

# Message from the General Co-Chairs

## MDM 2022

The 23rd IEEE International Conference on Mobile Data Management was held between the 6th and 9th of June 2022, despite the COVID-19 world pandemic. Continuing its longstanding tradition as a prestigious forum for the exchange of innovative and significant research results in mobile data management, IEEE MDM 2022 was held virtually in Paphos on the southwest coast of the Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

On the onset, our aim has been to offer as close to an in-person, face-to-face experience as possible, maximizing the dissemination of knowledge and sharing of research results among the IEEE MDM 2022 participants at the lowest health risks to them, and together discover the Cyprus culture and hospitality. IEEE MDM 2022 (<https://mdm2022.cs.ucy.ac.cy/>) was initially planned to become the first hybrid MDM organization, combining physical presentations with an extended online audience, although this plan later evolved in an online format organization due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19. To this, we committed in offering the best possible online experience to attendees by capitalizing and expanding on the success of earlier organizations.

Given that an optimal online experience cannot be achieved with pre-recorded presentations, but only with live presentations and direct interactions between the speakers and the audience, we decided in coordination with the Program Chairs for online synchronous delivery of all events, including all research presentations, tutorials, and live demonstrations. The personal experience of the host team as the developers of a web-based platform for online conferences, named VGATE (Virtual Gate) - <https://vgate.cs.ucy.ac.cy/>, made it particularly simple to provide a reliable communication channel over an intuitive interface and a low learning curve to all participants of the conference. VGATE provided numerous helpful blocks in the online organization, namely, zoom license management and user status integration, integration of proceedings and multimedia content, industry booths, live sessions, social rooms and for the first time also an online helpdesk supported by EasyConferences Ltd. as well as Zoom Video Communications, Inc., for facilitating VGATE.

We particularly provisioned, as also in earlier organizations to have IEEE compatible fees only for authors of the conference, with a lower rate for Ph.D. Forum, Demo and Workshop papers, an even lower rate for IEEE authors and completely free for the general audience of the conference. The above steps secured the maximum possible dissemination of new scientific knowledge and provided an open forum for world-wide inclusive and diverse research and progress.

This year we decided the continuation of the founded Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) initiative within the Data Management community. IEEE MDM (alongside EDBT/ICDT, SIGMOD, VLDB, SoCC, and ICDE) celebrates the diversity in our community and welcomes everyone regardless of age, sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, country of origin, religion, sexual orientation, physical ability, education, work experience, etc. To continue this initiative Panos K. Chrysanthis (University of Cyprus, Cyprus and University of Pittsburgh, USA) and Vana Kalogeraki (Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece) planned D&I-related activities at the conference.

With D&I and broad participation in mind, the conference program was structured in a way that is convenient to half of the world at any time. Specifically, the program was split to morning sessions (Eastern European Time), which were convenient for EU-ASIA participants, on DAY1 and DAY3, and the afternoon sessions (Eastern European Time), which were convenient for EU-America participants on DAY2 and DAY4. The Workshops were scheduled on DAY1 in the morning or afternoon based on the geographical location of their presenters. Social events were split along the same lines, presenting the host country Cyprus

through music and videos on culture, geography, food, leisure and other enjoyable aspects about Cyprus. Virtual corridor and hallways discussions were supported by a number of unmoderated and dynamic social rooms on VGATE at all times.

