

# Preface from the NTCIR-8 Organizing Committee

Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Workshop on Evaluating Information Access (EVIA 2010) and the Eighth NTCIR Workshop Meeting (NTCIR-8 Meeting).

EVIA 2010 is organized by three co-chairs, Mark Sanderson, Tetsuya Sakai, and William Webber, as a refereed workshop that welcomes submissions from both the NTCIR task participants and individuals not involved in the NTCIR tasks. It contributed to enlarge the NTCIR community and we expect it to provide a wider forum to discuss related topics and research leading to future NTCIR tasks.

NTCIR-8 Meeting is where the groups who actively participated in one or more tasks set by NTCIR-8 report out their latest results obtained from the evaluation workshop. The NTCIR evaluation workshop series are designed to enhance research in information access technologies, including text retrieval, cross-language information access, question-answering, information extraction, text mining, etc., using texts in East Asian-languages such as Japanese, Chinese, and Korean and English.

This volume contains the reports of the experiments and investigations performed within NTCIR-8, and the papers presented at EVIA are in a separate volume.

The activities of NTCIR-8 workshop and evaluation in each task are coordinated by the task organizers' volunteer efforts with the central coordination and relevance assessments partially sponsored by the National Institute of Informatics (NII). CCLQA, MOAT, and CQA are partially supported by NII Joint Research Grant and MEXT Grant-in-Aid Research. CCLQA assessment and annotation on Traditional Chinese are provided by the fund from the organizers' group. GeoTime was organized as a pure community-based effort of the volunteers from the participants and organizers. PAT MT is partially supported by National Institute of Information and Communications Technology and NII Joint Research Grant.

The Conference of NTCIR-8 Meeting and EVIA 2010 are organized by the NTCIR-8 Organizing Committee and the National Institute of Informatics (NII). We are extremely grateful for the sponsors for Travel Support Awards: Google, Inc., IBM Japan, Ltd., IR-ALT, Inc., Japan Patent Information Organization (Japio), The Mainichi Newspapers, Microsoft Research, National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), NTT Resonant Inc., Rakuten, Inc., Ricoh Company, Ltd. (in the alphabetical order of the organization names) for their very generous support. Their support allowed NTCIR-8 to award eighteen promising young researchers and students to travel to the meeting.

We are grateful for the Program Committee of EVIA 2010. Also selected members from the task organizers of NTCIR-8, namely Daisuke Ishikawa, Noriko Kando, Kazuaki Kishida, Teruko Mitamura, Hidetsugu Nanba, Tetsuya Sakai, Yohei Seki, Miho Sugimoto, and Takehiro Utsuro, served as the editors of NTCIR-8 part of this volume and provided feedback to the submitted papers and edited into the volume. Ms. Chihiro Kunimoto helped us as an assistant editor. Last but not least, we would like to thank many people behind the scene, Ruiko Homma, Miho Sugimoto, and Fumiko Koiwahara, for their support throughout the entire process of NTCIR-8.

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# Preface from the Program Committee Chair

The Eighth NTCIR Workshop (NTCIR-8) is the latest in the workshop series designed to enhance research in information access technologies. This is a community-based effort building a research infrastructure for evaluation and testing information access technologies.

The goals of the NTCIR Workshops are: 1) Encourage research in information access technologies by providing research infrastructures for evaluation and testing, 2) Provide a forum for research groups for exchanging research ideas, and 3) Investigate methodologies and metrics for evaluation of information access technologies.

NTCIR-8 Program Committee selected the following “tasks”;

**Cluster 1a: Advanced Cross-Lingual Information Access (ACLIA)**

- + Complex Cross-Lingual Question Answering (CCLQA) task
- + Information Retrieval for Question Answering (IR4QA) task

**Cluster 1b: Geographic and Temporal Search**

- + Geographic and Temporal Search (GeoTime) task [New]

**Cluster 2: User Generated Contents**

- + Multilingual Opinion Analysis Task (MOAT)
- + [Pilot] Community Question Answering (CQA) [New]

**Cluster 3: Focused Domain: Patent**

- + Patent Mining (PAT MN) task
- + Patent Translation (PAT MT) task
- + Evaluation subtask [New]

NTCIR-8 Research Planning and Coordinating Committee consisted of the coordinators of each cluster and a liaison from the program committee, and has led the activities for NTCIR-8. We consider the workshop to be the whole process from the call for participation in the experiments and evaluation of the tasks set by NTCIR to the final meeting.

Technologies and social networking environments are rapidly changing and gaining enhanced functionality. Although NTCIR has worked on the aspects without interaction with users, which has provided a more reliable, sensible and stable evaluation and testing environment that has sped up technological transfer from research ideas into real-world applications, we have to tackle more complicated tasks to evaluate interactive and exploratory search which is critical to the process of information retrieval and access.

We are extremely grateful to the following organizations for their understanding of the project and for providing substantial support in various forms: Central Daily News, China Daily News, China Times Inc., Industrial Property Cooperation Center, Japan Patent Office, Japan Patent Information Organization, Korea Economic Daily, Linguistic Data Consortium, Mainichi Newspapers, the Sing Tao Group, Singapore Press Holding, Taiwan News, UDN.COM, and Yahoo! Japan. We are thankful to the Program Committee members, Advisory Committee members, the NTCIR-8 Research Planning and Coordinating Committee members, and the EVIA Program Committee members. We are thankful to our friends from TREC and CLEF for their support, advises and collaboration on various occasions. I thank for the NTCIR-8 program committee members, cluster coordinators and the task organizers for their hard work. Thanks for the task participants for scientific input and cooperation for the task organization. Especially I would like to draw attention that many of the task participants volunteered to join the dataset creation. I appreciated their great contribution and found that would be promising direction to the things put forwards in this community-based activity. I would like to thank Ruiko Homma, Miho Sugimoto, and Fumiko Koiwahara for their supports behind for entire process of NTCIR-8.

I do hope each of the participants will enjoy presenting their research results and discussing with each other at the Meeting, and such an occasion will lead to fruitful collaboration and research

enhancement.

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Noriko Kando  
Program Chair of the Eighth NTCIR Workshop  
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