Preface

This book contains the papers presented at the *second Kyoto Workshop on Digital Cities* that took place in October 2001. This was the third in a series of three related conferences. The previous conferences were the *Kyoto Workshop on Communityware and Social Interaction* in 1998, and the *first Kyoto Workshop on Digital Cities*, in September 1999. Together they have contributed to the advancement of the research on digital cities, one of the research topics within the emerging field of 'social informatics'.

The meeting aimed at improving our understanding of the current status and future of those classes of systems that can be subsumed under the heading of digital city. What are feasible models for digital cities? What do experiments with digital cities teach us? What new technologies for digital cities emerge? The meeting aimed at encouraging research and practical activities in this field, and enabled the interaction between computer scientists, social scientists, and enlightened practitioners, engaged with digital cities. Topics of discussion were design and analysis, theoretical perspectives on digital cities, experiments with digital cities and with community networks, applications of digital cities, user studies, visualization, (mobile) technologies for digital cities, social interaction and communityware, user involvement in digital cities and community networks, and organizational and business models for digital cities.

The symposium which took place on the first day of the meeting was attended by more than 300 participants. The two other days of the meeting were open for invited participants only, and were attended by about 60 researchers from 13 countries from all over the world: Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, The Netherlands, Sweden, UK, and the US. More than 30 papers were presented together with demonstrations of developed software, giving a good overview of the state of the art of the field. The meeting concluded with a special *panel on the future of collaboration*, which was organized by the NTT Communication Laboratory as a celebration of its 10th anniversary. This volume consists of most of the papers presented during the meeting.

The volume is organized as follows. In the introduction, we discuss the concept of the digital city and we give an overview of the content of this volume. We also present the issues in digital cities research, development, and practice that emerged from the discussions held during the meeting. Part 1 of the book contains theoretical chapters offering several perspectives on digital cities. In part 2, three chapters are collected that describe the digital cities movement from various techno-political perspectives. In part 3, examples of and experiments with digital cities and related systems are described and analyzed. The five examples come from various parts of the world: Ireland, US, Germany, and Japan. The five chapters of part 4 present evaluations of various aspects of digital cities. In the next parts, the focus shifts from the social and organizational dimension to the technical dimension. In part 5, architectures for digital cities are discussed, and part 6 presents technologies for several services digital cities may provide.

Despite the fact that the workshop took place shortly after the drama of 11 September, almost all participants were able to come to Kyoto. However, as digital cities are related to real cities, the reflection on digital cities was influenced by the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and its aftermath. This is clearly visible in several of the papers included is this book.

Last but not least we would like to acknowledge the very generous support from various sides. The Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST), the Department of Social Informatics, Kyoto University, and the NTT Communication Science Laboratories sponsored the meeting in various ways. We would like to thank the members of the International Program Committee for their work in the review process. Finally, the local organizers and especially Shoko Toda did a great job, and through their hard work the workshop turned into a successful and pleasant event.

May 2002   Makoto Tanabe
                                                          Peter van den Besselaar
                                                                    Toru Ishida

Organization

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Symposium Chair:	Toru Ishida (Kyoto University, Japan)
Workshop Chairs:	Peter van den Besselaar (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
	Makoto Tanabe (JST Digital City Research Center, Japan)
Panel Chair:	Kiyoshi Kogure (NTT Communication Science Laboratories, Japan)
Exhibition Chair:	Hiroshi Ishiguro (Wakayama University, Japan)
Secretariat:	Shoko Toda (JST Digital City Research Center, Japan)

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