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Preface

This volume constitutes the proceedings of the eleventh European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming, ECOOP '97, held in Jyväskylä, Finland, June 9 - 13, 1997. Since the first ECOOP conference in 1987, object-oriented technology has grown from a limited academic exercise to an industrial driving force. Currently, numerous commercial object-oriented software products are available for practical use.

Undoubtedly, object-oriented technology has stimulated the increasing awareness of software practitioners that the software development process is an engineering activity, and just like other engineering disciplines, there are some rules to obey if their goal is to create cost-effective products. For example, the concept of "real-world" modeling enhanced the consciousness that the main goal is problem solving, rather than programming. Similarly, object-oriented technology has helped many academic people in recognizing that the purpose is not only defining correct programs, but also adaptable, reusable, and cost-effective software products. More importantly, object-oriented technology has given to all of us, theoreticians and practitioners, the courage to state that software development can be based on theoretical principles and yet be applied in practical projects. The ECOOP '97 conference with its well-balanced technical program and other exciting activities is a "living proof" of this pleasant evolution.

The ECOOP '97 technical program consisted of 20 papers (selected from 103 submissions), three invited speakers, plus one panel. The program committee, consisting of 26 distinguished researchers in object-orientation, met at the University of Twente in The Netherlands during January 30 - 31 for the paper selection. All papers were reviewed by at least four members of the program committee. The topics of the accepted papers cover traditional ECOOP topics such as programming languages, types, implementation, and formal specifications, as well as some new topics such as design patterns, metaprogramming, and Java.

As for the invited speakers, we were very honored to be able to present the talks by Kristen Nygaard, the well-known pioneer of object-oriented programming languages with his work on Simula-67 which was born 30 years ago in Scandinavia; Gregor Kiczales, who is proposing a new direction in object-oriented research, called Aspect-Oriented Programming; and Erich Gamma, a European pioneer on patterns.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the authors of submitted papers, the program committee members, the external referees, Richard van de Stadt for organizing the review process, and many others who contributed towards the establishment of the ECOOP '97 technical program.

April 1997

Mehmet Akşit and Satoshi Matsuoka
ECOOP '97 Program Chairs

Organization

ECOOP '97 was organized by the University of Jyväskylä, under the auspices of AITO (Association Internationale pour les Technologies Objets), and in cooperation with ACM SIGPLAN (Association for Computing Machinery, Special Interest Group for Programming Languages).

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