
FOREWORD

Special Section on Feature Topics on Latest Trends in Optical Networks

We have observed the steady progress that has been made in optical networking technologies thanks to of the extensive efforts made in the research and development of optical networks. We believe that further progress should be made as optical networks are expected to play important roles in future broadband and ubiquitous networks by expanding the network capacity, providing high-quality communication service, and improving reliability. This special section aims to promote better understanding of the latest trend in optical networks and to promote further research and development.

A distinctive feature of this special section is to serve IEICE Communications Society members by providing a continuously-available source of comprehensive and leading-edge articles covering optical networking technologies as described by leading experts, which we believe is a first attempt in IEICE Transactions on Communications. To this end, and different to the other ordinary special sections of this journal, we encouraged authors to prepare papers covering the latest trends as well as their original works in a tutorial style. Also, we formed a small editorial committee, consisting of distinguished researchers in the field to confirm the implementation of this editorial policy.

We received 20 submissions from 10 countries including the USA, European and Asian countries, as well as Japan. All papers were peer-reviewed, and after careful consideration and intensive discussion by the editorial committee, 10 papers were selected for publication. Those papers cover a broad area, but are concerned with important issues of recent and future optical networks: "Traffic engineering and Multi-layer networking," "Standard and Interoperability," "Protection and Restoration," and "Systems and Technologies." The editorial committee hopes that from this special section, readers will obtain up-to-date knowledge and the indications of future directions for optical networks, even though a reader might not be so familiar with the field.

Finally, all members of the editorial committee would like to express our sincere appreciation to the authors and reviewers for their contributions to make this such an excellent special section.

Masayuki Murata, Guest Editor-in-Chief

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