In all above endeavors we had the support and encouragement of our incredible organization committee, in particular, the IEEE MDM 2022 Program Co-Chairs: Mohamed Sarwat (Arizona State University, USA), Xing Xie (Microsoft Research Asia, China) and Karine Zeitouni (University of Versailles Saint-Quentin, France), the Steering Committee Liaison: Panos K. Chrysanthis (University of Pittsburgh, USA), the Test-of-Time Award Committee: Karl Aberer (École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland), Christian S. Jensen (Aalborg University, Denmark) and Kian-Lee Tan (National University of Singapore, Singapore), the Keynote Co-Chairs: Wang-Chien Lee (Pennsylvania State University, USA), Dimitrios Gunopulos (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) and Xiaofang Zhou (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong), the Workshop Co-Chairs: Takahiro Hara (Osaka University, Japan) and Nikos Mamoulis (University of Ioannina, Greece), the Industry, Systems and Apps Co-Chairs: Jie Bao (JD.com, China), Christian Becker (University of Mannheim, Germany) and Lei Chen (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong), the Advanced Seminars Co-Chairs: Maria Luisa Damiani (University of Milan, Italy), Sanjay Madria (Missouri University of Science and Technology, USA) and Manos Papagelis (York University, Canada), the Demo Co-Chairs: George Fakas (Uppsala University, Sweden), Andreas Konstantinidis (Frederick University, Cyprus) and Matthias Renz (University of Kiel, Germany), the Panel Co-Chairs: Christophe Claramunt (Ecole Navale, France) and Baihua Zheng (Singapore Management University, Singapore), the Diversity & Inclusion Co-Chairs: Panos K. Chrysanthis (University of Pittsburgh, USA) and Vana Kalogeraki (Athens University of Economics, Greece), the PhD Colloquium Co-Chairs: Hua Lu (Roskilde University, Denmark) and Mohamed Sharaf (United Arab Emirates University, UAE), the Publicity Co-Chairs: Ahmed Eldawy (University of California – Riverside, USA), Xiao Pan (Shijiazhuang Tiedao University, China) and Dimitris Sacharidis (Université Libre De Bruxelles, Belgium), the Sponsorship Chair: Konstantinos Pelechrinis (University of Pittsburgh, USA), the Proceedings Chair: Edison Chan (Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong), the Online Platform Chair: Constantinos Costa (University of Pittsburgh, USA), the Finance Chair: George Pallis (University of Cyprus, Cyprus) as well as the Website Management and Online Arrangements made by: Petros Stratis (Easyconferences, Cyprus) and Nicolas Kantzilaris (Easyconferences, Cyprus).

We sincerely thank the authors for providing the content of the program. We owe our genuine gratitude to the members of the Technical Program Committee and external reviewers for their excellent work in reviewing the papers and providing valuable feedback under a tight deadline.

We also thank the organizers of the four workshops co-organized at IEEE MDM 2022, namely: the 2nd IEEE Intl. Workshop on ALgorithms for Indoor Architectures and Systems (ALIAS 2022), organized by Christos Laoudias (University of Cyprus, Cyprus), Manon Kok (Delft University of Technology, Netherlands) and Sunwoo Kim (Hanyang University, Republic of Korea), the 3rd IEEE Intl. Maritime Big Data Workshop (MBDW 2022) organized by Herodotos Herodotou (Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus), Alexander Artikis (University of Piraeus, Greece) and Matthias Renz (Kiel University, Germany), the 7th International Workshop on Mobile Data Management, Mining, and Computing on Social Network (MobiSocial 2022), organized by Wang-Chien Lee (Pennsylvania State University, USA), De-Nian Yang (Academia Sinica, Taiwan), Jen-Wei Huang (National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan) and Chih-Ya Shenv (National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan), and the 2022 International Workshop on Mobile Ubiquitous Systems and Technologies (MUST 2022) organized by Yun Peng (Hong Kong Baptist University) and Xiaoyi Fu (Hong Kong Baptist University).

We would finally like to thank all participants, without whom, we could not make this such a lively and engaging organization.

Organizing IEEE MDM 2022 in Cyprus (virtually) for a second term, since the first in-person organization that took place in Ayia Napa, Cyprus in 2005, has always been Prof. George Samaras†' desire. After his unexpected passing four years ago, we decided to make his desire a reality. We dedicate the IEEE MDM 2022 organization to honor the memory of Prof. George Samaras† (1959-2018).

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