

Preface

The European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT) has a long tradition for organising annual workshops and conferences with the purpose of bringing together people and companies with a professional interest in machine translation and other tools for translation, be it users, researchers, developers, or providers who want to follow latest developments.

In 2005, we changed the format from a workshop to a conference, and we believe this was an excellent decision, so in 2006 we are following up on this success. Workshops are useful, and we will most certainly still have workshops also in the coming years, but the conference format gave us more contributions, more international contributions, and in the end also more participants. A richer and better programme also gives better possibilities for fruitful discussions.

Because the number of contributions went up, we unfortunately had to reject more papers than other years. The programme features 20 papers which are presented in one single track and two poster sessions presenting 10 posters.

The term *machine translation* (MT) is interpreted in its widest sense at the EAMT conferences. This means that MT refers not only to the original FAHQ (Fully Automatic High Quality) visions and their possible implementation, but also all kinds of other tools for translation, be it translation memory, alignment, example-based machine translation, etc.

For this conference we aimed in particular but not exclusively at focussing on experiences and expectations of users of MT systems and translation aids, or CAT tools. Our invited speaker Jaap van der Meer, The Netherlands, is the founder of TAUS (Translation Automation Users Society) and he has given his presentation the title *Fully Automatic Useful Translation*. As for the accepted papers we have received a number of contributions with a practical aspect. At the same time, there is a strong component of methodological papers, too.

The fact that researchers and users with explicit needs are brought together, and the fact that there is a fair number of research presentations as well as a number of what we called practical presentations above, provide excellent opportunities for mutual feedback. The programme committee and the organisers hope that we have been able to create an environment for interesting discussions and maybe even for the creation of new partnerships.

Before closing, we first want to thank all of the programme committee for their invaluable contribution, and the reviewers for their excellent feedback to the authors during the review process. The committee members are listed at the end of this preface.

Secondly, we want to thank André Lynum and Lena Korsnes of Oslo University who compiled these proceedings and the associated CD.

Viggo Hansen
Zacco A/S
Denmark
EAMT 2006 Programme Chair

Bente Maegaard
Center for Sprogteknologi
University of Copenhagen
President of the EAMT