FOREWORD

Special Section on Picture Coding and Image Media Processing

It is our great pleasure to publish this special section on Picture Coding and Image Media Processing. Since its first meeting in 1986, Picture Coding Symposium of Japan (PCSJ) has earned a reputation as the largest symposium on picture coding technologies in Japan. Another symposium, Image Media Processing Symposium (IMPS), was first held in conjunction with the 10th PCSJ meeting in 1996. Since then, PCSJ/IMPS have been jointly held every year and collecting a broad spectrum of academic and industrial research presentations. The special section dedicated to PCSJ/IMPS-related topics started in 2007 as a letter-only section in the Japanese edition of the IEICE Transactions on Information and Systems, and then has been open to full paper submissions since 2014. The English version of the special section on the same topics was launched in 2017. After that, both the Japanese and English versions of the special section have been published every year by the common editorial committee.

This year, the editorial committee received 5 submissions in Japanese and 10 submissions in English (including 2 letters), respectively. Unfortunately, none of the Japanese papers were selected after a rigorous review process, and as a result, the special section that was scheduled for this month's issue of the Japanese edition of the IEICE Transactions had to be cancelled. The cancellation was made for two years in a row. We kindly ask for your understanding regarding this matter. On the other hand, the editorial committee has finally selected 6 English papers (including a letter) that offer high-quality and outstanding research results. Those papers cover a range of topics including visual content compression, image signal processing, and their applications.

I would like to thank the referees and the editorial committee members for their dedicated efforts. I would also like to express my gratitude to Guest Editors, Dr. Shunsuke Iwamura of NHK, Dr. Kyohei Unno of KDDI Research, Prof. Akira Kubota of Chuo University, and Prof. Keita Takahashi of Nagoya University, for excellent organization of the entire editing process. I hope that this special section contributes to the continued success and growth of picture coding and image media processing research community.

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Ichiro Matsuda, Guest Editor-in-Chief

Ichiro Matsuda (*Senior Member*)   received the B.E., M.E. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from Tokyo University of Science, in 1991, 1993 and 1996, respectively. In 1996, he joined the Department of Electrical Engineering, Tokyo University of Science, Japan, where he has been a professor since 2014. His main research interests cover image and video coding and processing. He is a member of IEEE, IPSJ, and ITE.