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Guest Editorial: Introduction to the Special Issue on the Enrichment of Sound, Speech and Music Media

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Information conveyed by sound, including speech, music, and spatial audio is an essential component of multimedia information. The advancement of sound media enrichment technology will definitely play an essential role in the advancement of multimedia communication. We thus planned this special issue to deal with all aspects of sound media through advances in enrichment and intelligent information processing technology, including but not limited to its theory, technology base, and system implementation. Here, we intend to interpret the key phrases "enrichment" and "intelligent information processing" to cover a much broader range than one normally would.

As a result, it is our great pleasure to share an assortment of fruitful outcomes resulting in fourteen excellent papers. These papers are accepted for publication for this special issue after JIHMSP's ordinary review process with at least two rigorous reviews. Moreover, as intended, these papers cover wide areas related to the two key phrases mentioned above; two papers relate to date hiding [1, 2], five to signal processing for audio enrichment [3, 4, 5, 6, 7], four to 3-D audio [8, 9, 10, 11], and three to speech quality assessment [12, 13, 14]. We think that our intention has been fulfilled successfully resulting in these papers. The first paper of this special issue [1] is an invited paper on enrichment of audio signal based on data-hiding technologies, describing cutting-edge technology of the field covering the two key phrases of this issue, "enrichment" and "intelligent information processing". The other thirteen papers also present good research results and insights to advance the area that we are concerned with.

We regret to mention that due to administrative reasons, two papers out of the fourteen were not included in this issue but were published in the previous issue [2, 11]. Both of these papers were intended for inclusion in the special issue, and are well within the scope mentioned above.

Finally, we are grateful to all contributing authors, the editors, and the administrators handling the journal. Without their efforts, this special issue would not have become a reality. We hope that all readers will enjoy the diversity of the topics covered by the fourteen papers dealing with enrichment media technology relating to sound, speech and music signal. Through this issue, we hope that young researchers will be lured into joining this exciting field, and researchers already working in this field will be inspired with new ideas.

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