## **Preface**

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**Biographical notes:** El Hassan Abdelwahed is Professor of Computer Science at Cadi Ayyad University, Morocco, since 1993. He was the Head of the Computer Science Department from 2005 to 2009. He received PhD in Computer Science and Robotics from Montepellier II University in 1991 and Doctorat d'Etat from Cadi Ayyad University in Computer Science in 2007. His main research interests are in ontology, interoperability, context, web services and elearning. He was Programme Chair of the IEEE conference ICWIT 2010 and has served on the programme committees of number of national and international conferences. He is the author and co-author of peer-reviewed scientific publications related to his research interests.

This special issue of the International Journal of Reasoning-based Intelligent Systems (IJRIS) consists of ten selected and extended papers from the third edition of ICWIT 2010, The International Conference on Web and Information Technologies, which was held at the University of Cadi Ayad, Morocco. This special issue was initially discussed and planned with Prof. Kazumi Nakamatsu, Editor-In-Chief of the IJRIS. This required a long discussion and exchange of communications. The whole committee of ICIWIT 2010 greatly appreciated working with Prof. Kazumi Nakamatsu and we all thank him for his high input and friendship. All the challenges that we endured during the planning, the preparation and the organisation of ICWIT 2010 were overcome by the know-how, the dedication, the easy and the effective collaboration that we had with Prof. Ladjel Bellatreche.

The ICWIT 2010 aimed to present new research directions, technological developments and challenging issues for designing high-quality information systems. A total of 100 papers from different countries were submitted to ICWIT 2010. Their topics included: foundations and

applications of web services, databases and information systems, information system engineering, and ontology engineering and applications. After a rigorous review process with at least three reviewers per paper, a total of 50 papers were accepted. Among them, ten are selected to constitute this special issue.

We are proud to present this special issue and hope that readers will find the content of this special issue interesting and will be inspired to look further to the challenges that are still ahead before designing and exploiting Data and Web Information systems. We would like to thank all the authors who submitted their papers for this special issue. We are grateful to the precious supports that we got from various reviewers who ensured the release and the accomplishment of this special high-quality issue. Last but not least, we would like to thank Professor Kazumi Nakamatsu for accepting our proposal for this special issue and for his valuable assistance. Our sincere gratitude also goes to Prof. Ladjel Bellatreche for all his help in making this issue a reality as well as to all members of the International Program Committee of ICWIT 2010.