## Preface to the special issue "The Golden Jubilee of Algebraic Analysis"

Fifty years have elapsed since Professor Mikio Sato gave an epoch-making talk "On linear partial differential equations" at a colloquium of the University of Tokyo. The talk started with the discussion of E. Cartan's existence theorem for total differential systems, and it proposed to analyze systems of linear differential equations from the viewpoint of  $\mathcal{D}$ -modules with emphasis on the importance of (what we now call) holonomic systems. Besides this talk, the publication of papers "Theory of hyperfunctions, I and II" (J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo, 8 (1959/1960)), construction of the theory of prehomogeneous vector spaces, study of the relation between the Ramanujan conjecture and the Weil conjecture, and the presentation of what we call the Sato-Tate conjecture were all made around 1960 (1959-1963) by Professor Sato, who thus brought about the renaissance of algebraic analysis, the spirit of Euler's mathematics. Hence it seemed appropriate to commemorate in 2011 the golden jubilee of algebraic analysis of our age, and accordingly the editorial board of Publications of the Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences decided to publish this issue. In January of 2009, we sent letters to mathematicians who seemed to have been substantially influenced by Professor Sato, inviting them to contribute papers to this special issue, and the outcome is this. We sincerely thank all the authors for having contributed such excellent papers observing the tight schedule. We also express our heartiest thanks to the Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences of the University of Tokyo for having allowed us to reproduce on pages 2–9 of this issue the notes of Professor Sato's talk in 1960. Our sincerest thanks also go to Professor H. Komatsu, who took the notes.

Together with all the contributors, we wish Professor Sato, who is now 82 years old, an enjoyable reading; all the contributions were made in response to our request of providing papers which Professor Sato would be interested in.

Advisory board of this special issue:

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Lecture Notes

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