FOREWORD

Special Section on Communication Technologies and Service Qualities in Various Access Networks

Research and development of high-capacity communication networks and sophisticated communication devices enable a variety of network services to be provided anytime and anywhere. In addition to various communication systems and networks, their assessment, measurement, design, management, control, and optimization methodologies are key technologies for future network services and applications. In this situation, access and user-area networks play an important role, because these networks will be in contact with users and are responsible for discerning user requirements directly. For this purpose, access and user-area networks will be expanded from legacy high and reliable transmission functions to intelligent control catering, and subsequently to user applications. This special issue includes application aspects, e.g., video applications and human activities in addition to wired and wireless transfer technologies and standardization in access networks. It also involves IoT (Internet of Things) and related areas among the globally highlighted topics, e.g., wireless sensor network and vehicular networks.

For this special issue, we received 9 general submissions. Through a careful review by competent reviewers, we have selected three high-level papers that comply with our aim. Moreover, we have invited four papers as landmarks in future access and user area networks. We expect that all published papers are referred by active researchers and engineers.

Finally, as the guest editor-in-chief, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the authors for their contributions and reviewers and members of the editorial committee for their great effort to make this Special Section a successful one.

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Tetsuya Yokotani *(Senior Member)* received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees on information science from the Tokyo University of Science in 1985, 1987, and 1997, respectively. He joined Mitsubishi Electric Corporation in 1987. Since then, he has researched high-speed data communication, optical access and home network, and system performance evaluation based on queuing theory, and has promoted development of these related systems, in Information Technology R&D Center. In 2015, he moved to Kanazawa Institute of Technology as a professor of College of Engineering. Moreover, his interests include international standardization for communication networks. He has joined standardization activities in ITU-T SG15 and ISO/IEC JTC1. Currently, he is a chair elect of Technical committee on CQR (Communication Quality and Reliability) in IEEE Communication Society.