

27 June 2023

Kate Stevens
Director, Conferences
ICMS Australasia

Dear Kate

Re: ICSE2023 Conference Organisation

We held the 45th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE2023) in Melbourne, Australia, 14-20 May 2023 at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre. ICSMA were our Professional Conference Organisers and IEEE were our professional society lead organisation for ICSE2023. I was the General Chair responsible for overall conference leadership and administration.

It was really great working with your team over several years to deliver an outstanding experience for delegates for ICSE2023! Feedback from the attendees on the conference venue, organisation, social events and experience was uniformly outstanding and many people commented to me it had been “an outstanding conference”, “a really great experience” and “the best ICSE they had ever attended”.

ICSE2023 was a major undertaking and very complex. We had almost 1500 attendees over the 7 days that ICSE ran. We had to accommodate almost 500 presentations for the main conference days 17-19 May, including three key notes, three plenary award presentations, three future of software engineering panel discussions, over 200 full research papers, over 200 practice/education/society/new ideas/demo/poster papers, 7 technical briefings, and many student research competition teams. In addition, ICSE2023 was co-located with ten events, including several large co-located conferences and symposia (MSR, ICPC, SEAMS, CHASE, etc). A further 22 workshops, doctoral symposium, new faculty event, and several other co-located events took place. These results in a further 400+ presentations, keynotes, panels, etc.

The ICSMA team providing outstanding service in all areas of complex international conference delivery. These included budget preparation and reporting following the detailed IEEE requirements; liaising with over 150 organising committee members of main conference, co-located event and workshops; organising a great range of social events including dinners, receptions, lunches, breakfasts, football, yoga, book club, tennis and many others; detailed venue negotiations and set-up; registration system; all hotel, venue and other payments management; event registration desk, guide, venue liaison, and various social events co-ordination; gifts, certificates, awards and various other needs; and organising committee meetings, agenda, minutes, and follow-ups.

Organisation of ICSE2023 was a major challenge coming after the three previous conferences had been run during the pandemic or soon afterwards, being wholly or predominantly online. Support for hybrid sessions at ICSE2023 was necessary with close to 100 presenters needing support for remote participation, resulting in detailed planning and liaison with the venue.

Several innovations were well received by attendees. The “Conference Party” approach at Melbourne Showtime Event Centre was extremely popular and attendees were effusive in their praise of the venue and activities. The “Australian Animals” at the Conference Reception was a real highlight for most overseas attendees. The ICSE run around Albert Park, the ICSE Tennis, Football and yoga activities, a wide variety of diversity and inclusion events including breakfasts, book club, lunches and activities were all praised as exceptional. The barista cart was a real highlight especially for our non-Melbourne guests experiences the benefits of real Melbourne barista coffee! Exhibitors were very pleased with their booths, locale and support from your team.

On a personal note I would really like to thank you and your ICSMA team for your professionalism, sage advice, range of great ideas for conference activities and support, the very well-run organising team meetings, clear action items and follow-up, and making the overall experience of organising such a major international conference not just a wonderful experience, but a fun one too!

The Lisbon, Portugal team who are running ICSE 2024 will have a very very hard act to follow...

Thank you all again for all of your support for ICSE2023!

Yours Sincerely



John Grundy PhD FASE FIEAust CPEng EngExec
Australian Laureate Fellow and Professor of Software Engineering