Preface

We are delighted to welcome you to Divani Palace Acropolis hotel and to the 1^{st} International Conference on Semantic and Digital Media Technologies. We hope that you have a wonderful stay in Athens and that your visit will be enjoyable and rewarding.

SAMT 2006 targets to narrow the large disparity between the low-level descriptors that can be computed automatically from multimedia content and the richness and subjectivity of semantics in user queries and human interpretations of audiovisual media — the Semantic Gap. SAMT started out as two workshops, EWIMT 2004 and EWIMT 2005 that quickly achieved success in attracting high-quality papers from across Europe and beyond. This year EWIMT turned into the full-fledged conference SAMT, bringing together forums, projects, institutions and individuals investigating the integration of knowledge, semantics and low-level multimedia processing, and linking them with industrial engineers who exploit the underlying emerging technology.

As always, there is much more worthy work going on than we can publish in any one proceedings volume. Along with the papers chosen to be presented orally in SAMT conference, there is also a selection of shorter papers chosen to be presented as posters. The poster set covers a variety of interesting topics and is divided into *late breaking results*, *demos* and *projects*, aiming at linking latest research trends with industrial emerging technologies. Out of the 68 papers submitted in the first call for papers of SAMT conference, 17 were selected for oral presentation and then 17 more were accepted as late breaking results for poster proceedings without further review. In a second call for posters and demos, 26 more papers were submitted, out of which 19 were selected: 3 late breaking results, 4 demos and 12 projects. We are grateful to the members of the technical program committee who completed the reviews and allowed us to put together an exciting program of 36 high quality poster papers.

We thank all our colleagues in the organization committee who helped us tremendously with putting together an interesting and rewarding number of events including 4 workshops, 3 tutorials, special sessions, poster, demo and projects sessions, and the SAMT 2006 industry day. The program also includes two invited keynote talks from Alan Smeaton and Guus Schreiber and we are very grateful to them for their insightful presentations. Two more invited talks from Roberto Cencioni and Luis Rodríguez-Roselló are featuring the launch of the 7th framework ICT program on the third day of the conference; José M. Martínez has put a lot of effort in organizing the special poster and demo session on projects on the same day, featuring 12 projects in the area of semantic multimedia. Our steering committee has been of great assistance in all critical decisions, and the staff of the Image, Video and Multimedia Systems laboratory of the National Technical University of Athens has provided invaluable help to making this conference happen. Special thanks should go to Marios Phinikettos and Themis Zervou for the tremendous amount of work they have put into supporting SAMT 2006.

The SAMT 2006 conference is being held in cooperation with the European commission, EURASIP, COST 292 and the IET, and we are grateful to these organizations for promoting the event. We are also indebted to K-Space network of excellence, of which SAMT has been envisioned as the flagship event, and all sponsors for their contributions and financial support.

Y. Avrithis, Y. Kompatsiaris, S. Staab and N.E. O'Connor

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