

# Preface

The second International Symposium on Electronic Commerce was held in Hong Kong, April 2001, in conjunction with the fourth International Workshop on the Technological Challenges of Electronic Commerce. This symposium belongs to the e-commerce conference series started in 1998 in Toronto, Canada. Since then, every year, there has been an international workshop on the technological challenges of electronic commerce, and every other year, in conjunction with the workshop, an international symposium on electronic commerce is held. The following workshops have been held so far.

- The first International Workshop on the Technological Challenges of Electronic Commerce was held in September 1998, in Toronto, Canada.
- The second International Workshop on the Technological Challenges of Electronic Commerce was held in May 1999, in Beijing, China.
- The third International Workshop on the Technological Challenges of Electronic Commerce was held in June 2000, in Waterloo, Canada
- The fourth International Workshop on the Technological Challenges of Electronic Commerce was held in April 2001, in Hong Kong.

The first International Symposium on Electronic Commerce was held in Beijing, China, May 1999, in conjunction with the second International Workshop on the Technological Challenges of Electronic Commerce.

The second International Symposium on Electronic Commerce was sponsored by IBM, the E-Business Technology Institute and the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems at the University of Hong Kong, the Institute for Global Electronic Commerce at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, and Hong Kong Productivity Council. The goal of the symposium was to provide a forum for researchers, software vendors, and application developers and business users to share and disseminate information about current important research and application issues concerning electronic commerce. The symposium featured invited talks given by leading experts, presentations of refereed papers, and workshops and tutorials covering the major areas of electronic commerce. The additional goal of the symposium was to indicate the importance of electronic commerce technologies in the global marketplace including the fast growing Asia-Pacific market.

The papers accepted by the symposium program committee were gathered for preparing the proceedings. Among these papers, there are 8 regular papers, 4 short papers, and 2 survey papers. The authors were from Canada, the United States, Germany, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, and China, respectively. These papers covered various aspects of electronic commerce, including secure payment, trust and security, tools for e-commerce applications, and e-commerce frameworks and systems. There were also two e-commerce survey papers, one on B2B frameworks and standards, and the other on online auctions.

The staff at the E-Business Technology Institute at the University of Hong Kong were mainly responsible for organizing the symposium and preparing the proceedings. We are grateful to them, especially to Drs. William Song and Joshua Huang.

We would like to thank the members of the program committee for their efforts in organizing the review processes. Our thanks go to the reviewers who gave generously of their time to read and evaluate the papers. We would also like to thank the members of the Steering Committee for their guidance. We especially thank the conference organizers for the work they put into making this conference a successful one. We would like to thank the conference sponsors, particularly IBM China Limited/Hong Kong and IBM Centre for Advanced Study, for their support. Finally, we thank the authors of all submitted papers, in particular the accepted ones, the invited speakers, tutorial instructors, workshop session chairs and speakers, and all the participants who contributed to the success of the symposium.

April 2001

Weidong Kou  
Yelena Yesha  
Chung Jen Tan

# Second International Symposium on Electronic Commerce, ISEC 2001

*Sponsored by*  
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**and**  
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**Institute for Global Electronic Commerce**  
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