Message from the Program Committee Co-Chair

This volume is the Proceedings of the Sixth International Workshop on Information Retrieval with Asian Languages (IRAL 2003) which is held on July 7, 2003, in Sappro, Japan. This workshop is the sixth event of the series after about two years absence. The first workshop was held in Korea, 1996, and then we had 4 more workshops in Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong, respectively.

Unfortunately, because of organizing difficulties in the steering committee members of participating Asian countries, we could not hold workshops in 2001 and 2002. In IRAL2000 in Hong Kong, we collocated the workshop just before ACL2000. In the Year 2003, we have ACL2003 in Sapporo, and we proposed to have an IRAL workshop as one of ACL supported workshops.

For this workshop, we have 25 paper submissions from 7 countries/area; Canada (1), Hong Kong (1), Japan (10), Korea (8), Taiwan (2), Thailand (1), and US (2). From all these submissions, the Program Committee has chosen 13 papers for oral presentation and 9 papers for poster presentation.

On behalf of the organizing staff, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of the people who attended and worked for the IRAL 2003 workshop. We hope having our workshop within ACL2003 will be a good chance to start again our periodical gathering of IR research community.

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