## **Acknowledgments**

The editor would like to acknowledge the help of all involved in the collation and review process of the book, without whose support the project could not have been satisfactorily completed.

Deep appreciation and gratitude is due to the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico, for ongoing sponsorship in terms of generous allocation of online and off-line Internet, WWW, hardware and software resources, and other editorial support services for coordination of this yearlong project.

Most of the authors of chapters included in this also served as referees for articles written by other authors. Thanks go to all those who provided constructive and comprehensive reviews that contributed to improve the chapter contents. I also would like to thanks to Dr. Tomohiko Taniguchi of Fujitsu Laboratories Ltd. of Japan, for taking some time of his very busy schedule to write the foreword of this book.

Special thanks also go to all the staff at Idea Group Inc., whose contributions throughout the whole process from inception of the initial idea to final publication have been invaluable. In particular, to Kristin Roth who continuously prodded via e-mail for keeping the project on schedule and to Mehdi Khosrow-Pour, whose enthusiasm motivated me to initially accept his invitation for taking on this project.

Special thanks go to my wife, Dr. Mariko Nakano-Miyatake, of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico, who assisted me during the reviewing process, read a semi-final draft of the manuscript, and provided helpful suggestions for enhancing its content; also I would like to thank her for her unfailing support and encouragement during the months it took to give birth to this book.

In closing, I wish to thank all of the authors for their insights and excellent contributions to this book. I also want to thank all of the people who assisted me in the reviewing process. Finally, I want to thank my daughter Anri for her love and support throughout this project.

Hector Perez-Meana, PhD National Polytechnic Institute Mexico City, Mexico December 2006