

Preface from the Organizing Chair

This volume is the final and formal record of almost a year of activities of the second NACSIS/NII Test Collection for Information Retrieval (NTCIR) Workshop. I believe that the NTCIR Workshop has already become an important event in the global information retrieval research arena.

In February 2000, the National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS) moved from its old site to a new building at Hitotsubashi. The beautiful hall where the NTCIR workshop meeting was held is named the Hitotsubashi Memorial Hall and is a facility shared with Japanese academia. Then, last April, NACSIS was reorganized and substantially expanded into a new research organization, the National Institute of Informatics (NII). NII is intended to lead research in various fields related to computer science, information technology, and other interdisciplinary areas.

However, I have very bad news to impart. Professor Hiroshi Inose, our former Director-General, passed away suddenly in October 2000 as a result of an acute rupture of an aneurysm. He was a prominent figure in informatics research and Japanese science policy making. We are very much saddened to have lost this great supporter of the NTCIR project.

Nevertheless, I have some good news regarding our project. The Research Center for Information Resources has been established within NII. This center is primarily responsible for the promotion of collaborative research in terms of research based on large-scale test collection, corpora, or databases. This center, to which I am affiliated, is acting as host of this NTCIR workshop, with financial support from the Ministry of Education.

I'd like to express our special thanks to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science that has created a new program called "Research for the Future Program" and awarded research funds for five years to our team. Many people have worked hard to organize this workshop, and, among others, I would like to mention Dr. Noriko Kando, Dr. Kazuko Kuriyama, Dr. Kenro Aihara, Dr. Masaharu Yoshioka, Dr. Koji Eguchi, Dr. Keizo Oyama, Dr. Hiroyuki Kato, Dr. Ichiro Ide, Ms Yuko Miyamoto and Ms Urara Numata for their every endeavor to make this workshop successful. I also express our deepest gratitude to those friends outside NII who supported us: Professor Stephen Robertson, Dr. Donna Harman, Dr. Mun-Kew Leong, Dr. Sung Hyun Myaeng, Dr. Douglas Ord, Dr. Frederic Gey and Dr. Naniel Marcu.

For us, the NTCIR organizers, the benefits of the workshop are clear. The feedback we have received through this workshop will greatly help us develop the next NTCIR workshop. On behalf of the organizing staff, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of the people who attended the NTCIR workshop.



Professor Jun Adachi
Conference Chair
Director, Research Center for Information Resources
National Institute of Informatics