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## **Foreword**

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Guest Editor: Ion Stiharu

There are many and varied aspects of intelligent transportation systems (ITS), and efforts to classify them are generally ineffectual because new ideas are added every day to the field of knowledge. However, any attempt to reduce traffic aberrations during rush hours, or to reduce the negative social impact of transportation, or to boost the capability of urban transportation, or to reduce the queue at a toll gate, or to improve safety on public road, falls under the ITS umbrella. Given the mission of this journal, the selected papers in this Special Issue mainly focus on the vehicle or aspects associated with the vehicle. Some classifications give the name intelligent vehicle systems (IVS) to this branch of ITS. At this level of development of the discipline, the broader objectives of ITS are not so much about the intelligence as mostly about the adaptability of the vehicle, reduction of its negative impact on the environment and society, and improvements to the already well-known benefits under a probable shift from performance to efficiency in future transportation systems. Technology is being developed to help combat the highly undesired traffic conditions that require attention, and almost all countries have a long-term programme that includes the application of ITS as an objective.

The standards community is still debating the protocols to be followed in inter-vehicle or road-vehicle communication. Significant progress has been made in many directions of interest, and a lot of work is still going on. Some extensive programmes that aim at the traffic measurement for modelling purposes are in place in few research facilities in the world. Many of the local implementations are overlooked owing to reduced impact or reduced visibility.

However, a significant effort is under way towards the large-scale implementation of IVS, and some of the results of these efforts are presented in this Special Issue. Although the papers cover a quite limited area of interest, they represent a snapshot of current work in ITS, and the results presented are of great interest to the community. From systems that prevent or limit the consequences of accidents on emissions, implemented at the roadside or on the vehicle, to automatic adaptive tool systems or event detection and recording systems, the papers will attract the interest of the ITS community all over in world.