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## FOREWORD

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### Special Section on Info-Plosion

The “New IT Infrastructure for the Info-plosion Era” research project gained approval for funding from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 2005 after a year of application screening. Research by the planned research project groups and solicited research project teams began in 2006. By its fourth year in 2009 the project had generated promising results, thus we decided to compile a special issue featuring selected research papers.

This project explores the “info-plosion” – a new term created by combining “information” and “explosion.” It represents a major challenge in the field of information in the 21st century. Various issues arising from the explosion of information were identified by creating the term info-plosion, and research groups to study these issues were formed.

The style of info-plosion research is different to that of ordinary projects where the developmental goal is set and systems are built to achieve that goal. The interdisciplinary nature of the info-plosion research project attracted a lot of attention from many researchers not directly involved, and we were able to collect research papers from these people in addition to those from the group members.

Value creation through info-plosion is an enabler for the 21st century. Our research project is similar to the research on cyber physical systems started in the US in 2006 and IBM’s Smarter Planet Initiative. All these projects focus on creating value by strategically utilizing vast amounts of diverse information. We hope that the publication of this special issue will further stimulate research into the info-plosion.

The special issue consists of English and Japanese editions. The English edition received 42 articles of which 13 were selected for publication, while the Japanese Edition received 41 articles of which 22 were selected. As the Chair, I would like to express my gratitude to the editorial committee members who dedicated their time and effort in reviewing and selecting these papers.

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Masaru Kitsuregawa, Guest Editor-in-Chief

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**Masaru Kitsuregawa** (*Fellow*) is currently a Professor and the director of the Center for Information Fusion at Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo in Japan. He received the Ph.D degree in information engineering in 1983 from the University of Tokyo. His research interests include parallel processing and database engineering. He is a member of steering committee of IEEE ICDE and Asian Coordinator for IEEE TKDE, and has been a trustee of the VLDB Endowment. He is currently a trustee of DBSJ. Recently he was awarded ACM SIGMOD E. F. Codd Innovation Award.

