The First International Symposium on Cyber Worlds (CW2002) will be held November 6-8 at the Boissonade Tower, Hosei University, Tokyo. The proceedings will contain the invited papers and reviewed papers presented at CW2002, in which 16 sessions in four parallel streams and two tutorials are scheduled over the three days of the symposium, with a banquet on the last night.

At the reception, participants will have a panoramic view of the center of Tokyo from the top floor of the Boissonade Tower. The city has a very rich diversity of scenery: the Imperial Palace surrounded by greenery, skyscrapers in Shinjuku towering over the popular shopping area, the downtown area of Asakusa reminding us of the old days, and modern office areas equipped with leading-edge information technologies. The styles of living and working in the city are drastically changing with the evolution of a huge cyber world in which vast amounts of information are exchanged using new multimedia consisting of sounds, images, and animations. This spring the three biggest banks in Japan were merged to form the largest bank in the world. In its first month, the bank encountered a crisis when the combined computer systems of the three banks failed to work well together. This crisis served as a warning that the current cyber world is fragile, and that we need to establish cyber science and technology in order to construct a robust cyber world. It is appropriate that a symposium on cyber worlds should be held in a city that itself constitutes a large-scale cyber world.

The symposium consists of four streams: Parallel/Distributed Processing; Intelligent Computing and Software Engineering; Multimedia, Networks and Agent Computing; and Shape Modeling and Computer Graphics. These streams include very important research results based on cyber science and technology. Professor Kunii, the originator of cyber science and General Co-chair of CW2002, will give an invited speech on cyber science in which he will clarify his original ideas of theoretical abstraction hierarchies consisting of homotopy, set theory, topological spaces, cellular structured spaces, and geometry, and will also show how computing time and space can be drastically reduced by using abstraction hierarchies. Cyber science and technology hold great promise for the future expansion of the cyber world, and the papers in the proceedings will help you to reach a deeper understanding of the cyber world along with cyber science and technology.

I hope this symposium will serve as a bridge among researchers, scientists, and engineers who wish to study cyber science and technology in order to establish sustainable cyber worlds. The organization of this symposium has been deeply dependent upon the Programming Committee. Professors Savchenko and Peng serve as Co-chairs, while Professors Sedukhin, Koike, Sato, Hagler, Ma, Brunnett and Ikedo are Programming Committee Co-chairs. They have shown great dedication and efforts in preparing for this first symposium. I also thank the Program Committee members, who have worked hard to review the submitted papers in the short period. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all the people who have contributed to make this a successful symposium.

Kenji Ohmori