Preface
Special Issue on Cloud Computing

Kazuo Ishida
Corporate Senior Executive Vice President and Director

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to all those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and sincerely hope for their safety and the fastest possible recovery and rebuilding.

The global impact of the earthquake on the manufacturing industry supply chain and the way information is delivered through social media have reminded us that society and the economy are becoming globally borderless at an ever-increasing speed. In the world of information and communications technology (ICT), cloud computing is positioned as an important option in ICT strategies and specific applications based on the concept of suitability have become widespread.

We as the Fujitsu Group are consulted by many customers about the utilization of cloud computing and feel that they have expectations that can be roughly classified into three categories. The first is activities for overall optimization of the existing ICT assets. Corporate customers are considering using private cloud computing to consolidate their ICT assets including group companies to reduce costs and strengthen governance. In addition, an increasing number of customers are reviewing their systems that have so far been entirely company-owned to switch to ones partially managed by cloud computing. The second category is using cloud as a base for offering new services and creating value. Cloud computing is extremely effective for launching new businesses and services quickly and for starting small and developing uniformly at a global level. To address social themes in fields such as food and agriculture, welfare and healthcare, and the environment and

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energy, companies have started making efforts to enhance business with new ICT applications including sensing technologies. As the third category, more and more customers have been prompted by the great earthquake to consider using cloud and other services from the perspective of disaster control and power limitation measures.

The Fujitsu Group is an ICT company capable of realizing global sourcing from the viewpoint of customers. This special issue presents Fujitsu's wide-ranging approaches to cloud computing and gives some application examples. "On-demand Virtual System Service" is a cloud service that commercially started in October 2010 (renamed "Fujitsu Global Cloud Platform 'FGCP/S5'" in June 2011 in Japan, and has been called "Global Cloud Platform" in other countries since then). It is highly reliable, allowing it to be used in corporate core systems, and it is offered globally. We also have global partnerships with companies including Microsoft.

In the cloud world, we intend to bring together the ICT we have cultivated over many years and take advantage of our know-how in various services and human resources to continuously contribute to society and corporate activities. Furthermore, as a member working to rebuild Japan, we are committed to building a creatively affluent society. We aim to do this by concentrating our technologies and refining science and technology with the concerted effort of the entire group under Fujitsu's DNA of "Turning Dreams into Reality" and brand promise "shaping tomorrow with you."