For the second time, the guest editor has been given an opportunity by *IJITWE* to publish selected articles from iiWAS and MoMM conference series. This issue contains five articles from the two conferences held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from December 3, 2006 to December 6, 2006.

In the first article, Hoang, Nguyen, and Tjoa propose a new approach for assisting users in formulating queries for information retrieval. The approach uses a Semantic Web technique with a user-oriented method. The authors use their previous SemanticLIFE framework and virtual query system (VQS) with additional ways of query formulation entitled pattern-based and context-aware querying process. With this approach, we can build a system that can trace context of the users’ query processes and is able to recommend the most appropriate query pattern to match to the users’ context.

In the next article, Krisnawati and Restyandito aim to improve cell phone users’ device competency in developing countries like Indonesia, where many users undergo technology overlap. Using data collected from interviews, usability testing, and questionnaires, the authors discover that there are three major factors that have roles in shaping the users’ device competency (i.e., the user interface design, the culture, and the users themselves). This study is expected to be usable for better product deployment in certain countries or regions.

In the next article, Indrawan and Loke investigate the use of a general purpose ontology, WordNet, to improve the information retrieval process. They improve an existing model and present the outcome of their experimentations. Based on the research, they find that WordNet is proven to be useful in supporting semantic analysis in the initial stage of the information retrieval process. For further use, this ontology should be expanded with domain-specific entries or be combined with other ontologies.

In the next article by Razak, Abidin, and Komiya, the authors highlight the need for both audio/voice and video/facial image as important aspects for human communication. The use of existing videophones, however, can be costly due to the high bit rate image transmission. Using voice driven emotion recognizer mobile phone (VDERM), the authors propose to input voice only and it can be converted to expression images stored in an image bank. The prototype of this system is implemented on a personal computer, but for further work, it can be adopted to mobile applications.

In the final article by Sun, Taniar, and Torabi, the authors present a study of image mining appearing in multimedia data clustering. The authors use a large set of shoe print data, apply two different clustering approaches (k-means and expectation maximization), visualize different clusters with the changes of variables, and
perform some analysis of the results. This article is part of a larger project that uses shoe print clustering for forensic mining purposes.

The guest editor would like to thank IGI Global Inc. and *IJITWE* Editor-in-Chief and ad hoc reviewers for the collaboration opportunity in this special issue. Finally, the guest editor would like to thank the authors who have prepared their articles and revised them in accordance to the reviewers’ feedbacks in a timely manner.

Eric Pardede
Guest Editor