# Preface

The MT Summits have been established as the meeting place for people and companies with a professional interest in machine translation and other tools for translation, be it researchers, developers, providers, users, or watchers who want to be abreast of new developments.

MT Summit XI contributes strongly to this tradition by bringing researchers, users and providers together for a multi-facetted week in Copenhagen, Denmark. The programme features 74 papers, of which 29 will be presented in poster sessions.

The term *machine translation, MI,* is interpreted in its widest sense at the MT Summits, and in the three sister organisations, EAMT, AAMT and AMTA, in charge of the MT Summits. This means that first of all MT refers not only to the original FAHQ (Fully Automatic High Quality) visions and their possible implementation, but also other tools for translation, be it translation memory, alignment, the use of corpora, production of multilingual lexica etc. And secondly, MT Summits cover language technology for other multilingual purposes than translation proper, in particular multilingual language technology, e.g. multilingual text generation and multilingual information retrieval.

This way, the MT Summits are responding to the development in our society where communication is becoming more and more electronic, and more and more global and hence has to travel across languages or become multilingual. The Internet contributes of course greatly to this development by providing access to content in a vast number of languages, thereby creating a need for tools for translation and other multilingual treatment. These years speech translation is becoming a real possibility, not only a research topic. All these developments are mirrored in the papers presented at this Summit.

Of course it is also of key importance to MT Summits to follow the latest developments in technologies for machine translation, and in this Summit we have presentations on (predominantly) rule-based, example-based and statistical approaches, as well as many papers on language resources for MT and on MT evaluation.

One of the key aspects of this conference programme is the number of papers dealing with *practical* solutions. Experienced users are presenting their approaches to workflow management, to the use of auxiliary tools etc. Providers are presenting the newest developments, and here again we see the important trend on creating tools for the *production of MT.* This concerns particularly methods and tools for the creation of large dictionaries or knowledge bases. It is with great pleasure that the programme committee has read and accepted these papers, as the only practical way forward to the creation of MT for all languages is the existence and use of tools for the provision of the basic resources. In this respect the work on standards for linguistic resources and of conversion tools is also important.

The MT Summit XI has also this time been able to attract outstanding experts to give invited presentations. We are extremely grateful for their willingness to share their visions, ideas and solutions with us.

The fact that researchers and users with explicit needs are brought together at the summit, and the fact that there are a fair number of research presentations as well as a fair number of what we called practical presentations above, provides an excellent opportunity 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, I first want to thank all those who contributed papers to this MT Summit: More than 110 papers in all areas of MT were submitted. I want to thank the vice-chairs, Mike Dillinger, USA, and Hitoshi Isahara, Japan, for their valuable contributions and help with the programme, and all of the programme committee for their excellent feedback to the authors during the review process. The committee members are listed at the end of this preface. I want to thank the workshop and tutorial organisers, Svetlana Sheremetyeva, Denmark, and John Hutchins, UK, for their great work which resulted in 6 tutorials and 4 workshops.

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