Refereed papers: Selection and referee process

The Conference Proceedings is a scientific document. Apart from the Refereed Papers, it contains contributions from the keynote speakers as well as Poster Presentations (where authors had to discuss their work with conference delegates in a Poster session). Non-refereed contributions were presented at the Conference, but are not included in the proceedings. The keynote speakers were chosen by the Scientific Committee Chairs with the members of the Scientific Committee.

A Scientific Committee of notable academics and practitioners was identified by the Conference Chairs. After the 'Call for Abstracts' the Scientific Committee performed the process of selecting abstracts according to a strict scoring procedure in which a cut-off line was established for quality purposes. Four to five members of the Scientific Committee were then appointed as referees for each of the Conference Themes. The referees reviewed the draft papers blind, following which their comments and recommendations on the papers were sent back to the Scientific Committee chairs. All communication with authors was performed by the Scientific Committee chairs only, with no contact between referees and authors. The final papers were collated by the Scientific Committee chairs and checked for adjustment according to the referee recommendations.

The papers were required to follow the scientific method of citation and referencing. Refereed Paper authors received a template regarding format and method of citation and referencing. The editor of the Proceedings finally checked all the refereed papers for completeness and rigour in terms of the citation and referencing method.

Refereed papers were displayed as 'draft papers' – marked as such with a watermark over the text – on the Conference website before the start of the Conference to stimulate debate.

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The Scientific Committee: African Perspectives 2009

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