Editor's Message to Special Issue of Collaboration Supports and Network Services for Diverse and Inclusive Society

Hideaki Kanai[1,a]

Today there are many social challenges and expectations such as low birthrate and aging population and globalization in various fields. In order to face with them, it is needed to promote a diverse and inclusive society in where people with various characters such as the elderly, people with disabilities and healthy people can live together and share in a variety of activities. In order to realize the society, it is needed to promote research and development to create collaboration technologies or network services to facilitate diversity and inclusion in the society.

The ICT environment is in a large change; user devices shift from PCs to tablets or smartphones, and data are migrating from terminals to cloud services. Digital fabrication, including 3D printer, which shows a sign of spread, fuses the digital and physical activities for creation. These ICT environmental changes enable us utilize computers and network services at everywhere in our lives, and the information sharing via networks is expected to become a driving force to connect and develop various people's creative activities. It has been building ICT environments for diverse and inclusive society

In this special issue, the editorial committee of the journal had invited paper submissions on collaboration supports and network services for creative society. Topics may cover a wide range of issues associated with information/knowledge sharing, social computing, ubiquitous computing, sensor network services, secure network services, medical treatment or social security, network services for disaster prevention/reduction, collaboration, education/learning, and communication theories and technologies.

Twenty-four papers were submitted to this issue. The first editorial committee meeting was held in April 2016. In this meeting, whether each paper conformed to the topic of this issue was discussed. All papers started this review process.

The second editorial committee meeting was held in June 2016, and the final editorial committee meeting was held in September 2016. After careful discussions based on the peer reviews, 10 papers were accepted for publication (the acceptance rate was around 42%). This special issue includes the following topics on technologies and network services for cooperating with social activities: five papers related to "Group Interaction Support and Groupware," three papers related to "Network Services," and two papers related to "Support for Social Activities." There were number of interesting papers although they were not accepted for this issue. Therefore, the editorial committee wishes the authors of the papers to resubmit their work.

Finally, as guest editor of this special issue, I would like to thank all the authors for their contributions. I also appreciate the voluntary work of all reviewers as well as the enthusiastic contributions of Prof. Hironori EGI and Prof. Akifumi INOUE as Editorial Board, and the other Editorial Committee members listed below.

The Editorial Committee

- **Editor in-Chief:**
  Hideaki Kanai (JAIST)

- **Editorial Board:**
  Hironori Egi (University of Electro-Communications)
  Akifumi Inoue (Tokyo University of Technology)

- **Editorial Committee:**
  Yusuke Ichikawa (NTT)
  Junko Ichino (Kagawa University)
  Satoshi Ichimura (OTSUMA WOMEN'S University)
  Tomoo Inoue (University of Tsukuba)
  Shigeru Uesugi (Waseda University)
  Masao Ohira (Wakayama University)
  Kenichi Okada (Keio University)
  Masayuki Okamoto (Toshiba)
  Satoru Kaneko (IBM Japan Services Company Ltd.)
  Nobutaka Kawaguchi (Hitachi)
  Terunobu Kume (Fujitsu Laboratories)
  Minoru Kobayashi (Meiji University)
  Noriaki Saito (NTT)
  Hideyuki Takada (Ritsumeikan University)
  Satoshi Nakamura (Meiji University)
  Yasuichi Nakayama (University of Electro-Communications)
  Akira Hattori (Komazawa University)
  Atsuo Hazeyama (Tokyo Gakugei University)
  Taku Fukushima (Shizuoka University)
  Hiroyuki Miki (OKI Consulting solutions Co., Ltd.)
  Jun Munemori (Wakayama University)
  Takaya Yuizono (JAIST)
  Hideto Yuzawa (Fuji Xerox)
  Takashi Yoshino (Wakayama University)

1   Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Nomi, Ishikawa 923–1292, Japan
a)   hideaki@jaist.ac.jp