Letter from the editor

One year has passed since the launch of *Synthesiology*. We are now venturing into the second year with cooperation and support from many people. We are grateful to all people involved. To reflect on the past year, the core members who participated in the start up of *Synthesiology* gathered to exchange thoughts, and this roundtable talk became one of the articles in this issue. Although the discussion may be too abstract, I hope you perceive the passion of the members, and find interest in the background and the process of launching this academic journal. We also received a letter of comment from Dr. Gaynor, Fellow of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE). He read the English edition of *Synthesiology*, and his letter is reprinted in this issue. We set up a section called the Reader's Forum, and I hope the readers will send their comments and impressions, as well as introduce books related to *Synthesiology*.

The papers in *Synthesiology* can be downloaded from the AIST homepage. There have been over 20,000 accesses in one year. It is clear that the electronic version is widely used. The Reader's Questionnaire was included in the printed version of the journal, and about 70 % of the questionnaires returned were from

corporate people. Looking at their business category, almost 40 % were involved in R&D, and about 40 % were managers, sales, and planning. It is delighted to see that our journal is being read from the perspective of technological management as well as technological development. Initially, we sent the journal only to organizations such as companies, universities, and libraries, but dozens of people applied for subscription after they saw the content of the published journal. While it is hard to visualize the readers when the journals are sent to organizations, we can see our readers when we receive individual subscriptions, and the work of editors becomes a pleasure.

This issue includes a roundtable talk with Professors Tanishita and Hishida of the Department of System Design Engineering, Keio University. In the second year, we wish to strengthen alliance with the people of industry, academia, government, mass media, or any sectors in Japan and abroad, who share the goals of *Synthesiology*. If you have any information about people who may be interested, please contact the Editorial Board.

Executive Editors
Motoyuki Akamatsu

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Contact: *Synthesiology* Editorial Board

c/o Publication Office, Public Relations Department, AIST

Tsukuba Central 2, 1-1-1 Umezono, Tsukuba Ibaraki 305-8568, Japan

Tel: +81-29-862-6217 Fax: +81-29-862-6212

E-mail: synthesiology@m.aist.go.jp

URL: <http://www.aist.go.jp/synthesiology>

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