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3rd International Conference on

Software Engineering Approaches For Offshore and Outsourced Development

ETH Zurich, Switzerland – July 2-3, 2009 – seafood.ethz.ch

SEAFOOD 2009

Enabling Global Partnerships to Deliver on Business Needs

Companies have been outsourcing areas of software development work for many years, either because of the engineering challenges or because the outsourced aspect is not central to their core business. A profound transformation has been affecting this model over recent years: a massive transfer of development activities from the US and Europe to a skilled labour force in service-providing countries. This transformation has been driven by the demands of a global business climate seeking to increase the value delivery of IT investment. However, the ability to realise this value can prove problematic in practice. Of particular concern are the hidden costs of globally distributed models of working, such as understanding and communicating the true business needs across organisational and cultural boundaries.

To address such issues, offshore outsourcing needs quite different support from in-house development and this means adapting familiar techniques, processes and tools to this setting, as well as perhaps creating innovative new ones. Coupled with this industry transformation there is hence a pressing need to re-examine those software engineering approaches that either facilitate or impede this model of working. With an inevitable focus on the economy in 2009, business decisions regarding the sourcing of software development projects will come under close scrutiny. It will become increasingly critical to design global partnerships that both clarify cost/benefits and enable delivery on business needs.

ABOUT SEAFOOD

The aim of the SEAFOOD series of conferences is to examine offshore and outsourced software development from a software engineering perspective. SEAFOOD strives to: highlight problems faced by industry and provide a forum to share good practices; spotlight new processes, models, techniques and tools emerging from research efforts that are crucial to distributed development, and provide an opportunity for industry transfer; and build a community of educators either offering or planning to offer global software development experiences for students, so as to share project plans and lessons.

SEAFOOD is co-located with TOOLS EUROPE (http://tools.ethz.ch), so the use of object technology, component-based and/or model-based software development in globally distributed settings is a synergistic theme. Emerging tools for offshore and outsourced software development may be showcased.

SEAFOOD aims to provide an intimate, highly structured and interactive forum for its participants, so it will be organising pre-assigned discussants for the various conference sessions. SEAFOOD also plans to organise an industry round table and educational exchange forum for interested participants.

TOPICS

This year, we particularly invite papers that focus on processes, techniques and tools to understand, communicate and deliver on business needs. Broader topics of interest include, but are certainly not limited to, the following dimensions of globally distributed software projects:

- Strategic dimensions – scope decisions; cost/benefit analysis; value propositions; risk assessment and management; vendor selection.
- Process and management dimensions – process models, including distributed agile; project management; team organization; customer/supplier engagement and relationship management; supply chain management; knowledge transfer and management; project governance; quality assurance; metrics and measurement.
- Development dimensions – requirements engineering; system specification; architecture; configuration management; traceability; testing; maintenance; deployment.
- Infrastructure dimensions – technology and tooling.
- Social dimensions – effect of cultural differences on communication, coordination and collaboration; socialisation and community building.
- Foundational dimensions – requirements and constraints that characterise offshore and outsourced processes; comparative studies of globally distributed, near-sourced and co-located software development.

PAPER SUBMISSIONS

We invite original submissions of high quality papers in the following categories:

Research papers – technical solutions, empirical studies and survey papers. Research papers are expected to explain how the problem being addressed is relevant to the conference, describe the research approach and include preliminary validation.

Industry practice papers – country and domain-specific reports. Industry papers are expected to provide sufficient context for understanding the challenges and insights, and to make the more general lessons for global software development clear.

Education and training papers – experience and proposal papers. Education papers are expected to explain the pedagogical goals of the work, critique their attainment (or not) and provide guidance for others.

In all categories: full papers (up to 15 pages); short/position/vision papers (up to 6 pages). Accepted papers will be published in the Springer LNBIP series. Please see the conference website for formatting and submission guidelines (http://www.seafood.ethz.ch/2009).

We also accept proposals for:
Panel sessions on the conference theme. Panel proposals should describe the topic of the panel, the positions and biographies of the proposed panellists, and identify the panel chair.

Tool demos (technical and communications). Tool demo proposals should describe the tool(s) and its relevance to supporting offshore and outsourced software development projects.

Panel session and tool demo proposals should not exceed 4 pages, formatted as per the regular paper submissions.

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

Bertrand Meyer, General Co-Chair
ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Mathai Joseph, General Co-Chair
Tata Consultancy Services, India

Olly Gotel, Program Chair
Pace University, New York City, USA

David Michael, Industry Track Chair
United Business Media, USA

Christelle Scharff, Education Track Chair
Pace University, New York City, USA

Patrick Mäder, Publicity Chair
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Yunwen Ye, JAPAN
Jianjun Zhao, CHINA

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstracts due:	**Feb 13th, 2009**
Papers due:	**Feb 20th, 2009**
Notification of acceptance:	**April 10th, 2009**
Camera-ready papers due:	**April 24th, 2009**
Preliminary program:	**April 30th, 2009**