

PREFACE TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE OF ISOLDE XII

ISOLDE (International Symposium on Locational Decision) is the triennial symposium which is devoted to the inter/multi-disciplinary subject of Location Analysis. It started in 1978 and is recognized as the most important symposium in the field of Location Science. The author attended ISOLDE V in 1990 which was held in Fullerton, California for the first time. Since then, he attended almost all ISOLDE meetings. As he attended the ISOLDE meetings, he had a desire to have ISOLDE in Japan.

It was not easy task, because there was an implicit rule that the symposium would be held in North America and Europe alternately. The author talked with the main members of the symposium and persuaded them to have the ISOLDE in Japan. The location of the next ISOLDE should be decided by the vote of all the attendants. He stood as a candidate of the next ISOLDE in 2002 in ISLODE IX in Canada, but lost in the vote. After the vote, he continued to attend ISOLDE meetings and talk with many attendants of the meetings about the meanings of having ISOLDE in Japan. Also he introduced ISOLDE to the young researchers of Urban Operations Research Group in Japan. As a result, at ISOLDE XI held in Santa Barbara in 2008, most attendants agreed to have ISOLDE XII in Japan. Almost ten attendants from Japan supported to have ISOLDE in Japan, too. At the last session of ISOLDE XI, which was the session for the vote of the next ISOLDE, the attendants decided to have ISOLDE XII in Japan unanimously.

ISOLDE XII was scheduled in 2011, which is three years later of ISOLDE XI. However, it had to be postponed for a year because of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the following accidents of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. It was a difficult decision making, but the members of the Scientific Committee supported the decision. In 2012, ISOLDE XII was held in Nagoya and Kyoto with almost sixty attendants. Two thirds of them were from abroad. All the attendants had a very fruitful time in Japan.

As the special issue of successful ISOLDE XII, the author feels very sorry that only three papers were submitted. He talked with many attendants to submit their papers presented at ISLODE XII, but the effort was in vain. Their responses were that if their paper were published in JORSJ (Journal of the Operations Research Society of Japan), it should not be considered as a good quality paper which is needed for their promotion or job searching. The author was so depressed, and finally recognized that the reputation of our journal in his field was lower than the major journals in the United State of America and Europe.

Even if not so many attendants submit their paper to JORSJ, the author would like to thank all the attendants of ISOLDE XII, and especially the members of Scientific Committee, Organizing Committee and the authors who submitted papers to this special issue.

Atsuo Suzuki, Guest Editor