Letter from the editor

Here we deliver *Synthesiology* Volume 5, Issue 1 containing five research papers and a report of a workshop. Topics of the research papers cover a diverse range of fields from information, life, measurement, to energy. All researches seek outlets to society and actively push technologies into society utilizing, for example, standardization of evaluation method.

I wish to draw the readers’ attention to the paper “Analysis of synthetic approaches described in papers of the journal *Synthesiology* - Towards establishing synthesiological methodology for bridging the gap between scientific research results and society.” This is a research paper that analyzes the “synthesis methods” found in seventy papers published in *Synthesiology* in the last three years. It highlights characteristic patterns in various technological fields on how and by what processes synthetic researches are pursued.

The editorial board asks the *Synthesiology* authors to present research objectives that are related to social values, to explain scenarios taken in achieving the objectives, and to describe processes of integration and synthesis of elemental technologies based on the scenario. It has been found that each author has a unique way of undertaking processes of integration and synthesis and the ways are diverse. However, overviewing the processes, it is interesting that several common ways become apparent.

Synthetic approaches are actually practiced in research projects. Categorizing the processes of integration and synthesis, I think, can leave a positive influence on the planning and management of research projects as well as on the follow-up evaluation.

Also, a workshop “Synthesiology through knowledge integration to innovation” was conducted jointly by AIST and the Japan Society for Science Policy and Research Management at its Annual Conference held at the Yamaguchi University in October, 2011. There we discussed the relationship between synthetic research and innovation. As it can be seen from the report of the workshop published herein, various interesting points were raised. I feel these points may influence science and technology policies of Japan in the future.

Editor in Chief
Akira ONO