of Vijay Kannan, and Keong Leong, each of whom had previously served as Program Chair, and provided invaluable counsel and advice. My sincere appreciation goes to Bruce Raymond, John Davies, Karen Fowler, Mahyar Amouzegar, Keong Leong and Vijay Kannan for supporting and helping me to get sponsorships. In addition, many thanks go to Krishna Dhir who was instrumental in recruiting me to serve on the Board of WDSI. We are also very grateful to Michael Dougherty of Champions Publishing, Inc., Ultimate Press and Hiller Higman of BootLeg Enterprise, Inc. for the production of the *WDSI Proceedings*. Finally, thanks go to Tash Company and my sister Latifeh, for designing the conference logo.

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