

## Message from the Programme Chairs

It is a great pleasure for us to welcome you to the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT) in Trento. We have been happy to serve as programme co-chairs of a conference that has become the yearly reference conference for European machine translation developers, researchers and users, and keeps growing year by year. A sign of this growth is that the conference was extended from 2 to 2 ½ days in order to keep to the single track format – which makes EAMT events very homely for regulars and newcomers alike.

As in previous years, the conference has three main tracks: (i) a research track, where researchers report about significant research results in any aspect of machine translation and related areas, with a substantial evaluation component, (ii) a user track, where users report their experiences with machine translation in business, government, or NGOs, and (iii) a projects track to publicize EU and international projects and initiatives. We also introduced a technology showcase for product demonstrations in order to encourage participation from developers/industry. In order to encourage submissions for the user track, we changed the format of these submissions: short papers with 2-4 pages. For projects/product demonstrations, both submissions only required a 1-page abstract.

We received a record number of submissions - a total of 102 papers: 57 in the research track, 17 in the user track, and 28 project/product descriptions. Most of the latter were accepted, but were reformulated by the project participants to conform to the conference style-guide. As far as research and user papers are concerned, after double-blind review by at least three leading MT reviewers, 40 of them (54%) were accepted and found their way into the proceedings: 29 research papers (51%) – 12 for oral presentation and 17 for poster presentation – and 11 user papers (64%), 4 for oral presentation and 7 for poster presentation. Poster presenters will also have the opportunity to showcase their work in a one-minute poster booster oral session. As expected, submissions come mainly from Europe, with a large number of submissions also received from the US this year. We also received papers with authors from the Japan, Canada, Brazil, Hong Kong, India, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Singapore.

We are in debt to the members of the programme committee and to the secondary reviewers they appointed for some of their papers. As the number of papers received was even higher than usual, they had an unusually large workload: we especially thank them for their invaluable help, which most of them completed on time, which made our lives easier!

We hope that the reviewers' comments were useful and constructive and helped all authors: for those whose papers weren't accepted, by increasing their chance in a later submission somewhere else; and for those whose papers got in, to improve their manuscripts. We know we didn't give them a lot of time to do so, and we thank authors for sending their camera-ready versions on time. We hope that the resulting

selection of papers, which you have in your conference pack, truly represents the best of machine translation research, development and real-world usage.

As an opener, we will enjoy an invited talk by Don DePalma, from Common Sense Advisory, which we hope will appeal to both our research and our user audience. To close the conference, we will have a presentation by the winner of the EAMT Best Thesis Award, Abby Levenberg, completed under the supervision of Dr. Miles Osborne at the University of Edinburgh, on *Stream-based Statistical Machine Translation*.

We thank you all: authors, presenters, members of the programme committee, reviewers and secondary reviewers, and attendees, for helping us to make EAMT-2012 a success: we hope you enjoy the programme that we have prepared for you.

As these proceedings are being finalized, our job is almost finished, and the conference is now in good hands: those of the local organizers in Trento, headed by Marcello Federico. It has been great to work with them, and we send them a special thank you!

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EAMT-2012 co-programme chairs