Editor's Message to Special Issue on Intelligent Transportation Systems and Mobile Communication Supporting Relationship among People with Society

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To realize safe and comfort life by supporting relationships between us with society, many researches of intelligent transportation systems and mobile communication technology have been carried out. For example, in the area of intelligent transportation systems, a number of proposals have been made; radio communication devices for vehicular terminals such as 802.11p, context aware systems for pedestrians and geographic information systems based on short-range radio communication devices such as RFID and ZigBee, and technical proposal combining them aiming to realize collision free transportation environments.

In the area of mobile communication, also a lot of researches have been carried out; broad band wireless communication devices such as Wi-Fi, WiMAX and LTE, research and development of ad-hoc network and sensor network technology, and personal navigation systems based on such devices and technologies. These research and development areas are important for realizing next generation ubiquitous society.

Research topics of ITS and mobile communications have been discussed in Special Interest Groups of Intelligent Transportation Systems (SIG-ITS) and Mobile Computing and Ubiquitous Communications (SIG-MBL) of IPSJ (Information Processing Society of Japan) and more than 70 excellent papers are presented at workshops of these SIGs each year. Many related papers are also presented at DICOMO symposium (it has been held since 1997 and more than 200 papers are presented each year). This shows the increasing importance and attention of these research topics. Since ITS and mobile communications have close relationship with each other, we need not only deep discussion of each area's topics but also broad discussion of cross-area research topics. Compiling and publishing excellent papers widely in these areas will contribute development and advance of these areas.

To meet the above goal, this special issue has been jointly planned by SIG-ITS and SIG-MBL. Call for papers were issued in January 2013 with the submission deadline April 8, 2013. We receives 30 paper submissions include three technical notes. The editorial committee meetings were held three times on April 16, June 20, and September 11, 2013. Through rigorous review process, finally, the committee accepted 14 papers for publication. The acceptance ratio is about 47%, which is in an average year.

The accepted papers cover wide range of ITS and mobile computing research areas, which consists of 6 papers on traffic estimation on roads, image processing, map and security in ITS, 8 papers on wireless network, simulation, context-aware, location services in mobile computing. Especially, it is worth nothing that most of the accepted papers target new topics which are main research areas in ITS and mobile computing. We believe that we could accept papers well matching the focus of this special issue.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to editorial board, Takaaki Umedu from Shiga University for the nice management of the entire editorial process, editorial committee members, for selecting high quality papers, reviewers for their accurate and timely reviews, and individuals of IPSJ for their contribution to the publication of this special issue.

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