Preface

The 34th Workshop of The International School of Mathematics "G. Stampacchia", The International Workshop on Optimization and Control with Applications, was held during July 9-17, 2001 in Ettore Majorana Centre for Scientific Culture, Erice, Sicily, Italy. The Workshop was supported by the Italian Ministry of University and Scientific Research, Sicilian Regional Government, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and The National Cheng Kung University. The Director of The International School of Mathematics "G. Stampacchia" is Franco Giannessi. The Directors of the Workshop are Liqun Qi and Kok Lay Teo. They jointly organized the Workshop. About 90 scholars from as many as 26 countries and regions attended the Workshop. It consisted of 21 45-minute invited lectures, 45 30-minute contributed talks and 11 15-minute short communications.

This special issue contains 6 papers emitted from the Workshop. All papers were reviewed by at least two independent referees. A refereed book containing 28 papers from the Workshop is also published by Kluwer Academic Publishers.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Professor Franco Giannessi, the staff of Ettore Majorana Centre for Scientific Culture, and all speakers and participants for their contribution to the success of the Workshop. We would also like to thank Eva Yiu for the clerical work she provided for the workshop. We greatly appreciate the support from the referees of all submissions to this Special Issue for their careful and insightful review.

We are very happy to see that this Workshop has become a new conference series. This Workshop is now regarded as OCA 2001. During August 18–22, 2002, The Second International Conference on Optimization and Control with Applications (OCA2002) was successfully held in Tunxi, China. The Third International Conference on Optimization and Control with Applications (OCA2004) will be held in Chongqing-Chengdu, China, during July 25–31, 2004. Liqun Qi and Kok Lay Teo continue to be the Directors of OCA 2002 and OCA 2004. We hope that OCA Series will continue to provide a forum for international researchers and practitioners working in optimization, optimal control and their applications to exchange information and ideas on the latest development in these fields.

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