



Preface

— **Special Part-issue of the International Symposium on Robotics and Mechatronics (ISRM 2009)**
Hanoi, Vietnam, Sept. 21–23, 2009 (p.231-269)

The International Federation for the Promotion of Mechanism and Machine Science (IFToMM) held the International Symposium on Robotics and Mechatronics (ISRM 2009) as the first in a series of conference events promoting robotics and mechatronics in the Asian IFToMM community. The first event was held in Hanoi University of Technology on Sept. 21–23, 2009.

The ISRM event was held as a result of decisions made at a funding meeting in 2008, including the decision to hold the conference in East Asia (comprising Beijing and Taipei, China, Japan, India, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and others). The conference was open to all researchers in the areas of robotics and mechatronics, but was largely geared to providing an intimate, collegial and stimulating environment for facilitating contacts among Asian researchers and students. While the support of IFToMM and the involvement of the non-Asian research community were acknowledged to be important, it was considered preferable to have the ISRM Symposium in East Asia. The ISRM 2009 Symposium was organized through the sponsorship of the IFToMM and its Technical Committee for Robotics, as well as through the support of IFToMM Vietnam, the Vietnam Academy of Sciences and Technology, the Vietnam Association of Mechanics (VAM), Hanoi University of Technology, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, and the National Research Institute of Mechanical Engineering.

ISRM 2009 received significant world-wide attention, as evidenced by contributions from around the world in the CD Proceedings. The CD Proceedings contains 45 papers selected for oral presentation. These papers cover several aspects of the wide field of robotics and mechatronics. And 5 papers were selected and are published in the *Journal of Zhejiang University-SCIENCE A* as a special column in Vol. 11, No. 4, p.231-269, 2010.

This special part-issue represents a second review process and selection. As all the papers accepted for ISRM 2009 were of good quality with interesting content suitable for publication, and selection for special part-issue publication was particularly difficult. As soon as copyright permission is obtained from ISRM 2009, authors whose papers were not selected for this special part-issue will then have the possibility to properly disseminate the results of their work.

I would like to express gratitude to the members of the International Scientific Committee of the ISRM Symposium, for their enthusiastic cooperation and the success of the ISRM 2009 event and this special part-issue: I-Ming CHEN, Singapore (Co-Chair); Bodo HEIMANN, Germany (Co-Chair); Marco CEC-CARELLI, Italy; Shuo-Hung CHANG, Taipei, China; Nguyen Phong DIEN, Vietnam; Feng GAO, Beijing, China; Yukio TAKEDA, Japan; Min-June TSAI, Taipei, China; Teresa ZIELINSKA, Poland; Nitin AFZ-ULPURKAR, Thailand, observer; Nguyen van KHANG, Vietnam, observer; Manfred HILLER, Germany, observer; Qiang HUANG, Beijing, China, observer; Christian LANGE, Canada, observer; and Lotfi ROND-HAME, Tunisia, observer.

I also thank the authors who have contributed interesting papers in several subjects, covering many fields of robotics and mechatronics, and additionally for their efficiency in paper revision after receiving the reviewer's comments. I am grateful to the reviewers for the time and effort they spent in evaluating the papers in a timely manner, permitting the early publication of this special part-issue. I further acknowledge my colleagues for their help at the Laboratory of Robotics and Mechatronics (LARM) of the University of Cassino, Italy.

Special thanks go to the Hanoi University of Technology for having hosted the ISRM 2009 event, and to the auspices of the IFToMM, the world wide community for Mechanism and Machine Science.

On behalf of all authors, I thank the editorial office of the *Journal of Zhejiang University-SCIENCE* for their help in publishing this special part-issue.

Finally, I am grateful to my family and the families of the ISRM 2009 Symposium since without their patience and understanding it would not have been possible for us to organize ISRM 2009, the first IFToMM International Symposium on Robotics and Mechatronics.

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