Editor's Message to Special Issue on “Towards Secure Society Considering Things and Human Aspects”

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So far, information security has been focusing mainly on how to improve the security and safety technologies. Recently, however, cyber attackers have tended to exploit human weaknesses for malicious acts through a social engineering technique. We have become highly dependent on smart phones these days, which is increasing security threats. And now, the Internet of Things (IoT) environment surely makes such a situation even severer. As people are connected with a larger number of cyber equipment, its human aspect has gained more attention as an essential issue in cyber security and safety. Privacy concern is one of our biggest affair.

Aimed such background, the special issue of “Towards Secure Society Considering Things and Human Aspects” is targeted to encourage and promote this field of research. The issue is especially focusing on papers that address security and safety studies considering (1) Authentication and Security Technologies in IoT Environment, (2) Privacy Issues and Protection Technologies, (3) Human Factors in Security, and (4) Security Enhancement with AI and Economics and so on, in order to achieve (5) Safe and Reliable Social Systems. Out of 21 submissions 14 papers were accepted through careful deliberation by the editorial committee of the special issue. The accepted papers were all included in the target categories, more specifically, 3 papers in the category (1), 4 in (2), 4 in (3), 2 in (4), and 1 in (5).

Finally, I would like to express my great gratitude to significant efforts by reviewers, members of the editorial committee, and all of those involved in the Society, for their peer review of various articles within a limited period of time resulting in publication as scheduled. In particular, Dr. Keiichi Hirota (NTT) and Prof. Akira Kanaoka (Toho University) who devoted to undertake careful arrangements to smoothly administer our committee operation. Let me express my heartfelt appreciation to them again.

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