

Service Award Winner

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the IEEE Technical Committee of Data Engineering for the 2018 TCDE Service award. It cites my long time involvement in the ICDE Conferences, clearly confirming Woody Allen observation that eighty percent of success is just showing up. Since receiving this award makes me officially an old-timer, I will reminisce briefly about the early years of the Data Engineering conference.

The conference was started by C.V. Ramamoorthy (who coined the term Data Engineering) and Gio Wiederhold. After the first five years in Los Angeles, the conference became well established and was ready to make the next step. The people who by then were running the conference (Mike Liu, Bruce Berra, and Benjamin Wah) made several decisions that significantly expanded its international reach and scope. The first, was to make the conference truly international by organizing it outside of US, in Europe, Asia, and Texas. The second, was to create of a companion event single topic, fully reviewed Workshops on Research Issues in Data Engineering (RIDE). The first RIDE in Kobe was organized by Yahiko Kambayashi and Ahmed Elmagarmid and started a successful series that lasted 15 years. By the turn of the century, the governance of ICDE was codified in the By-laws developed under the leadership of Erich Neuhold, which created an organizational structure that functions without major changes until today.

In the 35 years since its inception ICDE visited 4 continents, significantly expanded its thematic scope, and branched into the new areas that did not exist 30 years ago. It was always open to new ideas, not afraid to bring in new people and new exciting topics, never dull, and never much interested in what Mike Stonebraker called polishing a round ball.

There are many people who made great contributions to ICDE and to the field of Data Engineering. I would like to congratulate the leaders of TCDE for their excellent idea to recognize them through annual awards. I would also like to congratulate my fellow co-awardees. And still the best advice that I can give to our younger colleagues is: keep showing up.

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