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## FOREWORD

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### Special Section on Software Reliability Engineering

Software Reliability is regarded as the most important fundamental technology in our highly information oriented society. In IEICE, both Engineering Sciences Society and Information and Systems Society focus on the advanced topics on Software Reliability Engineering from the different points of view on theory and empirical research. This time the IEICE Transactions on Fundamentals of Electronics, Communications and Computer Sciences (A) and Transactions on Information and Systems (D) planned to publish the Joint Special Sections on Software Reliability Engineering, and aimed at publishing high quality papers in this emerging research area and disseminating jointly recent advances on the research topics. In 2011, two major international events; ISSRE 2011 (Nov. 29–Dec. 2, Hiroshima, Japan) and IWSM/MENSURA 2011 (Nov. 3–4, Nara, Japan), were held in Japan, where many related papers were presented.

In the current special sections, we received 29 submissions by the submission deadline on Nov. 24, 2011, from 11 countries, where the distribution of countries is given by; 14 from Japan, 3 from Korea, 2 from China, each 1 from India, Chinese Taipei, Canada and Sweden, 6 mixtures with Japanese authors from USA, Thailand, Germany and Vietnam. Among them, 11 and 5 submissions came from ISSRE 2011 and IWSM/MENSURA 2011, respectively, and the remaining 13 papers were submitted by the general authors. Each submission was handled by an Associate editor, where the full paper and the letter are peer-reviewed by one and two designated reviewers, respectively, in accordance with the common IEICE review discipline. Based on both review results by reviewers and the recommendation by an associate editor, we held three face-to-face guest-editorial meetings of these special sections on November 17, 2011, March 16, 2012 and May 18, 2011, and discussed the status of each submission very carefully. Finally, we accepted 11 full papers and 4 letters for both issues, where the acceptance rate was 51.7% (50.0% for full paper and 57.1% for letter). We are proud to have edited the very high quality special sections in both transactions, based on the much time and efforts by 20 guest-associate editors and our review experts. Unfortunately, some of high quality papers could not accept due to the strict publication schedule and the IEICE editorial policy that two more revisions are not allowed. We expect these authors to re-submit their revised papers to the regular issues in the IEICE Transactions in the future.

Finally, not only reviewing and selecting papers but also communicating with the associate editors, reviewers and authors have been an overwhelming task. No words can express our gratitude to two Guest Editors; Professor Mitsuhiro Kimura, Hosei University, Japan and Professor Kenichi Matsumoto, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Japan, for their excellent jobs. Also we thank all the authors, guest-associate editors and reviewers to their contributions.

#### Editorial Committee of the Special Section

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Tadashi Dohi (Hiroshima Univ.), Guest Editor-in-Chief

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**Tadashi Dohi** (*Member*) received the B.Sc. (Engineering), M.Sc. (Engineering) and Ph.D. (Engineering) degrees from Hiroshima University, Japan, in 1989, 1991 and 1995, respectively. Since 2002, he has been working as a Full Professor in the Department of Information Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Hiroshima University. He is a Regular Member of ORSJ, JSIAM, IEICE, REAJ and IEEE. He served as the General Chairs in several international events such as IEEE 22nd International Symposium on Software Reliability Engineering (ISSRE 2011), The 9th IEEE International Conference on Autonomic and Trusted Computing (ATC 2012), 5th Asia-Pacific International Symposium on Advanced Reliability and Maintenance Modeling (APARM 2012), among others.

