

## **Preface to the Collection of Papers on “Urban Operations Research”**

Urban Operations Research is an expanding field of operations research and has a rather long history in the Operations Research Society of Japan. Since a special interest group on “regional studies” was established in 1977, the number of papers presented at the semiannual meeting of the society has been growing steadily. At the latest semiannual meeting held in March 2005, for example, 14 papers related to urban operations research were presented. Also, the symposium on urban operations research held at the same time was attended by about one hundred researchers and students, which is a record-breaking number in the series of symposiums held by the society.

A special interest group on “urban operations research” started its activities in 1997 and held a series of workshops for several years. From 2001, seminars on urban operations research were held twice every year; one in summer at the University of Tsukuba, and the other in late fall at Nanzan University. As a special one of the series of seminars, International Workshop on Urban Operations Research (IWUOR) was held on November 27-29, 2003, at the Seto campus of Nanzan University, near the venue of EXPO2005, in commemoration of the foundation of the Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences and Information Engineering. About fifty researchers and students participated in the workshop including those from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Korea, and Japan. Twenty eight papers were presented at the workshop including nine presentations by students. After the workshop, we solicited the participants to submit their full papers to this journal. This issue contains four papers which are selected from among them and have passed a peer reviewing process that took almost one year. We would like to thank all the authors and referees for their great efforts.

Our idea of including selected papers of IWUOR in an issue of this journal was supported by the previous editor Masakiyo Miyazawa, and then taken over by the present editor Naoki Katoh, to both of whom we are very much grateful.

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On the day of the opening ceremony of EXPO2005

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