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## FOREWORD

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### Special Section on Formal Approach

Formal methods and techniques play a key role in the design and development of highly reliable information systems, including both hardware and software. The last decades have seen various new techniques and deep theoretical results using formal methods in remarkably many fields such as modeling, requirements analysis, specification, code generation, testing, verification, maintenance, reuse, and security.

The Special Section on Formal Approach aims at stimulating research on all aspects of formal approach to information systems, ranging from fundamental theory to case studies in practical systems. In response to the Call for Papers, twelve papers were submitted, out of which six papers were authored or coauthored by foreign researchers. After a thorough and careful review process, the editorial committee selected five papers of exceptional quality which prove the significance and importance of formal approach research.

On behalf of the editorial committee of the Special Section, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who submitted their valuable papers. I am also grateful to the external reviewers and the editorial committee members, especially Guest Editors Dr. Kazuhiro Ogata and Dr. Shoji Yuen, for their careful and devoted efforts towards the success of the Special Section and the progress of formal approach.

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Yasunori Ishihara, Guest Editor-in-Chief

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**Yasunori Ishihara** (*Member*) received the B.E., M.E., and Ph.D. degrees in information and computer sciences from Osaka University in 1990, 1992, and 1995, respectively. In 1994, he joined the faculty of Graduate School of Information Science, Nara Institute of Science and Technology. From 1999 to 2002, he was an Assistant Professor of Department of Informatics and Mathematical Science, Osaka University. Since April 2002, he has been an Associate Professor of Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, Osaka University. His research interests include database theory and information security. He is a member of ACM, IEEE, and IPSJ.

