## **FOREWORD**

## **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 6 submissions, consisting of two papers and four letters. After a careful and rigid review process, the editorial committee accepted four of them, consisting of two papers and two letters. The accepted papers cover various topics, including job satisfaction and turnover intention of software engineers, defect prediction, software ecosystem, and code search.

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 Ishio and Prof. Kozo Okano, for their devoted efforts toward the success of the special section and the progress of research on empirical software engineering.

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**Akinori Ihara** (*Member*) is an associate professor in Faculty of Systems Engineering, Wakayama University, Japan. His research interests include social software ecosystem design. He received his Dr. Eng. Degree in information science from Nara Institute of Science and Technology.

