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## FOREWORD

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### Special Section on Enriched Multimedia—Creation of a New Society through Value-added Multimedia Content—

Whether we are aware of it or not, multimedia signal processing is now a fundamental part of our daily lives. For instance, lots of people these days regularly share high-quality images, videos, and music with their smartphones. State-of-the-art signal processing technologies are needed in such an information-rich environment. The explosion of multimedia content on the Internet has also created a demand for content protection in the form of security and privacy countermeasures, and content integration and evaluation based on media properties are essential components of an enriched multimedia landscape.

This is the backdrop against which we publish this special section in IEICE Transactions on Information and Systems. We invited submissions over a wide range of enriched multimedia focus points based on four keywords related to content value: Protect/Develop/Create/Measure.

The editorial committee received 20 papers, including one invited paper. After deep and intensive review, the editorial committee has selected 11 papers offering high-quality and outstanding research results. We believe that the work presented in this special section is representative of the recent progress in Enriched Multimedia. We hope our readers will share this view and earmark this special section as a reference for their own future research.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors and reviewers for their dedicated efforts. I would especially like to thank Prof. Michiharu Niimi of the Kyushu Institute of Technology and Dr. Ryouichi Nishimura of NICT, Guest Editors of this special section, for their excellent organization of the entire editing process.

Special Section Editorial Committee:

Guest Editors: Michiharu Niimi (Kyushu Institute of Technology), Ryouichi Nishimura (NICT)

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Isao Echizen, Guest Editor-in-Chief

**Isao Echizen** (*Senior Member*) received B.S., M.S., and D.E. degrees from the Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1995, 1997, and 2003. He joined Hitachi, Ltd. in 1997 and until 2007 was a research engineer in Hitachi's Systems Development Laboratory. He is currently a professor at the National Institute of Informatics (NII). He was a visiting professor at the University of Freiburg in 2010 and a visiting professor at the University of Freiburg and the University of Halle-Wittenberg in 2011. He is currently conducting research in the content security/privacy and multimedia application systems fields. He received the President's Technology Award from Hitachi in 2000, the Best Paper Award from the Information Processing Society of Japan (IPSJ) in 2005 and 2014, the Best Paper Award at IEEE IJHMSP in 2006, the Fujio Frontier Award and the Image Electronics Technology Award in 2010, the IPSJ Nagao Special Researcher Award in 2011, and the 13th Docomo Mobile Science Award in 2014. He is an editorial board member of the Journal of Business & Information Systems Engineering (Wirtschaftsinformatik) and of the Journal of Innovation in Digital Ecosystems, Elsevier, and an associate editor of Multidimensional Systems and Signal Processing, Springer. He is a WG Secretary of IFIP TC8-information systems: WG8.4-E-Business Information Systems: Multi-disciplinary research and practice. He is also a committee member of SIG Enriched MultiMedia (SIG-EMM) of IEICE.

