# Preface

It is our pleasure to present this special issue of *Cybernetics and Information Technologies* journal. In this issue we have selected 15 papers which have gone through several rounds of review and revision, and represent a cross-section of the research studies in information technology areas that touch both technical and managerial issues. The preliminary versions of these papers have been presented at the Third International Conference of Logistics, Informatics and Service Science (LISS 2013), which was jointly hosted by Beijing Jiaotong University, China and the University of Reading, UK in August 21 to 23, 2013 at Reading, UK.

Ever since the first meeting at Beijing (July 2011), LISS conferences have been a big scientific event for researchers and practitioners in IT, logistics and service science areas. More and more participants from outside China come and join LISS conference and its impacts are being enlarged. Since 2012, the organizers of LISS decided to bring out the selected best papers, presented at the conference in full, in a special issue of respected journals. The publication of extended full papers from presentation at conferences provides advantages for both authors and referees. For authors, the qualities of their works may be considerably improved through serious discussions with peers during the conference. For referees, it becomes much easier to review the submissions, since they are generally invited among the experts participating in the conference.

After getting the camera-ready papers for LISS2013, we started to select papers from the submissions. To provide equal opportunity to all authors of the invited and proffered papers of LISS2013, we made an announcement that a special issue of *Cybernetics and Information Technologies* will be included in the conference circulars. 36 submissions were invited to be extended and revised to a full paper for *Cybernetics and Information Technologies* special issue and 15 papers have been finally accepted, representing an acceptance rate less than 42 %.

The scopes covered in this special issue include:

- Algorithms in IT areas including data mining (Wang, Chen and Chen; Zhu, Zhang and Li; Wang), recommender systems (Huang, Gao and Gu), network security (Lv, Zhang and Wang) and multi-attribute decision-making method (Wu and Yan);

- Behavioral research in IT including synergy of information systems and corporate strategies (Xie et al.), software outsourcing alliance (Lv and Zhao), requirement change management (Zhang et al.), informatization strategy evaluation (Ke and Sun), workflow research (Wang, Wang and Lv), as well as an empirical research on IT service quality model (Liu and Zhang);

- Cloud computing including regional medical business process optimization model (Xi, Qin and Huang) and service architecture (Ji et al.);

- Case study in IT including a question answering system (Wang et al.).

The fifteen papers examine information technologies in different contexts, they mainly apply analytical approaches to arrive to their findings. Moreover, they demonstrate the practical relevance of the academic research in IT areas.

To sum up, we would like to thank all who kindly contributed their papers for this issue, as well as the editors and reviewers for their kind help and cooperation. We are also indebted to *Cybernetics and Information Technologies* journal and its publishing and production team for their assistance in the preparation and publication of this issue. We hope you will enjoy reading these papers as much as we have enjoyed reviewing, compiling and editing this special issue.

Beijing, 10 November 2013                                   *Shifeng Liu, Mincong Tang*