FOREWORD

Special Section on Network Virtualization, and Fusion Platform of Computing and Networking

Networking technologies have progressed continuously. Recently, the spread of cloud computing has been driving them even further. New technologies such as software defined networking (SDN) and network functions virtualization (NFV) also emerged to improve cloud services.

These new technologies are expected to enhance network nodes' capabilities so as to improve flexibility in traffic control and introduce data processing programmability in data transport. They will also involve improved network management that reduces CAPEX and OPEX and enables rapid service creation. Several publicly-funded joint research projects are in progress to build new networks and develop applications that work on them utilizing the technologies. Related news reports announced this year will be a starting point for expansion of new markets that the technologies would bring about.

IEICE Technical Committee on Network Virtualization was founded in 2011 with the purpose of promoting research activities in the technological field. The Special Section in this issue was planned during its activity in order to publish articles that introduce newest research as well as present exciting achievements. In response to our call for publications, eleven papers were submitted. After reviewing them carefully, we chose five distinguished works.

On behalf of the editorial committee, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the contribution that the authors of all the submitted papers and the reviewers have made to the publication of this section.

We hope this Special Section will become a milestone for a new generation of networks while stimulating innovations in this area.

Katsuhiro Shimano (NTT Network Innovation Labs.), Guest Editor-in-Chief

Katsuhiro Shimano *(Member)* received a B.S. degree from Waseda University in 1991 and an M.S. degree from the University of Tokyo in 1993. After joining NTT in 1993, he studied optical networking and network management, such as optical network management systems, GMPLS, and traffic engineering. He was also engaged in developing network architecture of NGN from the beginning of its construction about a decade ago. Currently, he studies software defined networking and network virtualization.