WWW 2016 General Chairs' Welcome

We welcome you to this OUVERT (open in English) WWW2016 conference, the 25th of the series, being held at the *Palais des congress* in Montreal. OUVERT is our motto, to show our support and encouragement of the Web's ethos of open data, government, health, education and more.

The annual World Wide Web Conference is the premier international forum to present and discuss progress in research, development, standards, and applications related to the Web and to Web science. WWW is organized under the aegis of the International World Wide Web Conference Committee (IW3C2) in collaboration with local conference organizers of the host country, in this case the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). WWW 2016 offers a unique opportunity for sharing the latest insights of academic and industrial research, as well as to experience Montreal, a vibrant city sharing features form both Europe and North America.

WWW 2016 offers you an opportunity to participate in high quality technical activities, including research sessions, poster sessions, workshops, tutorials, demonstrations, an industry track, a W3C track, panels, and a Ph.D. symposium. Co-located events include the 3nd edition of the Big Data Innovators Gathering (BIG 2016), a 2nd edition of the Entrepreneurs Track (ET), the Digital Health Conference (DH), the Web for All conference (W4A), and a meeting and exhibition by l'Académie québécoise de 'Pataphysique (AQ'P).

A special event on Wednesday night includes a talk, open to the public, by the Baroness Martha Lane Fox entitled "Dot everyone – Power, the Internet and You." We will also have three other keynote speeches by world-class experts: Tim Berners-Lee, Mary-Ellen Zurko, and Peter Norvig. We will also feature a plenary panel on the Web and Creativity chaired by digital musician Andrew Hugill and a Friday panel on "The Web and social action" featuring speakers talking about how the Web can be used to change the world for the better.

The Research track presents 118 high quality papers, 72 posters and 30 demos. The Ph.D. Symposium track has 7 presentations by doctoral students, the Industry track consists of 8 speeches from prominent industrial researchers, and the W3C track is composed of sessions on the latest Web standards and emerging technologies. In addition to the tracks and special programs, workshops and tutorials have been organized to report on-going work and to provide in-depth knowledge on important subjects; this includes 21 workshops and 7 tutorials on a wide range of cutting-edge topics.

Many individuals and institutions contributed by their hard work to the success of this conference. We would especially like to thank the PC chairs, Ian Horrocks and Ben Zhao who put a huge amount of time into making sure the technical tracks were at the high academic level expected of this leading Web Conference. We also thank the track, demo, workshop and tutorial chairs, and the many workshop organisers for selecting the best possible technical content for the conference. We also thank the members of the Local Organizing Committee and the numerous chairs who have devoted significant time to making the conference a success. In shaping the 2016 program, the chairs of the tracks and special programs worked with a large network of program committee members and external reviewers. This conference is also made possible thanks to the generous contribution of the volunteers, and the good organising work of the volunteers' chairs. We would also like to thank our sponsors for their financial contributions, also the members of the IW3C2 Committee, whose guidelines and support proved to be a valuable resource in preparing the conference, and as well OPC, our professional conference organizer team for the highly professional work done on all aspects of the local organization of WWW 2016.

We hope that this conference will be a memorable experience, and that you will have a stimulating and pleasant time during your stay in Montreal.

The WWW 2016 General Chairs

Jacqueline Bourdeau
Tele-university (TELUQ), Montreal, QC, Canada

Jim Hendler
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, USA

Roger Nkambou
Université du Québec à Montréal, Montreal, QC, Canada

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