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FOREWORD

Special Section on Machine Vision and its Applications

The Sixteenth IAPR Conference on Machine Vision Applications, MVA2019, took place in Tokyo, Japan, from May 27 through 31, 2019. The conference attracted 162 submissions reflecting the growing expectation and demands for machine vision and its applications. We selected 30 oral and 47 poster presentations (acceptance ration 47.5%), and the conference was held in a friendly atmosphere with very lively discussions, including a panel session and extremely stimulating keynote lectures. Inspired by the success of the conference, we planned this special issue and asked the participants as well as other researchers in this field to contribute with extensions of their MVA papers and new submissions. We received 27 papers whose topics range from basic techniques of machine vision to a wide variety of its applications, among which eight papers were selected for publication through a rigorous reviewing process. We believe that all the selected papers represent the advanced state of machine vision research and bring the research field forward. On behalf of the editorial committee of this special section, I wish to express our appreciation to all the authors for having submitted their excellent papers. I would also like to thank the editorial committee members and all the reviewers for their dedications and valuable comments for the reviewing process.

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Atsuto Maki *(Member)* is a Docent of computer science at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden. He received his Ph.D. degree in computing science from KTH in 1996, and prior to that the M.Eng. degree from The University of Tokyo and the B.Eng. degree from Kyoto University, both in electrical engineering. He served as a research scientist at Toshiba Corporate R&D Center, an associate professor at Kyoto University, Japan, and a senior researcher at Toshiba Research Cambridge, U.K., before moving to KTH in 2013. His research interests cover a broad range of topics in machine learning and computer vision, including motion and object recognition, clustering, subspace analysis, stereopsis, and representation learning. He is currently a board member of Swedish Society for Automated Image Analysis (SSBA).