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## FOREWORD

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### Special Section on Empirical Software Engineering

Empirical software engineering is an active research field in software engineering, ranging from forming a body of knowledge from empirical studies to developing data-driven techniques to help practitioners. IEICE Technical Committee on Software Science (IEICE/SS) hosts workshops for software science and engineering researchers and practitioners to exchange their experience and knowledge of empirical software engineering. This special section is also one of such continuing activities and aims to collect the most recent research contributions on a wide range of topics in empirical software engineering.

In response to the Call for Papers, we received a total of seven submissions, consisting of three papers and four letters. After a careful and rigid review process, the editorial committee accepted six of them, consisting of two papers and four letters. The accepted submissions cover various topics, including global software engineering, software ecosystems, replication, case studies, and controlled experiments.

On behalf of the editorial committee of this 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. Takashi Kobayashi, Prof. Hideaki Hata, and Prof. Maurício Aniche, for their devoted efforts towards the success of the special section and the progress of research on empirical software engineering.

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Shinpei Hayashi (Tokyo Institute of Technology), Guest Editor-in-Chief

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