Message from the General Chair

Over the next five years both the service and application planes will become the dominant areas for innovation in telecommunications. Virtually every forecast by market researchers predicts a proliferation of new services. New and innovative services will become the main drivers for the economy. The life cycle of service creation from the idea through the development to deployment will become months instead of years as used to be in the past. However, numerous technical and cultural hurdles stand between the vision and the reality. There is a lot to do to get there.

The inaugural NGMAST07 Conference has the vision of creating a forum that paves the way for the future of telecommunications. It aims to bring together a wide spectrum of international experts from the fields of research, business and policy, to facilitate a creative forum for the promotion of collaboration and knowledge transfer. In particular it will facilitate a dialogue between the government, major industry players, SMEs and academia to help create pathways for the development of common goals in a convergent network environment.

The conference has come to crown the exciting experiment of the Integrated Communication Research Centre of the University of Glamorgan to create an open carrier-grade next generation service creation facility for researcher and developers. The facility has been heavily supported by major players such as the mobile operator Orange®, Ubiquity Software Corporation, Cantata Technologies and Voxpilot.

NGAMST'07 will feature five distinguished keynote talks from world leaders in the different themes of the conference. Doug Tucker, Ubiquity; Peter Bury, OFCOM; Max Riegel, Nokia Siemens Networks; Tim Regan, Microsoft; and Eric Burger, BEA Systems will give their thoughts on the way forward in the world of fixed and mobile applications and technologies.

NGMAST'07 has also high quality programme with an acceptance rate well below 50% which is remarkable for a first time conference. The reviewing process was very rigorous with most of the papers receiving three or more reviews. The quality of reviews was exceptional and provided very useful comments to the authors. I am therefore very grateful to each member of the Technical Programme Committee for their time and dedication.

The conference became also richer with three co-located events: the 1st Broadband Wireless Access Workshop organised by Thomas Michael Bohnert and Dmitri Moltchanov who made a fantastic effort to put together an excellent programme despite of the short period. Also, the conference kicks off with a distinguished tutorial on IMS by Dr. Antonio Cuevas Casado who is a leading expert in the field. Finally, the conference is accompanied with exhibition that complements the scientific content with hands on and innovative developments in the industry.

Khalid Al-Begain
NGMAST'07 General Conference Chair