Preface

Scientific research journals and scientific research periodicals usually publish special issues as well as conference proceedings. These special issues are devoted exclusively to specific topics and/or are dedicated respectfully to commemorate the celebrated works of renowned research scientists. Each of these two *Special Issues*: **"FSDM 2019"** has stemmed from the *Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Fuzzy Systems and Data Mining* (FSDM 2019), which was held in conjunction with the Ninth International Conference on Electronics, Communications and Networks (**"CECNet 2019"**) at the Kitakyushu International Conference Center in Kitakyushu City (Fukuoka) in Japan on October 18–21, 2019.

The four preceding conferences in this series (FSDM 2015, FSDM 2016, FSDM 2017 *and* FSDM 2018) were held, respectively, in Shanghai (People's Republic of China) on December 12–15, 2015, at the Macau University of Science and Technology on December 11–14, 2016, at the National Dong Hwa University (NDHU) in Shoufeng [Hualien] in Taiwan (Republic of China) on November 24–27, 2017, at the Tawana Bangkok Hotel in Bangkok on November 16–19, 2018, *and* at the Kitakyushu International Conference Center in Kitakyushu City [Fukuoka] in Japan on October 18–21, 2019.

The next conference in this series, the Sixth International Conference on Fuzzy Systems and Data Mining (FSDM 2020) is scheduled to be held at the Lin Guang-Chang Academic Exchange Center at Xiamen City in the Fujian Province of the People's Republic of China on November 13–16, 2020.

Much of the relevant details about **FSDM 2019** is available at the following Web Sites:

URL: http://www.fsdmconf.org

URL: http://cn.fsdmconf.org/2019/index.html

Some of the main features of FSDM 2019 include the following relevant items of special interest:

I. Keynote Speakers at FSDM 2019:

1. Prof. Sheng-Lung Peng
(Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering, National Dong Hwa University, Taiwan, Republic of China)

2. Dr. Chetneti Srisa-An
(College of Digital Innovation and Information Technology, Rangsit University, Thailand)

3. Prof. Dr. Malin Song
(Dean of the Graduate School, Anhui University of Finance and Economics, People's Republic of China)

II. Invited Speakers at FSDM 2019:

Two sets of invited speakers (Part 1: Fuzzy Systems; Part 2: Data Mining) presented their interesting and state-of-the-art contributions at FSDM 2019.

III. Best Oral Presenters at FSDM 2019:

For the three sessions organized for the Invited Speakers of FSDM 2019, the following *Best Oral Presenters* were elected and awarded by FSDM 2019:

Session 1. Prof. Igor O. Temkin
(National University of Science and Technology, Russian Federation)

Session 2. Prof. Nannan Zhang
(Chinese Academy of Sciences, People's Republic of China)

Session 3. Ms. Zhao Yang
(Central South University, People's Republic of China)

Each of these two *Special Issues* contains a well-selected, duly-refereed and peer-reviewed collection of articles which provide worthwhile advances in the subjects covered by **FSDM 2019**.

Such topical conferences as those under this series of international conferences on Fuzzy Systems and Data Mining bring together participants who share similar or overlapping research interests. The participants of **FSDM 2019** (Kitakyushu City [Fukuoka], Japan; October 18–21, 2019) did also take the full advantage of this excellent opportunity to develop long-lasting professional friendship and research collaboration. Most of the participants of FSDM 2019 (if not all) took the opportunity and advantage to also enjoy their visit to the beautiful Kitakyushu City (Fukuoka) of Japan.

Each and every member of the remarkably efficient and capable Organizing Committee worked hard to make the international conference (**FSDM 2019**) a successful and fruitful event. The dedicated and wholehearted efforts by the members of the Technical Program Committee and the Local Organizing Committee are also worthy of praise and commendation.

Finally, as the Guest Editors of these two Special Issues of the ***Journal of Nonlinear and Convex Analysis*** (JNCA, Volume 21, Numbers 7 and 8, 2020), we take this opportunity to thank all of the participating authors, and the referees and the peer-reviewers, for their *invaluable* contributions toward the remarkable success of *these* three Special Issues. We do also greatly appreciate the editorial and managerial help and assistance provided efficiently and generously by Mr. Toshi Takahashi and many of his colleagues and associates in the Editorial Office of JNCA.

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