

# Preface

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The International Telecommunications Society (ITS) convened its 17th Biennial Conference in Montréal, 24–27 June 2008. The conference was organized by the Université de Sherbrooke, on the initiative of Professor Anastassios Gentzoglani, Organizing Committee Chair. There was also a main sponsor and corporate host – TELUS – represented by Dr Stephen Schmidt, Organizing Committee Co-chair, and supported by Organizing Committee Co-chair Stanford L. Levin, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, and Program Chair Richard Schultz, McGill University.

Looking back, it was in 1997 that a major ITS conference took place in North America. The industry and research have certainly moved a long way, facing new technologies and regulatory challenges, but the critical methods and policy analyses remain. The title of the conference aptly reflected both the change and the continuity: ‘The Changing Structure of the Telecommunications Industry and the New Role of Regulation’.

The conference was a significant success. The theme attracted a large amount of submissions. In fact, it drew one of the largest pool of submissions to an ITS conference ever, and the was one of the largest ITS conferences ever from all over the world. Conference evaluations were very positive after the event. The conference also brought to the fore new research and policy agendas.

This book is based upon selected and edited conference papers. The editors have been careful to select a wide range of chapters in order to capture the convergence issue from a number of perspectives, and to achieve a historical state of the art. The volume succeeds in providing a multifaceted and rich view of both changing industry structure and for new roles of regulation. The editors and the contributors are to be congratulated for a timely book.

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