We welcome you to New York and *WWW2004*, the thirteenth conference in the series organized by the International World Wide Web Conference Committee. This should be both an exciting conference and a very enjoyable experience. New York is a center of communications, media, education, finance, and international relations – all areas that are increasingly Web-dependent and Web-intensive. Attendees and special seminars will reflect those interests.

The Program Co-Chairs, Marc Najork and Craig Wills, and the superb international Program Committee, have rigorously selected the Refereed Track and Alternate Track papers as well as the Posters. They have been very selective, and as usual, the quality of papers is very high. You can find information on all of these contributions on the CD and in the conference series archive. The technical focus of the world of the Web continues to shift, and this is reflected in the content of this conference.

We hope you find the conference enjoyable, the content insightful, and that it helps move the WWW forward and onward.

Stuart Feldman

Vice President, Internet Technology, IBM

Michael Uretsky *Director, NYU Center for Advanced Technology*