FOREWORD

Special Section on Advances in Modeling for Real-world Speech Information Processing and its Application

Speech information processing has been expected as a key technology to realize natural and user-friendly interface systems between human and machine. Statistic approaches based on large amount of data, such as Hidden Markov Model (HMM), have improved the performance of speech recognition and speech synthesis. Some applications, like speech recognition for question-answer on mobile phones, speech synthesis of reading and singing voice, and so on, are accepted as useful services or tools. The behaviors of human speech in the real world spreads over wide ranges and the modeling techniques of speech with broad varieties is one of considerable issues for the success of developing speech information processing applications. This special section aims to further promote research of speech information processing technology and development of attractive applications.

The Editorial Committee received 21 submissions including a letter and 20 full papers. We selected 11 full papers for publication through careful and strict reviews. The accepted works cover voice conversion, speech synthesis, speech recognition, dialog system, and so on. We hope that this special section contributes to the success and progress of speech information processing techniques in realistic environments.

The Editorial Committee would like to appreciate all the authors for their submissions, and the reviewers for their considerable efforts to maintain the quality of the selected papers at the high level under a tight schedule. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the Editorial Committee Members for their outstanding voluntary efforts during the entire editorial processes.

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Yoichi Yamashita, Guest Editor-in-Chief

Yoichi Yamashita *(Member)* received his B.E., M.E. and Dr.Eng. degrees from Osaka University in 1982, 1984 and 1993, respectively. He has worked for the Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research of Osaka University as a Technical Official, a Research Associate, and an Assistant Professor from 1984 to 1997. In 1997, he joined Ritsumeikan University as an Associate Professor in the College of Science and Engineering. He is currently a Professor in the College of Information Science and Engineering. His research interests include speech synthesis, speech communication, and spoken document processing. He is a member of ASJ, IPSJ, JSAI, ISCA, and IEEE.