FOREWORD

Special Section on Machine Vision and its Applications

The Twelfth IAPR Conference on Machine Vision Applications, MVA2011, was held at the Nara Centennial Hall, Nara, Japan, from June 13 to 15, 2011. Reflecting the growing expectation and demands for machine vision and its applications, the conference attracted more than 200 submissions from 29 countries. In spite of the earthquake and the nuclear disaster in March, 2011, about 220 participants from 30 countries gathered and enjoyed stimulating and fruitful discussions on these topics. Inspired by the great success of the conference, we planned this special section and asked the conference participants and other researchers in this field to submit papers. We have received 34 papers that cover from basic techniques of machine vision to wide variety of its applications, among which 13 papers (including 3 letters) were selected for publication through a rigorous reviewing process. We believe that all the selected papers show the high quality of current machine vision research and contribute to the next steps in this research field.

The Editorial Committee would like to thank all the authors for their valuable contributions and to all the reviewers for their considerable efforts to maintain the quality of the selected papers high under a tight schedule. Finally, as the Guest Chief Editor, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Editorial Committee Members for their outstanding volunteer efforts during the entire process of publishing this Special Section.

Special Section Editorial Committee
Guest Chief Editor: Yasuyo Kita (AIST)
Guest Associate Editor: Keiji YAMADA (NEC)
Guest Editorial Manager: Yutaka SATOH (AIST)
Members: Yoshimitsu AOKI (Keio University), Mitsuru AMBAI (Denso IT Laboratory), Yen-Wei CHEN (Ritsumeikan University), Kota FUJIMURA (Factory Vision Solutions), Ichiro IDE (Nagoya University), Yoshishisa IJIRI (Omron), Katsushi IKEUCHI (The University of Tokyo), Hiroshi ISHIKAWA (Waseda University), Masataka KAGESAWA (The University of Tokyo), Masatsugu KIDO (NAIST), Koichi KISE (Osaka Prefecture University), Akio KOSAKA (Olympus), Shunsuke KUDOH (The University of Electro-Communications), Yoshinori KUNO (Saitama University), Ken-ichi MAEDA (Toshiba), Atsuto MAKI (Toshiba Research Europe), Takeshi MASUDA (AIST), Hiroshi NAGAHASHI (Tokyo Institute of Technology), Keisuke NAKASHIMA (Hitachi), Kunio NOBORI (Panasonic), Munetoshi NUMADA (Chukyo University), Akio OKAZAKI (Tsukuba University of Technology), Masaki ONISHI (AIST), Hideo SAITO (Keio University), Hiroshi SAKO (Hosei University), Shigeru SASAKI (Fujitsu), Yoichi SATO (The University of Tokyo), Eigo SEGAWA (Fujitsu), Shuji SENDA (NEC), Hisae SHIBUYA (Hitachi), Ikuo SHIMIZU (Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology), Noriko SHIMOMURA (Nissan Motor), Kyoko SUDO (NTT), Johji TAJIMA (Nagoya City University), Yasuhiro TANIGUCHI (Toshiba), Norimichi UKITA (NAIST), Koji WAKIMOTO (Mitsubishi Electric)

Yasuyo Kita (AIST), Guest Chief Editor

Yasuyo Kita (Member) received the B.S. degree in Engineering Science from University of Tsukuba, in 1982 and the Ph.D. degree from Osaka University in 1992. She joined the Electrotechnical Laboratory in 1982 and was a visiting researcher at the Medical Vision Group, Oxford University, from 1997 to 1998. She is now a senior researcher in National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST). Since 2005, she has also been a Professor at Cooperative Graduate School of University of Tsukuba. Her research interests include computer vision, medical image analysis, and robotics.