Preface

This special feature “Advanced Production Scheduling” includes 15 articles that were re-contributed among the papers submitted to the 4th International Symposium on Scheduling held at Nagoya Institute of Technology from July 4th to 6th, 2009. And it consists of methodologies and theories of scheduling, and latest achievements of applications.

This symposium was held under the co-sponsorship of Manufacturing Systems Division, the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers and Scheduling Society of Japan. The number of the participants were 72 and 48 presentations (including keynote speeches) were performed. Domestic and foreign researchers and engineers of the related fields met together, and presentations on scheduling theories and practical technologies were performed, and then many earnest discussions were held.

Through recent simultaneous world recession, global industrial structure is going through a big change. Meanwhile, flexible and rapid problem-solving has turned out to be essential. So, it is considered that this special feature may be of great help for clues and methods to solve problems. In addition, this issue becomes a must read for both domestic and foreign researchers and engineers of the related fields because this provides the latest developments of related fields to scheduling.

Last but not least, I would like to express my cordial gratitude to the members of the editing committee and the review committee, and the authors who contributed excellent papers for their great efforts for publication of this special feature. Thank you.

Chief Editor
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