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## FOREWORD

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### Special Section on Award-winning Papers

In the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE), valuable publications of transactions and excellent discussions at technical committee conferences are continuously done in Japanese. Furthermore, the Information and Systems Society (ISS) has both English and Japanese editions of the IEICE Transactions of Information and Systems. Many contents in the Japanese edition have worth to be known not only in Japan but also in the world. Furthermore, IEICE and ISS annually provide best paper awards for outstanding papers in the English and the Japanese editions in the transaction. This special section titled “Special section on award-winning paper” has been organized to let such papers in the Japanese edition be known in the world. For the purpose, we selected recently awarded papers in the Japanese edition for this special section. Every paper in this special section is not its translated version but its extended paper to explain its research and recent progress.

I hope papers in the special section are read by researchers and engineers widely and their contents help the improvement of their research and development so that they contribute to the progress of science and engineering of information and systems.

On behalf of this special section editorial committee, I would like to express our appreciation to all of the authors for submitting their excellent papers. I would also like to thank the editorial committee members and the reviewers for their contributions and valuable comments during the reviewing process.

Special Section Editorial Committee Members:

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Yukihiro Yamashita (Tokyo Institute of Technology), Guest Editor-in-Chief

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**Yukihiro Yamashita** (*Member*) was born in 1960 in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan. He received the B.E., the M.E., and the Dr. Eng. degrees from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1983, 1985, and 1993, respectively. From 1985 to 1988 he was with the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute. From 1988 to 1989 he was with the ISAC Corporation. In 1989 he joined the faculty of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, where he is now an associated professor of the School of Environment and Society of Engineering. His research interests include pattern recognition and image processing. He received a Paper Award in 1993 from the Institute of Electronics, Information, and Communication Engineers of Japan (IEICE).

