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Foreword

“Challenges for Advanced Technology Industries” was a very fitting theme for the 36th International Conference on Computers and Industrial Engineering in Taiwan where high-tech industries had been growing rapidly over past 20 years. This conference – held in Taipei, Taiwan during June 20 and 23, 2006 – provided a wonderful opportunity for participants to disseminate recent theoretical and methodological developments, significant technical applications, case studies, and survey results in the area of Computers, Industrial Engineering/Management and other related areas.

Issues related to manufacturing, inspection/maintenance, transportation, service industry and technology development have been covered. These papers indicate that computers and industrial engineering methods are widely applicable in advanced technology industries. The 563 articles presented in the conference were screened for possible inclusion in this issue. Authors of 40 promising articles were invited to submit extended versions of their work. The editors of this special issue received 35 manuscripts which were then subjected to the rigorous review process of the journal. After rounds of editorial feedback from the referees, thirteen papers were accepted for this special issue of Computers and Industrial Engineering.

The guest editors would like to thank the Editor-in-Chief, Mohamed I. Dessouky, for his support and guidance. We are thankful to the authors who cooperated with us so diligently to produce their best work. Our thanks also go to the reviewers who have spent significant time and efforts in the reviewing process.

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