Preface

The Eighth **Cracow Grid Workshop** (CGW'08) was organized jointly by the Academic Computer Centre CYFRONET AGH, the Institute of Computer Science AGH, and the Institute of Nuclear Physics PAN. The event took place on 13-15 October 2008. CGW'08 was the first edition of CGW to be held on the premises of the AGH Conference Center.

This year we decided to update the focus of the conference. The main objective of the Cracow Grid Workshops (which were initiated in 2001), is now to support the community of researchers, developers, and practitioners who work in the fascinating field of e-Science, Grid systems, and their applications. The Workshops address the following topics:

- e-Science, system-level science and collaborative applications,
- models, methods and tools for development of collaborative applications,
- virtual laboratories and problem solving environments,
- knowledge in e-Science and Grid systems,
- virtual organizations and security aspects,
- resource management and scheduling,
- monitoring and information management,
- software engineering aspects,
- industrial and social implications.

CGW'08, being a Central European Grid Consortium event, included an overview of research in the main European and national Grid projects. This year's edition focused on the issues of National and European Grid Initiatives. On the first day of the Workshop presentations by several NGIs, as well as EGI-DS were delivered. The speakers were: P. Aerts, N. Geddes, J. Gomes, J. Kitowski, D. Kranzlmüller, J. Marco, M. Mazzucato, A. Read, U. Schwiegelshohn, G. Wormser, and G. Żbikowski.

CGW'08 comprised keynote and invited lectures, poster sessions, oral presentations and a tutorial.

Approximately 120 participants from 22 countries took part in the Workshop. For ACC CYFRONET AGH, CGW'08 also constituted part of its activity within the framework of Grid research projects: EGEE II, CoreGRID, ViroLab, GREDIA and BalticGrid.

The following keynote speakers honoured the event:

- Mário Campolargo, EU IST Brussels, Belgium;
- Denis Caromel, University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis, INRIA, CNRS, IUF, France;
- Ewa Deelman, Information Sciences Institute and Computer Science Department, University of Southern California, USA;
- Fabrizio Gagliardi, Microsoft Research, Switzerland;
- Krzysztof Góźdź, Hewlett Packard Poland.

The *Environment for Collaborative e-Science Applications* tutorial was delivered by P. Nowakowski, M. Kasztelnik, and D. Harężlak.

Traditionally, the preferable form of CGW presentation is a poster. This time, the Best Poster Jury selected the following posters for awards:

- J. Kitowski, R. Wcisło, R. Słota, J. Otfinowski, M. Skubis, K. Probosz, M. Pisula, A. Sobczyk, and K. Reguła: *Distributed Computer System for Remote Support of Holistic Rehabilitation of Patients Affected by Stroke*;
- W. Kirchler, M. Schiffers, and D. Kranzlmüller: *Harmonizing the Management of Virtual Organizations Despite Heterogeneous Grid Middleware – Assessment of Two Different Approaches*;
- G. Dethier, P. Marchot, and P.A. de Marneffe: *Distributed Dynamic Load Balancing for Iterative-Stencil Applications*.

About 70 contributed papers were accepted for presentation during the Workshop and together provided a very good overview of the research activity in e-Science and Grid computing. The contributed papers were reviewed by the Steering Committee upon submission of abstracts, then again during their presentations at the event, and, finally, following submission of full versions. These papers focused on the following areas:

- Grid Initiatives,
- e-Science Infrastructure,
- Workflows,
- Monitoring,
- Resource Management,
- Scheduling,
- Data Management,
- Applications.

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We are also indebted to all the members of the Workshop Secretariat (Zofia Mosurska, Maria Stawiarska, Milena Zając) and other colleagues from ACC CYFRONET AGH (Teresa Ozga, Mieczysław Pilipczuk and Andrzej Oziębło) for organizing the event. Special thanks go to Milena Zając for her hard work on preparation of the Proceedings for printing.

We kindly invite you to visit the Web page of the Cracow Grid Workshop (http://www.cyfronet.krakow.pl/cgw08/) and, of course, to participate in CGW'09, in October 2009.

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