FOREWORD

Special Section on Face Perception and Recognition

In the past decade, a multidisciplinary research area has been rapidly increasing that focuses on face perception and recognition to understand the face processing mechanism by employing approaches from psychology, cognitive science, engineering, and both clinical and basic medicine. Based on recent progress in measurement technologies, engineering approaches to face perception and recognition have also advanced. These researches are prevalent not only in engineering but also in collaboration with neuroscience and psychology, creating new capabilities in such industrial areas as medicine, cosmetics, healthcare, and entertainment. This special section's focuses on publishing the recent progress and state-of-the-art in these and related areas of face perception and recognition.

In August 2011, the editorial committee met during the annual symposium on face perception and recognition and decided to collect the recent advancements in facial studies from the engineering field. We received 18 submissions from various approaches to facial studies. The following year the editorial committee met in Tokyo and carefully re-reviewed the papers and made its final decisions. As a result of a rigorous reviewing process, this special section accepted seven papers that provide wide coverage of this unique research problem and its solutions in the areas of face perception and recognition. We are confident that our readers will find the articles rewarding and inspiring for further research in this field.

On behalf of the Editorial Committee, I express my sincere gratitude to all the authors for their valuable contributions and also to all the reviewers whose considerable efforts helped maintain the high quality of the selected papers. I would also like to thank all the Editorial Committee members as well as the board members of the Japanese Academy of Facial Studies who made this special issue possible.

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Shigeru Akamatsu (Member)   received B.S., M.S., and PhD degrees in Mathematical Engineering and Instrumentation Physics in 1975, 1977, and 1994 from the University of Tokyo. In 1977, he joined the NTT Electrical Communications Laboratories. From 1992 through 2001, he was with the ATR Human Information Processing Research Laboratories, Kyoto, where he was the head of Department 2. Since 2001, he has been a professor at Hosei University, Tokyo. His research interests include pattern recognition, image processing, computer vision, computer graphics, and cognitive studies of human high level vision, with a special interest in face recognition.