Preface

As the 9th International Research Institute of the Mathematical Society of Japan, an international conference on "Integrable Systems in Differential Geometry" was held at the University of Tokyo, during the period 17-21 July 2000. This volume consists primarily of survey articles based on the theme of the conference.

Two volumes, consisting primarily of research articles, have already been published. "Differential Geometry and Integrable Systems" (Contemporary Mathematics, vol. 308, American Mathematical Society, 2002) contains articles whose main focus is differential geometry. "Integrable Systems, Topology, and Physics" (Contemporary Mathematics, vol. 309, American Mathematical Society, 2002) contains articles related to geometry in a wider sense: topology, algebraic geometry, symplectic geometry, and mathematical physics.

The articles in this volume provide a panoramic view of the role of geometry in integrable systems, firmly rooted in surface theory but currently branching out in all directions. The longer articles are substantial surveys of several different aspects of the subject, while the shorter ones indicate more briefly how far the classical ideas have developed.

The members of the Organising Committee (with their affiliations at the time of the conference) were Takushiro Ochiai, Chairman (University of Tokyo), Martin Guest (Tokyo Metropolitan University), Mitsuhiro Itoh (University of Tsukuba), Reiko Miyaoka (Sophia University), Tohru Morimoto (Nara Women's University), Yoshihiro Ohnita (Tokyo Metropolitan University), Simon Salamon (Oxford University), Takeshi Sasaki (Kobe University), Chuu-Lian Terng (Northeastern University), and Gudlaugur Thorbergsson (Cologne University). On behalf of the entire Organising Committee we would like to thank the institutions and many individuals whose cooperation was essential for the success of the conference. Financial support was provided by the Mathematical Society of Japan, the Japan Association for Mathematical Sciences, and from individual research grants of the Japan Society for Promotion of Science. We thank Carolyn Dong and Sanae Kurosu for assistance in the preparation of the TeX files.

<div align="right">Martin Guest, Reiko Miyaoka, and Yoshihiro Ohnita</div>