Message from the Chair

This is the kick-off conference of the Global COE Program “Informatics Education and Research Center for Knowledge-Circulating Society” which started in June 2007, at the Graduate School of Informatics and Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies, Kyoto University. The aim of this conference is to provide an international forum for researchers, professionals, and industrial practitioners to share their knowledge in the area of “primordial knowledge models,” “knowledge searches,” “field informatics,” and “knowledge grid computing,” and to discuss informatics and information technology for promoting the circulation of knowledge toward knowledge society.

The conference proceedings contains papers written by principal researchers of the Global COE Program. The papers by principal researchers show their research proposals to be conducted in the five-year program period. The proceedings also contains papers by 2007 GCOE young researcher funding award winners. In the conference, five talks are given by the Global COE members and six talks are given by the following renowned guest speakers: Prof. Marti Hearst, Prof. Ipke Wachsmuth, Prof. Guglielmo Tamburrini, Prof. Kimiko Ryokai, Prof. Randall William Davis, and Prof. Moody Chu. We are very grateful to the guest speakers for their highly informative lectures that stimulate our activities in research and education. Their extended abstracts are also included in the conference proceedings. The conference is wrapped up by the exciting panel discussion entitled “Informatics Education and Research in Future and A Road Map towards Knowledge-Circulating Society” by the leaders of the four core research areas of the Global COE Program.

As a conference chair, I am particularly thankful to our colleagues Toyoaki Nishida, Toru Ishida, Yoshimasa Nakamura, Katsumi Tanaka, and Yoshinori Hara who served as mediators to the guest speakers. I am also indebted to Yasuyuki Sumi and Satoshi Nakamura for their excellent editorial work and publicity efforts and to Takaaki Tsuji and Ryoko Tabata for their assistance in the preparation for this conference.

Sadao Kurohashi (Conference Chair)
17 January 2008