

# Foreword: Special Issue on Approaches for Advanced Manufacturing Systems

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This special issue comprises nine papers which are the extended versions of a few highly recommended papers presented at the APIEMS 2009 (10th Asia Pacific Industrial Engineering and Management Systems Conference) held in Kitakyushu, Japan during Dec. 14-16, 2009.

In the APIEMS 2009, a total of 577 submissions were received from 12 countries and 371 papers were presented in 68 sessions. The session chairs recommend 24 papers to the special issue for possible publication. Due to space limitation, we selected only 15 ones and invited the authors to submit extended versions of their works. After undergoing a rigorous double-blind reviewing process, 9 papers were finally accepted for publication in this special issue.

The selected papers have a common feature in presenting sound theoretical works as well as their applications to real-world problems. The addressed topics include: Order Matching Decision, Manufacturing Lot Sizing Decision for Normal/Recycled Products, Information System for DFA (Design for Assembly), Supply Network Planning for Memory Module Industry, Monitoring of Milling Process, Defect Reduction for Liquid Medicine Production, Run-to-Run Control, Business Collaboration Support, and Performance Modeling for Service System.

We co-worked seamlessly in editing the special issue. Prof. Takahashi and Prof. Wu served as the guest editors responsible for co-making the editing decisions; and Prof. Orito served as the assistant guest editor responsible for the correspondence with the authors and reviewers.

Our grateful appreciation is given to all the authors for submitting their extended papers and all the reviewers for evaluating the articles. Thanks are also due to those who ran the APIEMS 2009 successfully and supported editing the special issue. Those include Prof. Takashi Oyabu, Prof. Mitsuo Gen, Dr. Lin Lin, Prof. Chi-Hyuck Jun, and Prof. Toyokazu Nose.

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