

BPM 2013 in Beijing: Process Management is Maturing

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The **International Business Process Management Conference** is the leading scientific BPM conference series attracting each year around 300 BPM experts (academics, analysts, developers, and practitioners). This year the BPM conference was held place in Beijing, China and was organized by Tsinghua University (consistently ranked in the top 3 of Chinese universities). BPM experts from 28 countries attended the conference and discussed the state-of-the-art in process management (<http://bpm2013.tsinghua.edu.cn/>).

Keynotes were given by Tom Baeyens (CEO of Effektiv), prof. Noshir Contractor (director of the Science of Networks in Communities Research Group at Northwestern University), and dr. Xiang Gao (general manager of the Management Information System Department of China Mobile). Moreover, authors of accepted papers presented new scientific breakthroughs related to process mining, conformance checking, data-orientation, declarative styles of process modeling, case handling, process architectures, collaboration, and model repositories. Various innovative BPM tools were also presented.

At the opening of BPM 2013, the **BPM Tool Database** was presented. This database is available online via <http://bpm-conference.org/>. The BPM Tool Database is searchable based on desired characteristics. For example, one can search for an editor supporting BPMN and Petri nets running on Windows or a process mining tool supporting both discovery and conformance checking. The BPM Tool Database initiative was triggered by the growing importance of BPM tooling and the need to share software and datasets. Currently there are about 50 BPM tools in the database including business process modeling tools, business process analysis tools (e.g., simulation, verification, and process mining), business process intelligence tools, workflow management systems, and BPM suites.

This year the first **BPM Test of Time Award** was awarded to Stefanie Rinderle, Manfred Reichert, and Peter Dadam for their paper "Evaluation of Correctness Criteria for Dynamic Workflow Changes" presented at BPM 2003 in Eindhoven. The BPM Test of Time Award is given to the most influential paper presented at BPM a decade ago. The decision was made by the Steering Committee of the BPM conference series and was based on the impact of the paper on the BPM field (both from a scientific and practical viewpoint), number of citations (Google Scholar and Scopus), technical quality, and presentation. The award winning paper compares actual approaches dealing with adaptive workflows using a set of fundamental criteria. The work focuses on correctness measures to decide whether a process instance can be smoothly migrated to a modified process model or not. Many authors published papers on workflow flexibility since the mid-nineties. In fact, it has been

one of the hotspots in BPM research. However, most of the earlier approaches focused on a specific technique or problem rather than a comparative analysis and a comprehensive set of criteria. Yet, there are various notorious dynamic change problems that need to be considered urgently. As such, this paper was an important step towards a more mature treatment of the topic. Today, the topic of flexibility and workflow change is still of the utmost relevance.

The **BPM 2013 Best Paper Award** was won by Chathura Ekanayake, Marlon Dumas, Luciano García-Bañuelos, and Marcello La Rosa for their paper "Slice, Mine and Dice: Complexity-Aware Automated Discovery of Business Process Models". The **BPM 2013 Best Student Paper Award** was won by Jorge Munoz-Gama for the paper "Conformance Checking in the Large: Partitioning and Topology" (co-authored by Josep Carmona and Wil van der Aalst).

The **BPM 2013 panel** discussed the need to share BPM software and data, and also revisited the ongoing discussion on the **BPM Use Cases**. An initial set of 20 BPM Use Cases was presented at BPM 2012 (http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-32885-5_1) and was further detailed in Business Process Management: A Comprehensive Survey, ISRN Software Engineering, 2013 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2013/507984>). Authors of BPM 2013 papers could indicate the BPM Use Cases they aim to support and report missing ones. Moreover, people were encouraged to propose additional use cases or alternative ways to structure the BPM discipline. See <http://wwwis.win.tue.nl/~wvdaalst/etc/BPM-Use-Cases/BPM-Use-Cases.htm> for the preliminary results and ongoing discussion. The next goal is to create a special issue of the BISE (Business & Information Systems Engineering) journal by Springer, related to the BPM Use cases.

Over the past decade, the BPM conference has built its reputation by showcasing leading-edge research of the highest quality together with talks, tutorials and discussions by the most renowned thought leaders and innovators in the field. The BPM conference series embraces the diversity and richness of the BPM field and serves as a melting pot for experts from a mix of disciplines including Computer Science, Information Systems Management, Services Science and Technology Management. For **BPM 2014** taking place in Haifa, Israel, eight main topics areas have been identified. BPM experts are encouraged to discuss these topic areas via the BPM 2014 blogs and to submit their best papers to the conference.

See <http://bpm2014.haifa.ac.il/> for more information about the BPM 2014 in Haifa and the eight topic areas.

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