

## Editor's Message to Special Issue on Regional Contribution and Reconstruction

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In order to develop a society of a whole Japan with a sustainable manner, it is not only metropolitan areas but remote local regions should be also developed complementary. The approach for the development becomes increasingly important. In addition, a corporate is strongly requested to contribute to a local community and develop a society with the local community as a part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). On the other hand, a university should contribute to a wide society with their outcomes from research and education, which is also mentioned as a law of Japanese school education. As a result, it is increasingly important for a university to contribute to both a wide and local society.

It had been passed over three years when the Great East Japan Earthquake was occurred on March 11, 2011. In order to become robust with the reconstruction in the region where the disaster was affected, the strong support and development for the regional community are required. In this background, the Journal Special Issue of IPSJ on "Regional Contribution and Reconstruction" was organized and proposed in early 2013, and the Call For Paper for the special issue has been distributed since April, 2013.

The topic of this special issue was considered as follows: "Giving back to a community with intellectual resources and research results", "Development of Information Technology from a regional community" and "Development of human resources to support the region". In the special issue, research papers were submitted with the following schedule, and paper submissions from a wide range of Information Processing Society were expected. Here is the schedule of the Special Issue:

April 15, 2013 : Call for Papers  
October 21, 2013 : Deadline for the paper submission  
April 28, 2014 : Completion of the peer review  
August 2014 : Special Issue to be published

In result, twenty four research papers were submitted to the special issue, and the number of submitted papers was more than one which was estimated at the proposal. The reason is that there are many ongoing research studies which are not limited to a legacy technology area, and many practical research projects on cross technical areas would like to publish their research papers for their outcomes. The initial estimation was that many papers were submitted from the limited specific research area, but those papers were submitted from a wide variety of research areas and not limited to the specific research area. I am sure that this is a

good result for this special issue.

The policy of the paper acceptance: If the degree of the contribution to the regional contribution or the reconstruction is quite higher than the average even if the paper is based on a niche requirement for the research, the paper should be accepted. In addition, two following items are criteria for the policy of the paper review:

1. It was understood that the paper would be hard to re-examine and reproduce the results in this area. In this case, if the paper describes one time examination or execution but the paper includes enough description with a deep consideration, it should be accepted.
2. If the paper contributes to regional contribution or reconstruction well, the degree of the contribution can be applied to compensate the usefulness and reliability for the review criteria. In addition, even if the contribution to a local community or reconstruction is somewhat low but the system itself is highly useful for those areas, the paper should be accepted.

Since this peer review policy was applied, papers that were quite hard to be accepted in ordinary journals have been accepted in the special issue. I believe that it is a large benefit for IPSJ Journal readers. As a result of the review, seven papers could be accepted out of twenty four papers that were submitted to the special issue.

In addition to those research papers, four invited papers are included in the special issue. The authors for four invited paper are leader in area for the regional contribution and reconstruction. It is honor to publish those invited papers on the special issue. Here is the list of four invited papers :

### 1. Invited paper

Authors : Takahito Kamihira, Masaomi Kurishiba, Konomi Sugita, Tadakazu Fukutomi, Masahito Fujiwara, Yoshiaki Hoshino, Kenji Matsunaga (Senshu University)

Title : Contributions to the Local Communities by University Students Studying Informatics

### 2. Invited paper

Author : Yuko Murayama (Iwate Prefectural University)

Title : Issues in Disaster Communications

### 3. Invited paper

Author : Takeshi Hattori (Sophia University)

Title : The Great East Japan Earthquake and Resilient Information and Communication Networks

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4. Invited paper

Author : Haruhiko Okumura (Mie University)  
Title : The 3.11 Disaster and Data

Technology)  
Masayuki Yoshino (Hitachi, Ltd.)

Major outcome from the special issue is the journal publication for multiple technical disciplines with practical approaches with a theme of a regional contribution and reconstruction. In addition, there are many submissions than one that was estimated initially. All committee members could get an exceptional experience though the paper review for the special issue. It is expected to propose the special issue with a similar theme to IPSJ Journal future. As this special issue is a good evidence, a new special issue should be proposed and a flexible review policy will be set by a committee. It is possible to publish many valuable research papers that were hard to be published on a traditional journal.

I would like to thank secretaries and committee members who could plan the special issue, distribute the called for paper, and review those papers. In addition, I appreciate all reviewers who could review those research papers on the special issue. Finally, I highly appreciate that Prof. Bando managed the entire process in a timely manner as a lead secretary of the special issue.

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