

Preface

ED-MEDIA 2011 says hello and welcome to Lisbon, the capital of Portugal!

Lisbon is located in the southwest of Europe along the Atlantic coast of the Iberian Peninsula and is known as the white city, thanks to its unique light. The clear light and the kind climate allow for marvelous walks all over the city. The city has a beauty that extends beyond its famed monuments that can be experienced in the streets, embraced by all the senses. Lisbon is the only European capital with sandy beaches 20 minutes away from the cobbled stone city centre and a luxuriously green holy mountain around the corner.

Needless to say, we are extremely happy to be in Lisbon this year, where we have the privilege of cooperating with one of the most excellent universities in Portugal, the University of Lisbon, as local host.

Although you are probably familiar with ED-MEDIA, it is probably good to say a few words about it and highlight AACE's purpose role ED-MEDIA.

As a non-profit organization for the advancement of computers in education, AACE organizes the ED-MEDIA annual conference as a multi-disciplinary forum for the discussion and exchange of information on the research, development, and applications on all topics related to multimedia, hypermedia, telecommunications and distance education.

In especially these economically rough times, we think that an interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and research in the field of ICT and lifelong learning is of main importance to help solve today's society's problems. Improving one's individual competencies and knowledge is a key to employment and to a better life for individuals. And education is important for countries and regions to be competitive in a global world.

Yes, those lines are often said, but they are in fact very true! We also should not forget that we need an educational and training infrastructure that provides first class learning experiences to learners. Unfortunately, that is often not the case. In our opinion, new technology, pedagogy, and role models in teaching and research are extremely important and needed now more than ever!

Toward these goals, this year's ED-MEDIA is offering an excellent Graduate Student and Research Training Program for young academics as well as supervisors, advisors, and early career researchers. A series of presentations and a detailed program aims to assist participants improve their professional knowledge in the field of research.

Also, a total of 521 full papers were submitted, of which 241 were accepted. Of these, 28 were nominated as outstanding papers and passed through a second round of reviews with the Steering Committee. Of these, a small number were selected as award winning papers. In addition, 362 brief papers were submitted of which 165 were accepted. 150 reviewers from around the world were involved in the review process.

With that, we think that ED-MEDIA offers an enormous amount of learning experiences for participants. In addition to all the scheduled paper sessions, we urge you to also join your colleagues in our social events. Remember to spend time talking to colleagues from previous ED-MEDIA conferences and to make new friends. Think perhaps about new collaborations, new projects, and new usage of knowledge you heard about at this conference to help advance knowledge. We certainly hope that you will develop new perspectives in Lisbon and that you will present next year at ED-MEDIA 2012 in Denver, Colorado, June 25-June 29, 2012.

Credits and thanks

Finally we, as Program Co-chairs have must thank a considerably number of volunteers and helpers who have given their time and endless patience to make such a conference successful. The community of AACE as an influential, growing e-Learning association has organized this conference for many years now, and we are very grateful to be a small part of it.

In particular, we thank the Conference Steering Committee, who worked voluntarily the whole year to bring exciting speakers to the conference and to improve the scientific outcome every year.

Chair: Craig Montgomerie, Univ. of Alberta, Canada; Chair (2008-2011)

Chair Elect: Jan Herrington, Murdoch Univ., Australia; Chair Elect (2010-2011)

Tel Amiel, Unicamp, Brazil (2010-2013)

Christopher Brook, Curtin Univ. of Technology, Australia (2008-2011)

Martin Ebner, Graz Univ. of Technology, Austria (2008-2011)

Catherine Fulford, Univ. of Hawaii, USA (2009-2012)

Jim Hensman, Coventry Univ., UK (2010-2013)

Jan Herrington, Univ. of Wollongong, Australia (2007-2013)

Bill Hunter, Univ. of Ontario Inst. of Technology, Canada (2010-2013)

Valerie Irvine, Univ. of Victoria, Canada (2009-2012)

Min Lui, Univ. of Texas, USA (2010-2013)

Gary Marks, AACE, USA

Mai Neo, Multimedia Univ., Malaysia (2010-2013)

George Siemens, Athabasca Univ., Canada (2007-2013)

Edgar R. Weippl, Vienna Univ. of Technology, Austria (2008-2011)

We would like to thank the Chairs of the various Program Subcommittees:

Local Chair: António Moreira Teixeira, The Open Univ., Portugal & Univ. of Lisbon, Portugal

Local Advisor: Ana-Paula Correia, Iowa State University, USA

Local Advisor: Fernando Albuquerque Costa, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Tutorial/Workshop Chair: Edgar R. Weippl, Vienna Univ. of Technology, Austria

We would also like to thank the 100+ members of the international Program Committee, who provided timely and insightful reviews without complaint and little credit. Finally, we would like to thank Gary Marks, Sarah Duke-Benson and the staff at AACE, who organize and sponsor this conference, for their support in this amazing endeavor. These folks work incredibly hard behind the scenes to manage all the aspects of the conference. They deal with many complicated situations and handle a variety of requests from the Steering Committee and others.

We especially welcome conference delegates who are coming to ED-MEDIA for the first time and hope you will come to our Newcomers' meetings. We ask that all our ED-MEDIA "regulars" extend warm welcomes to the newcomers and students, who are becoming an ever growing and always important part of our community.

Greetings,

Program Co-Chair: Theo Bastiaens, Fernuniversität Hagen, Germany & The Open University, The Netherlands

Program Co-Chair: Martin Ebner, Graz University of Technology, Austria