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## FOREWORD

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### Special Section on Machine Vision Applications

The Ninth IAPR Conference on Machine Vision Applications, MVA2005, was held in Tsukuba Science City from May 16 through 18, 2005. Reflecting the growing areas of machine vision applications, the conference attracted more than 200 submissions from 25 countries, among which 43 and 102 papers were selected for oral and poster presentations, respectively. Since the conference was a great success, we planned this special section and asked the participants and other researchers in this field to submit papers. We received 52 papers, far greater than our expectation. Among them, we have selected 28 papers through a rigorous review process. We believe that these papers show the quality and wide variety of machine vision applications. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the authors for their valuable contributions and to all the reviewers for their cooperation in completing the reviewing process under tight schedule.

While we are deeply saddened by the recent passing of Prof. Mikio Takagi, it gives us great pleasure to publish this special section. Prof. Takagi, who passed away on February 2nd of this year, was the founder of the MVA conferences and one of the general co-chairs of the MVA2005. Prof. Takagi's death is a great loss to all of us in the machine vision community. In recognition of his remarkable achievements and contributions in this field, we have decided to dedicate this special section to his memory.

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Yoshinori Kuno, Guest Chief Editor

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**Yoshinori Kuno** (*Member*) received the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in 1977, 1979, and 1982, respectively, all in electrical and electronics engineering from the University of Tokyo. In 1982, he joined Toshiba Corporation. From 1987 to 1988, he was a visiting scientist at Carnegie Mellon University. In 1993, he moved to Osaka University as an associate professor in the Department of Computer-Controlled Mechanical Systems. Since 2000, he has been a professor in the Department of Information and Computer Sciences, Saitama University. His research interests include computer vision, human-computer interaction, and robotics.

