

Editor's Message to Special Issue on Mobile Communication and Intelligent Transport Systems for Creating a New Trend in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Society

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Through the rapid spread of smart user devices and the recent advances in the wireless broadband communication technologies, the research and development in mobile communications and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) are entering a new stage. Smartphones provide an open and powerful development platform for researchers and developers. Mobile telecommunication services continue to evolve for providing broader bandwidth to users. They both are expected to be platforms for new location-based and context-aware services. Now it is highly required for us to make use of state-of-the-art technologies in mobile communications and ITS to create a new trend in evolution of ICT society.

Research topics of mobile communications and ITS have been discussed in Special Interest Groups of Mobile Computing and Ubiquitous Communications (SIG-MBL) and Intelligent Transportation System (SIG-ITS) 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 mobile communications and ITS 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. Soliciting 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-MBL and SIG-ITS. Call for papers were issued in December 2011 with the submission deadline April 7, 2012. We received 27 paper submissions including one technical note. The editorial committee meetings were held three times on April 17, June 18, and September 25, 2012. Through rigorous review process, finally, the committee accepted 10 papers for publication. The acceptance ratio is about 37%, which is slightly lower than previous issues.

However, the accepted papers cover wide range of mobile communications and ITS research areas, which consist of two papers on traffic estimation on roads, two papers on position estimation, two papers on route navigation, two papers on inter-vehicle com-

munication application and analysis, and two papers on mobile terminals' security and antenna design. Especially, it is worth noting that most of the accepted papers target new topics utilizing location and context information such as extraction of major line of flow in urban roads, route navigation taking into account battery amount of EVs and locations of EV charging stations, and so on. We believe that we could accept papers well matching the focus of this special issue.

It took many efforts to publish this special issue. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to editorial board, Ayumu Kubota from KDDI Labs 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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