



## **B-IT Press Release**

### **Honours for B-IT Media Informatics Alumni**

Recent alumni of the B-IT Media Informatics Programme received some major honours in the context of the European Erasmus-Mundus Scholarship programme.

The “European Master of Informatics (EuMI)” is one of the earliest and most successful among the currently ca. 80 EU-sponsored double degree scholarship programs within Erasmus-Mundus. In EuMI, B-IT Media Informatics cooperates with RWTH Aachen’s Software Systems Engineering Programme as well as with master programmes of the Universities of Trento (Italy) and Edinburgh (UK) which have achieved top places in their recent national research rankings. Since 2004, the EU supports years of student intake with 20 to 35 generous scholarships awarded in a competitive process from among roughly 500 applicants from all over the world. Up to now, a total of 94 scholarships have been awarded. The German EuMI participation is coordinated by Professors Matthias Jarke and Gerhard Lakemeyer (Information Systems and Knowledge-Based Systems Group, RWTH Aachen).

In the first general assembly of all past and present scholarship holders held in Trento, Best Student awards were presented to graduates of the first two EuMI years. For the first year, the winner was Yong Li from China, who came to B-IT with a bachelor degree from Tsinghua University and wrote his master thesis on integration and transformation of data models under the supervision of Professors Matthias Jarke (Aachen) and Alan Bundy (Edinburgh). After publishing several prestigious papers from his thesis work, Yong Li is now back in China as Chief Software Engineer of the Chinese subsidiary of a small German software house specializing in water management. Also, within the second graduation year, two Media Informatics graduates, Mahmoud el Gayyar and Siddhu Warriar, were placed among the top 3 graduates. Mr. Gayyar has meanwhile joined the group of Professor Armin B. Cremers, the supervisor of his Master’s thesis, within in the GLOWA Volta project. The GLOWA Volta project is an interdisciplinary project supporting sustainable water resource management in the Volta Basin and is carried out together with the Center for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn. Mr Gayyar has meanwhile taken up his PhD studies under the supervision of Professor Cremers.

Erasmus-Mundus has formed a Europe-wide student and alumni association EMA among its so far 4700 current and previous scholarship holders. In the presence of EU Commissioner Jan Figel, our graduate Taghi Pakshima was elected as founding Vice President of EMA in early 2008.

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