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## FOREWORD

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### Special Section on Semantic Web and Linked Data

Semantic technologies are becoming much more important for the era of open science, open innovation, and open data. Knowledge representation and ontology, information retrieval and extraction, natural language processing and artificial intelligence techniques including data mining methods are major topics of interest. These technologies are not only novel and significant research topics, but also contribute current benefits and future innovation as concrete and practical applications, in contexts ranging from industry to government.

This special section was planned to compile papers of the recent research and application works related to the topics above, in conjunction with the 15th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC 2016). ISWC 2016 is the annual premier event for presenting fundamental research, innovative technology, and applications concerning semantics, data, and the Web, and was held in Kobe, Japan, on October 2016 for the first time in twelve years. The editorial board of this special section has been formed in strong cooperation with the special interest group on semantic web and ontology of the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence and the special interest group on artificial intelligence of the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers, aiming to promote the related studies and collaborative works with industry and government in Japan.

The editorial committee received 14 papers, including a system development paper and a letter. After the intensive review, the editorial committee has selected six papers that offer wonderful works on research and application results. Selected papers include a variety of interesting topics, such as rule-based approach, machine learning approach, evaluations, and applications for emergency situations and urban problems.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors and reviewers for their dedicated efforts. I would especially appreciate Assoc. Prof. Naoki Fukuta of Shizuoka University and Assoc. Prof. Koji Kozaki of Osaka University, Guest Editors of this special section, for their excellent works.

Special Section Editorial Committee Members:

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**Takahiro Kawamura** (*Member*) is a senior researcher in Japan Science and Technology Agency. He is also a visiting associate professor in the Graduate School of Informatics and Engineering at the University of Electro-Communications, and a part-time lecturer in the Graduate School of Engineering at Osaka University. From 2001 to 2002, he was a visiting researcher in Robotics Institute, Carnegie Mellon University. His research interests include semantic web, knowledge graph, and software agent. He was a board member of the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence (JSAI) from 2012 to 2013. He received the 10-Year Award from the 11th International Semantic Web Conference 2012.

