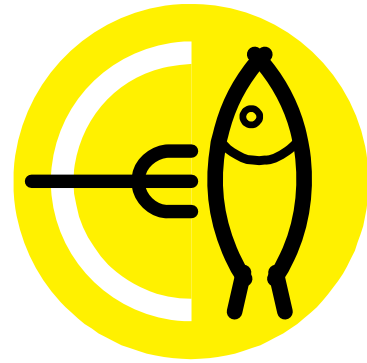# Foreword

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the ACM Multimedia 2012 Workshop on Multimedia for Cooking and Eating Activities (CEA'12), the fourth of its series, held in Nara, Japan, the ancient Capital of Japan and also the terminal of the "Silk Road."

Cooking and eating have been the most fundamental activities of humankind since the days of trading caravans in the ancient days until now, which affect various aspects of human life such as health, dietary, human communication, safety of food, entertainment, culinary art, welfare, and so on. However, many people who cook at home require supports for cooking because it requires experience and knowledge. They may also need support for food-logging and menu planning for the health of their family. Needless to say, support for a good and enjoyable dinner would improve the quality of life. On the other hand, systematic cooking and eating support for the elderly and/or physically challenged people are significantly important.

The call for papers attracted fifteen submissions from Asia, France, United Kingdom and United States. Each paper was carefully reviewed by three reviewers in related fields, and the Program Committee decided to accept eleven papers based on the reports. Three of the accepted papers will be presented in the form of oral presentation, which includes one Best Paper Award winning paper, established for the first time this year. The others will be presented in the form of a poster presentation to secure more time for discussions, in order to improve the works to an even higher level. Through these presentations, participants of the workshop will learn the current state of the usage and its effects of multimedia sensors, and the handling of knowledge databases with experimental results toward human behavior understanding in the context of cooking and eating applications. They will also see novel applications for supporting cooking and eating activities through contents construction support for cooking and human-to-human communication support at a dining table.

As for the invited talk, we will invite Professor Kimiko Ohtani from Kyoto Prefectural University to introduce us, her recent activities on food education and design based on Japanese food culture. The talk will introduce both the traditional food culture in Japan and also food education in the modern era.

In the end, we would like to thank the ACM Multimedia 2012 Organizing Committee, especially Professors Jiebo Luo and Svetha Venkatesh, the workshop co-chairs, for their support in making the workshop possible, the Program Committee members for their commitment during the review process. We would also like to thank the IEICE Human Communication Group for supporting the Best Paper Award.

We hope that this workshop should become an opportunity for research groups who share the common interest to discover each other, introduce their trials, and discuss common issues and future directions. We hope you will enjoy both the workshop and also the food culture you will find in the narrow streets of the ancient city.

Mutsuo Sano
General Chair
Osaka Institute of Technology

Ichiro Ide
Program Chair
Nagoya University

Yoko Yamakata
Organizing Chair
Kyoto University