Message from the Conference Organizers

Welcome to IEEE Multimedia ’96 in Hiroshima, and thank you for participating in the conference. This year’s meeting is very special for all of us!

First of all, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of the IEEE Computer Society, a sponsoring organization for the conference. At the banquet to which all participants are invited, the IEEE Computer Society’s memorial issues will be presented in concert with a string quartet performance. Japan’s traditional court dance accompanied by the music of simple instruments called GAGAKU, carefully preserved at itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima, 13 miles west of Hiroshima City, will also be performed during the banquet.

Secondly, unlike the case for many other conferences, the exhibition is open to anyone who is interested in current multimedia technologies, not just registered conference participants, to experience multimedia systems of the coming age. Most of the systems at the exhibition are being developed by companies supporting Japan’s nation-wide multimedia promotion project. Children can also enjoy the exhibition by visiting a virtual Smithsonian Museum named SmithsoniSAUR, where an immersive world of dinosaurs is created. Visitors will be immersed in this prehistoric world and can explore it freely.

Lastly, and needless to say, presentations scheduled for the technical sessions at the conference are of unexpectedly high quality, with more submissions than we’ve ever had in the past. Discussions anticipated during the presentations will certainly help you to explore ways of developing advanced systems and to work with these systems in the coming multimedia world.

On behalf of the IEEE Computer Society and the Organizing Committee for the conference, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following organizations and individuals for their contributions cited below. They are:


- Members of the Student Chapter of the Virtual World Society at the University of Washington, Seattle, and students at the Information Systems Laboratory at Hiroshima University for their volunteer efforts in implementing SmithsoniSAUR; Nihon Silicon Graphics K.K., Division Inc., and Virtus Inc. for providing SmithsoniSAUR’s implementation and demonstration environment;
• Hiroshima Software Center and Molten Corporation for supporting cultural events which will be presented during the IEEE Computer Society’s 50th Anniversary Memorial Banquet;

• and the Chairs and members of the Conference Organizing, Exhibition, and Local Activity Development Committees for their tremendous efforts and time spent in running this successful conference.

Without their collaboration and assistance, we couldn’t have made this all possible!

Tadao Ichikawa
Chair – Organizing Committee