

## Foreword

The European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT) organised its first Workshop/ Conference back in 1996, in Austria. Up until 2009, when I became EAMT President, events had been held in Denmark, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, the UK, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Norway and Germany.

When I took over, I was very keen as EAMT President to see our conferences take place in countries that we hadn't visited before. In 2009, we went to Spain, France in 2010, and last year we went to one of the Benelux countries, namely Belgium. All three events were fantastically organised, and proved to be very successful.

This year, we are continuing this trend. I am very pleased that this year we are holding the EAMT annual conference for the first time in Italy, where MT has thrived for quite some time now. I am also pleased to say that this is the first EAMT conference held since I became President of the International Association of MT (IAMT), a role I am honoured to fulfil.

This is the 16th Annual Meeting of the EAMT, which as an organisation continues to grow and thrive. The numbers of student, individual, institutional and corporate members continue to rise, partly due to improved membership packages, but also because of the range of new initiatives that the Association has recently undertaken, including the Best PhD Thesis Award, the database version of the MT Compendium, sponsoring R&D activities, an extension of our activities to the MENA region, Best Paper Award etc. Note also that since its inception in 1997, the EAMT has not raised its Membership rates, and we will continue to hold the cost of membership for 2012. Joining us really is great value, especially in a year like 2012, where more than one IAMT-affiliated event takes place (EAMT here, and AMTA later in the year in San Diego: <http://amta2012.amtaweb.org/>), especially now that with the help of the Presidents of the other regional associations, Alon Lavie and Hitoshi Isahara, we have arranged for conference discounts to benefit all IAMT members, no matter which regional association you have joined.

As last year, I would like to thank my colleagues on the EAMT Committee, who continue to provide me with invaluable support. They work tirelessly on behalf of all of us, and we are all very fortunate to have such a strong body of colleagues representing our Association.

In addition to all this, EAMT conferences continue to improve in quality, with the result that ever larger audiences have been attracted to our events, to the extent that the annual EAMT Conference is now a must for many protagonists in the field, and not just from Europe. This 16<sup>th</sup> Conference is no exception, and in particular I would like to thank my Programme Co-Chair Lucia Specia, together with the overall Conference Chair, Marcello Federico, for helping me assemble a very attractive programme, comprising of Research and User tracks, poster sessions, and a terrific Invited Speaker in Don DePalma. As in the past two years, a special session has been

organised where some prominent FP7 projects are featured, so this too will be a really interesting session.

Last but not least, I would especially like to thank our local organizers, Marcello Federico and Mauro Cettolo, who very generously volunteered to hold the meeting in Trento. We are very grateful to Marcello and his team for their excellent organization of this event.

Finally, thanks to all of you for coming. I hope you all enjoy the conference, that you benefit from the excellent programme that has been assembled, and that you go away from here having made new friends.

Andy Way  
Director of Language Technology

Applied Language Solutions,  
Delph, Saddleworth, UK

President of the EAMT

[andy.way@appliedlanguage.com](mailto:andy.way@appliedlanguage.com)