FOREWORD

A special focus of this issue of the Journal (IJCIM) has to do with intellectual property law, particularly as it pertains to the IT field. The development of modern technology has changed the face of intellectual property and is currently demanding that this area of law be rethought in a radical manner. The complexity of this area of law is acknowledged by Settapong Malisuwan and Jun Xu in their analysis of The Integrated Circuits Act of Thailand, an act designed to encourage the growth of this industry in Thailand. The authors attempt to cut through this complexity to provide IT professionals with a basic idea of the law and its implications. R. Muruga Perumal looks specifically at copyright violations, a matter of great importance given the ease with which information can be copied on the Internet. The author provides a strong analysis of the nature of the problems and the potential dangers of certain attempts to alleviate it. His analysis is especially useful insofar as it examines the issue in the context of International law.

Knowledge is not only power in the modern world but it is also an economic resource, a fact which makes the intellectual property issues particularly important. Andrew Goh Lee Sung examines another dimension of computer-represented knowledge in his study of the management of knowledge innovation. Technology is always changing and it is important to manage this rapid development and this article makes a significant contribution to the literature on knowledge innovation. Chin-Tai Chen and Ming-Han Lin also focus on innovation, in particular how to manage the research and development process. The authors investigate Data Envelopment Analysis as a tool for managing this important source of innovation.

Chih-Hung Tsai, Ching-Liang Chang, and Lieh Chen examine another dimension of knowledge as an economic resource. Information consulting companies do business on the basis of the knowledge they can bring to client firms, yet in general they have a limited ability to engage in explicit management of that knowledge. The authors consider in detail the nature of the issue and provide solutions to the problems. Abdulmajid H. Mohamed, Sai Peck Lee, and Siti Salwah Salim write about related issues in the field of software development. Experience in the field provides an important knowledge resource for software engineers, but systematizing that knowledge so that it is accessible and preserved has been a difficult task. Striking a balance between explicit and tacit knowledge, the authors present an analysis of how to represent this valuable resource.

Another aspect of software engineering, one not unrelated to the problem examined in the previous article, has to do with managing team behavior in complex software projects. Kamal Zuhairi Zamli and Nor Ashidi Mat Isa use a Virtual Reality Process Modeling Language to represent these problems and to provide a way of allowing members of a team to share knowledge and skills.
The focus on intellectual property in this issue highlights the value of information. But information can lose its value if it is locked away, and for it to be truly powerful it must be shared. The facilitation of such sharing is the major point of the IJCIM and the editors greatly encourage all of our readers to submit reports of work, particularly work that would be of interest to IT professionals. Only through such sharing can the field develop and make a maximum contribution to society. It is, after all, such contributions that are the source of value, monetary or otherwise.

Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman
Editor-in-Chief