FOREWORD

Special Section on Architectures, Protocols, and Applications for the Future Internet

The appearance of and improvements to World Wide Web (WWW) technologies and the extensive spread of multimedia information processing in a variety of social systems are what have driven the Internet, which was once used merely as a communication tool among researchers, to its current role as one of the world's most important social infrastructures. Adapting Internet applications to a number of social/commercial/personal services has led to increasingly complex requirements in terms of Internet performance, features, and security, and it seems likely that a significant evolutional change is required, particularly to the fundamental architecture of the Internet. It is crucial to develop and implement advanced new architectures and related applications so that next-generation Internet forms can continue to play a key role.

In response to this situation, a special editorial committee was organized to publish these new discussion items. After the call for papers, 26 papers (including 4 letters) were submitted to this special section, and 13 (including 3 letters) have been accepted for publication after the review process. The accepted papers cover a wide range of topics in the field of Internet research. We believe that all these papers provide valuable information to readers who are interested in this field and will stimulate future research activities related to Internet technology and its applications.

The editorial committee would like to express their sincere appreciation to all the authors for their valuable contributions and to all the reviewers for their cooperation in completing the review process under a tight schedule.

Motonori Nakamura, Guest Editor-in-Chief

Motonori Nakamura (*Senior Member*) graduated from Kyoto University, Japan, where he received B.E., M.E., and Ph.D. degrees in engineering in 1989, 1991, and 1996, respectively. From 1995, he was an associate professor at Kyoto University. Currently he is a professor at National Institute of Informatics, Japan (NII) and the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI). His research interests are message transport networks, network communications, next-generation Internet, and identity access management. He is a member of IEEE, ISOC, IPSJ, and JSSST.