Message from the General Chair

On behalf of the entire Organizing Committee team, it is my great pleasure to welcome everyone to Shanghai for the 28th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE 2006). We are pleased that ICSE 2006 is being held in this city, where historically East has met West, and at this time, when the Chinese software industry is emerging as a vibrant force in the software engineering world. Our aim is to have this meeting continue the long ICSE tradition of fostering the integration of software engineering research and practice across all the countries of the world. This year, in addition, we are placing special emphasis on recognizing the achievements and promise of software engineering in China.

Many people have worked long and hard to make this meeting happen, and I would like to acknowledge some extraordinary efforts here. First, we all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Shanghai Municipal Informatization Commission (SMIC), whose magnificent support for ICSE 2006 has made this a signal event that we will all long remember. Within SMIC, the efforts of many people have been noteworthy. I would particularly like to thank Mr. Fan Xiping, past Director, and Mr. Fu Wenbiao, Director, for their courageous and unflagging support for ICSE. Mr. Wilton Zhu’s leadership of the ICSE 2006 project within SMIC has been remarkably effective, and a key contribution to the success of this event. Finally, Ms. Sophia Gu and Ms. Cynthia Zhang have been amazing as key translators and points of contact between SMIC and the other meeting organizers.

But the core of any ICSE is its technical content. For this, my deep thanks go first to Dieter Rombach and Mary Lou Soffa, CoChairs of the Program Committee, who will introduce the Technical Program in their own Welcome. In addition, I also wish to thank Steve Easterbrook, Shing-Chi Cheung, and Frances Paulisch for an outstanding job of organizing the tutorials and workshops. I also offer my sincere thanks to Jo Atlee for her leadership in working with TY Chen, Betty Cheng, Beijun Shen, Anthony Finkelstein, Bashar Nuseibeh, and Lori Clarke to integrate the Doctoral Symposium, New Software Engineering Faculty Symposium, and the Emerging Results Sessions into the Career Development Track. Thanks also go to Kokichi Futatsugi and Matt Dwyer for the Research Demonstration Track, Forrest Shull for the Experience Track, Laurie Williams for the Education Track, and Kouichi Kishida for the Far East Experience Track. This ICSE also features a special track on Software Engineering Achievements and Challenges, which was marvelously designed and implemented by Jeff Kramer and his committee.

On the organizational front, I am deeply indebted and grateful to Debi Brodbeck for her incredible energy, and amazing talents and accomplishments. Debi has led a remarkably energetic and successful External Relations effort, coordinating the equally remarkable work of Justin Erenkrantz, Webmaster, Harald Gall, E-publicity Chair, and Jonathan Cook Publications Chair. Particular thanks must also go to Ken Anderson, Proceedings Editor, who has magnificently led the pioneering effort to use memory sticks as the medium for publishing the proceedings. ICSE 2006 also pioneers the presentation of awards at a special Awards Banquet, whose careful arrangements are attributable to the hard work of Alex Wolf. I also wish to thank David Rosenblum for his efforts to be sure that we all have ample opportunity to explore Shanghai and China while we are here.

Finally, very special thanks to Kouichi Kishida, who was the first to urge that ICSE 2006 be held in Shanghai. In addition, he also introduced us to Prof. Ju Dehua who successfully interested the
Shanghai Municipal Informatization Commission in supporting our meeting. Clearly this meeting would not have been held in this marvelous setting had it not been for the vision, energy, and inspiration of these two men. Prof. Ju and Kishida-san also formed the Conference Coordination Committee, which has been a key factor in maintaining positive and effective contact with the software engineering community inside of China.

My apologies to the many others whose names are not listed here due to a lack of space.

Leading this diverse and remarkable team has been a gratifying experience for me. It has resulted in an event that should be long remembered by the community, and especially by those of you who will be able to report firsthand the emergence of China as an acknowledged global power in Software Engineering. Once again, I welcome you to ICSE 2006.

Leon J. Osterweil
General Chair