

FOREWORD

Special issue on Room Acoustics in honour of RADS 2004

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It is our great pleasure that special issue on Room Acoustics is now released in honour of International Symposium on Room Acoustics: Design and Science 2004 (RADS 2004) with many attractive papers, technical reports and acoustical letters.

The RADS 2004 was held from April 11 to 13, 2004 in island of Awaji, Japan. This symposium was planned as a satellite symposium of ICA 2004 and covered various topics on room acoustics, both of theoretical and experimental, physical and subjective studies, as well as practical design, including auditoria, concert halls and any other built environment. The symposium program consisted of 1 panel discussion with 6 panelists, 20 invited oral presentations and 63 poster presentations. The symposium was a great success and provided an excellent opportunity to overview the present status of research and practice on room acoustics.

This special issue for the journal, *Acoustical Science and Technology (AST)*, was planned in advance of the date of the symposium. The plan was immediately accepted by the Editorial Board of *AST* with support of Prof. Yôiti Suzuki, the Editor in Chief of *AST*. To realize this plan, we were appointed as members of an editorial board for this special issue — Dr. Kimihiro Sakagami, Secretariat General of RADS 2004, and Dr. Toshiki Hanyu, an associate editor for *Japanese Journal*, as guest editors as well as Dr. Shinichi Sakamoto as an associate editor of *AST* in charge of this special issue. We then discussed outline of this special issue, important dates for publication and

publicity of this special issue. Through the thorough discussion, we have decided to encourage the invited presenters of RADS 2004 to submit full papers or technical reports and the contributed poster presenters to submit acoustical letters. Such an announcement was made on site of the symposium venue, as well as made with e-mail announcement to all of the presenters after the symposium.

As a result, thirteen papers, one technical report and twelve acoustical letters were submitted for this special issue. They were peer reviewed under the ordinary process of *AST*. In spite of tight time schedule, twelve papers, one technical report and twelve acoustical letters were accepted and they appear in this special issue.

These articles cover most of significant topics relating to room acoustics including objective measures for concert halls, computer modeling of rooms, subjective aspects of room acoustics, physical properties of acoustic materials, acoustical design of both of concert hall and other built environment. We believe that readers will be able to get a fine overview of current research and progress of the technology concerning this research field in the world with this special issue.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the reviewers who contributed their time and expertise in the preparation of this special issue. Also, we would like to deeply thank associate editors on the Editorial Board and the secretariat of the *Acoustical Society of Japan* for their proper and prompt correspondence.