## **FOREWORD**

## **Special Section on Empirical Software Engineering**

Empirical software engineering is an active topic in software engineering research, ranging from forming a body of knowledge from empirical studies to developing data-driven techniques to help practitioners. The topic has also been explored in the International Workshop on Empirical Software Engineering in Practice (IWESEP) series for 10 years.

The Special Section on Empirical Software Engineering aims at timely dissemination of research in this area. In response to the Call for Papers, a total of 11 submissions were received. After a thorough and careful review process, the editorial committee accepted five papers and two letters, covering the topics of business management, web services, work efficiency, effort estimation, issue discussions, software components, and human aspects.

On behalf of the editorial committee of the special section, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who submitted their valuable papers. I am also grateful to the external reviewers and the editorial committee members, especially the Guest Associate Editors-in-Chief of this special section, Prof. Yasutaka Kamei, Dr. Keisuke Hotta, and Prof. Christoph Treude, for their devoted efforts towards the success of the special section and the progress of research on empirical software engineering.

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**Hideaki Hata** (Member) is an assistant professor at the Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Japan. His research interests include software ecosystems, human capital in software engineering, and software economics. Hata received a Ph.D. in information science from Osaka University, Japan.

