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## FOREWORD

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### Special Section on Recent Development of Electro-Mechanical Devices

The IEICE Technical Committee on Electro-Mechanical devices (EMD) has a long history on research activities in the fields of mechanical switching and connecting devices, such as mechanical relays, switches, and connectors to be used for delivering and/or controlling electrical signals and power. The research topics are also related to optical connectors. Those devices have been widely used in various industrial fields, and are serving as important key components. In order to improve their reliabilities and realize advanced performances, further research and development (R&D) activities in the related fields have been strongly required, and many interesting R&D results have been reported.

This year's special section includes one of such recent results, which is believed to attract many readers' interests and surely provide advantageous and beneficial technical achievements in the related research fields.

Lastly, I would like to express my great thanks to the members of the Special Section Editorial Committee. Especially, I greatly appreciate Prof. Yoshiki Kayano, Secretary of the Committee, for his dedicated contribution to editorial task of this special section.

#### Special Section Editorial Committee Members

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Makoto Hasegawa (Chitose Institute of Science and Technology), Guest Editor-in-Chief

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**Makoto Hasegawa** (*Senior Member*) received his B.E., M.E. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from Keio University, Yokohama, Japan, in 1986, 1988 and 1991, respectively. After spending several years in industry, Dr. Hasegawa is now a Professor at the Department of Opto-Electronic System Engineering, Chitose Institute of Science and Technology, Japan. He is currently involved in researches on electrical contact phenomena and related measuring techniques, as well as optical sensing techniques, and also on physics and engineering education. Prof. Hasegawa is now serving as a member, representing Japan, of the ICEC (International Conference on Electrical Contacts) Advisory Group. Prof. Hasegawa is a senior member of IEEE, and a member of Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan (IEEJ), Japan Society of Applied Physics (JSAP), Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE), Physics Education Society of Japan, and Japan Association for College and University Education.

