Preface

We are very glad to publish this special issue, “Advanced Production Scheduling”, in Journal of Advanced Mechanical Design, Systems, and Manufacturing. It aims at documenting state-of-the-art researches, new developments and directions for future investigation in the field of advanced production scheduling.

This special issue is an outgrowth of the “International Symposium on Scheduling 2011 (ISS 2011)”, the 5th international symposium on scheduling, which was held in Osaka, Japan, from July 2nd to 4th 2011, under the co-sponsorship of Manufacturing System Division of the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers and Scheduling Society of Japan. Similarly to the past symposiums, international researchers and industrial engineers in the associated fields got together, theories and applied technologies of scheduling were presented, and inspiring discussions were carried out in the symposium.

The program of ISS 2011 included papers of wide range of fields related to scheduling for future expansibility. The proceedings of this symposium consisted of 3 papers for keynote speeches related to hottest topics, and 45 technical papers accepted by strict reviews. These papers were contributed from 8 countries, such as Canada, Hong Kong, China, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Taiwan. In addition to the technical program, we invited several internationally recognized keynote speakers, and they gave very inspiring and valuable lectures.

The Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers published the proceedings of ISS 2011. This special issue consists of papers that were reviewed again and accepted by the reviewers of this special issue. It includes the most up-to-date theory, methodology, and application of scheduling, and we believe that this could be a must-read for international researchers and engineers in the associated field.

We would not have been able to put together this special issue without the dedicated support and thorough feedback of many editors and reviewers, to whom I hereby extend my sincere gratitude.

Chief Editor

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