

EDITORIAL

INFONOR-Chile: International Congress of Computing of Northern Chile

The INFONOR-CHILE Consortium was created in 2009, based on the initiative of a academic group from the universities of northern Chile: Universidad de La Serena (UDLS), Universidad de Tarapacá (UTA), Universidad Arturo Prat (UNAP), Universidad de Atacama (UDA) and Universidad Católica del Norte (UCN). These academics decided to establish a collaboration agreement, membership and organization to carry out annually an International Congress of Computing of the Northern Chile.

The academics, founders of INFONOR-CHILE, sought, from the beginning of the consortium, to establish an event of reference of the South America south-central Andean area and especially of the northern Chile zone, hoping that *“INFONOR-CHILE would become a space for the dissemination of scientific and professional academic activity in the area of Computing and Information Technology, being an instance of interaction between speciality departments of the Universities of the Council of Rectors of Northern Chile (CRUCH)”*.

The First International Congress of Computing and Informatics of the North of Chile, INFONOR-CHILE, was held in the city of Antofagasta between November 15 and 19, 2010. The organization was chaired and carried out by the *Universidad Católica del Norte* and made in conjunction with the Chilean Conference on Computing (JCC). On that occasion, the first Workshop of the specialty was born (Software Engineering, University-Business and Workshop organized by students on current issues, among others). The subsequent versions of the congress have been carried out in an itinerant and rotating manner by the departmental units that constitute the INFONOR - CHILE consortium.

Currently, the INFONOR-CHILE congress is the most important academic/professional/ business event of Computing and Information Technology Engineering in the Macro Center Andean Zone and the North of Chile, and it is carried out in a collaborative manner, uniting the efforts of Departments and Areas of Computer and Information Technology Engineering from universities belonging to CRUCH located in the north of Chile: *Universidad de Tarapacá* (Arica), *Universidad Arturo Prat* (Iquique), *Universidad Católica del Norte* (Antofagasta), *Universidad de Atacama* (Copiapó) and invited Universities of South of Peru.

The International Congress of Computing and Informatics of Northern Chile, in its eighth version was held in the city of Arica between October 16 and 20, 2017, with the participation of speakers of national and international relevance, and incorporating a relevant number of Workshops in different areas of Computing and Information Technology.

In particular, the following events were held: the I Workshop on Training in University Ethics, the I Workshop on Data and Knowledge Engineering (WDKE), the V Workshop on Automation and Robotics, and the VII Engineering Education Workshop, all in the framework of the VIII INFONOR-CHILE International Congress. Additionally, the event, once again, incorporated the joint accomplishment of the Chilean Conference on Computing, which included another series of presentations and workshops, making this congress one of the most relevant in the region in terms of duration and assistance. The

total number of participants for the event was 583 people, most of them undergraduate and graduate students, academics and professionals.

Initially, 33 research papers were submitted to the main INFONOR-CHILE event, of which 20 were accepted. The selected articles consider contributions to areas as diverse as Software Engineering, Data and Knowledge Engineering, Robotics and Automation, Artificial Intelligence and Applications, Vision and Mixes of Realities and Emerging Technologies. Finally, the Program Committee, made up of leading national and international researchers, selected, in a second review process, according to the parameters established by INGENIARE, the ten most outstanding articles to be published in this journal.

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