

## Acknowledgment

The editor would like to acknowledge the help of all involved in the writing and review process of this handbook, without whose support the project could not have been satisfactorily completed. Deep appreciation is due to the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science projects TIN2006-14285 and TIN2006-07262, the Spanish Consejería de Innovación Ciencia y Empresa de Andalucía under research project TIC-1570, and especially to their respective directors for their partial support that let me to edit this handbook.

Most of the authors of chapters included in this handbook also served as referees for chapters written by other authors. Thanks go to all those who provided constructive and comprehensive reviews, including the Program Committee. Of course, special thanks go also to my editorial advisory board, a group of wonderful and qualified researchers who aided in the review process and strengthened the overall quality of this publication. All these researchers were really necessary because all chapters have been reviewed by at least three different referees and all their comments contributed to enhance every chapter.

Special thanks also go to the publishing team at IGI Global, whose contributions throughout the whole process from inception of the initial idea to final publication have been invaluable. In particular, thanks go to Ms. Kristin Roth, who continuously supervised the project march via e-mail, even in Spanish language, and whose enthusiasm motivated me to continue working on this project. Jessica Thompson also did a wonderful job. I want to acknowledge the special English review by M. Carmen Chaves and Dr. Salvador Arijo, highlighting here their excellent contribution as Greenpeace<sup>1</sup> volunteers in the unsustainable Spanish province of Málaga.

I cannot forget to mention the essential contribution of Professor Dr. M. C. Aranda, including scientific and personal areas, bearing without complaint part of the huge task of editing this work.

Finally, I wish to thank all of the authors for their excellent contributions to this handbook, including authors of unpublished works (unfortunately, this book had a limited extension).

*<sup>1</sup> Greenpeace is an independent global organization that acts to change attitudes and behavior, to protect and conserve the environment, and to promote peace (<http://www.greenpeace.org>).*