

## Preface

The 12th International Conference on Automata and Formal Languages (AFL 2008) was held in Balatonfüred, May 27–30, 2008, and was organized by the Computer and Automation Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The AFL series was initiated by the late Prof. István Peák (1936-1989). He organized the AFL conferences in 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986 and 1988 and started the organization of AFL in 1990. These conferences were all held in the hills around Salgótarján. In 1986 and 1988, the title of the conference was Automata, Languages and Programming Systems.

The scientific program featured invited lectures by Viliam Geffert (Kosice), Markus Lohrey (Leipzig), Ion Petre (Turku) and Jacques Sakarovitch (Paris), and presentations of 24 contributed papers representing 13 countries selected by the international Program Committee.

This special issue contains the full length papers of 7 contributed articles presented at the conference. All papers were refereed in accordance with the journal's standards. We are grateful to the members of the Program Committee of AFL 2008 and their subreferees as well as to all those who served as reviewers of the papers submitted to this special issue.

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Guest Editors