FOREWORD

Special Section on Advanced Image Technology

International Workshop on Advanced Image Technology, IWAIT2006, was held at Naha city, Okinawa, Japan, from January 9 through 10, 2006. The conference provides a forum for research scientists of universities and industries who are interested in the field of advanced image technology and multimedia systems. This workshop has been annually held in Eastern and South Eastern Asian countries such as Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Hong Kong since 1998. IWAIT2006 was very successful and published 172 papers.

This special section has been planned in conjunction with IWAIT2006, but it is not limited to the papers which appeared in IWAIT2006. Following the success of IWAIT2006, this special section was very well received and 72 papers were submitted to this special section. An editorial committee was formed and took in charge of the review process. Finally, 24 papers including one short paper were accepted through rigorous review process. We also invited Prof. Hiroshi Yasuda of Univ. of Tokyo who was the keynote speaker of IWAIT2006 for featuring this special section. We are very pleased to publish these high quality papers which cover wide variety of topics of the current image technology. We would like to thank to all the authors who submitted their valuable works and all reviewers who contributed for reviewing them.

Finally the editorial committee members are listed below. As a guest chief editor, I would like to thank all the members for their contribution. Especially, I would like to appreciate Dr. Manabe who served as a secretary. Without his effort this special section would never appear.

Special Section Editorial Committee:
Secretaries: Yoshitsugu Manabe (Nara Institute of Science and Technology), Akira Utsumi (ATR)
Members: Akira Kubota (Tokyo Institute of Technology), Hirohisa Jozawa (NTT Resonant), Toshihiko Yamasaki (University of Tokyo), Ken Tsutsuguchi (NTT), Toshiaki Fujii (Nagoya University), Shinichi Sakaida (NHK), Kenichi Morooka (Kyushu University), Kazuya Kodama (National Institute of Informatics), Ryoichi Kawada (KDDI)

Kiyoharu Aizawa, Guest Chief Editor (University of Tokyo)

Kiyoharu Aizawa *(Member)* received the B.E., the M.E. and the Dr.E. in electrical engineering all from the University of Tokyo in 1983, 1985, 1988 respectively. He is currently a Professor of the Department of Information and Communication Engineering of the University of Tokyo. He was a visiting assistant professor at University of Illinois from 1990 to 1992. His current research interests are in image processing and multimedia. He receives a number of awards for his research achievements. He received the 1987 Young Engineer Award and the 1990, 1998 Best Paper Award, the 1991 Achievement Award, 1999 Electronics Society Award from the IEICE Japan, and the 1998 Fujio Frontier Award the 2002, 2005 Best Paper Award from ITE Japan. He received IBM Japan Science Prize 2002. He serves as Associate Editor of IEEE Trans. on Multimedia, and is on the editorial board of the IEEE Signal Processing Magazine, the Journal of Visual Communications. He has served for many national and international conferences including IEEE ICIP. He was the General Chair of SPIE VCIP99, and the program-co-chair of Pacific Rim Conference on Multimedia PCM2004 and is co-chair of Short Paper Track of ACM Multimedia 2005. He is a member of IEEE, ITE, ACM.