

Chair's Message

As I sat down to write this column, it occurred to me that I did not have major issues to report. This is a rarity, but it signals that the system that we have been working to put in place over the past number of years has finally taken hold. SIGMOD now has a very active Executive Committee each of whose members is responsible for a major area of operations. These colleagues have taken complete control of their domains and things are moving fairly smoothly.

There are, of course, a number of issues that we have been working on that I would like to report on.

- We have been working on the organization of SIGMOD/PODS 2007 Conference. Consistent with our earlier decision to go out of North America every 3-4 years, we have been considering two offers from Asia. We have finally concluded our decision-making process and I am happy to report that we will be going to Beijing, China in 2007. As I had reported earlier, 2005 conference is in Baltimore (June 13-16, 2005), and 2006 conference is in Chicago (June 25-30, 2006).
- We are working on forming a "SIGMOD Policy Board". Our idea is to have a board that becomes the place where new ideas are fermented, debated, generated, etc on a variety of issues related to SIGMOD and database technology. This includes discussions regarding possible changes to how we run conferences, how we handle increasing number of submissions to our events, and public policy issues such as database research funding, database security issues – basically any public policy issue related to development/deployment/use/... of databases (such as the recent US National Research Council study on technical and policy dimensions of large-scale Government use of information fusion and data mining). The idea is to make the Policy Board international in scope.
- Finally, we are working on changes to SIGMOD Bylaws. The bylaws under which SIGMOD operates are outdated and do not reflect the way the organization operates. The changes will reflect the new realities and some new ideas that the Executive Committee has about how we should operate. If you have any ideas that you would like us to consider, please let me know; SIGMOD bylaws can be accessed at http://www.acm.org/sigs/bylaws/mod_bylaws.html.

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