



LMAG Kansai

Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

Exploring the singularity

Yoshiaki Kushiki, Chair, LMAG Kansai



L MAG Kansai has set diversity as its promotion policy, and since 2023.

The singularity is a concept proposed by Ray Kurzweil of human transcendence by AI in 2045, but we see it as "the time when innovative technology will revolutionize society." Specifically, it refers to a state in which the social implementation of innovative technology brings about a "change in civilization" and the resonance and chain reaction continues. In the past 100 years, electrical and electronic technology, computers, the Internet, and AI have been included, and they have caused major innovations in a

chain reaction through social implementation. New peripheral technologies are born in a chain reaction through co-creation, promoting rapid social change. We believe that collaborative efforts toward social goals will bring about the great social change that is the singularity and have aimed to hold lectures that explore its possibilities.

Diverse attempt

At the 2024 lecture, speakers from companies and universities discussed technologies for establishing resilient infrastructure under the theme of "Smart

Cities and Smart Disaster Prevention," and standardization, which has not been covered much in the past, was also added to the topic. At the Engineer Life Forum, which was "Passion and Challenge," people of all ages spoke passionately about how to get familiar with electronic technology and how much fun it is, which resonated with people of all ages.

At the biggest event of the year, "How will innovative technology change the future?", the theme was "Expo, DX and GX," and it was the largest and most lively lecture of the Kansai LMAG. As a new attempt, the speaker, Michiko Ogawa, who is also a jazz pianist, sang and played at the social gathering, fostering a sense of solidarity among the participants and creating a great

impression.

Toward smarter hybrid lecture management

This technical lecture was held as a hybrid lecture. We have developed and put into practical use the business planning management system LK-Homs (LMAG Kansai Hybrid Online Management System), which manages information about these operations on a shared drive. This system has made the entire operation of the hybrid lecture, from planning to post-event processing, very smooth. The third and final Singularity Lecture in December 2024 was a huge success and the most moving lecture.

Officer's Feeling

Benefits of Participating in LMAG Activities in the Era of 100-Year Lifespans

Masaaki Kobayashi, Past Chair, LMAG Kansai

I became a Life Member (LM) in 2013, the year LMAG was established within the IEEE Kansai Section and held its first annual general meeting. Since then, I have actively participated in various events organized by LMAG and the Kansai Section while serving as an LMAG officer for many years. At the end of this year, I will step down from my position as Past Chair.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to attend numerous events and their accompanying social gatherings, which allowed me to expand my network significantly. One particularly memorable

experience occurred during a social gathering where a casual conversation led to an unexpected yet fruitful exchange of information. This became the catalyst for a research collaboration with Professor K at R University. Although the research topic was in a different field from what I had worked on during my career, it shared similar systemic concepts, which gave me a sense of a curious and serendipitous connection.

On another occasion, at a different social gathering, I had a conversation with Mr. C, the Kansai Section's first native

English-speaking member. We discovered that we lived close to each other (about a 20-minute bike ride apart). This realization not only deepened our interaction through Kansai Section activities but also led to opportunities for English-based exchanges in our local community.

At one point, I asked Mr. C if he could help train the students in Professor K's lab in giving presentations in English. This request marked the beginning of an interaction between Professor K and Mr. C, which has since developed into a deeper relationship.

In the so-called era of 100-year lifespans, my fulfilling post-retirement life as a pensioner has been made possible

primarily through academic activities—not only in IEEE but also in organizations like the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE), the Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan (IEEEJ), and the Association of Old Crows (AOC) Japan. Among these, LMAG activities have played a particularly pivotal role. These experiences represent the true benefits of participating in LMAG activities in the Era of 100-Year Lifespans.

Even as I step down as Past Chair and take on the title of Former Chair next year, I hope to continue enjoying these benefits and making the most of my involvement in LMAG.

Activity Reports

Technical Lecture Meetings

26th Technical Lecture meeting **Smart City Smart Disaster Prevention**

On May 27, 2024, "Smart City Smart Disaster Prevention Current State and Future" was held, with 21 people in the venue and 61 people online. At the beginning, LMAG Kansai Chair Kushiki gave an opening speech, introducing how the basic concept of the IEC White Paper on Earthquake Disasters at the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) is being promoted as an international standard originating in Japan



Group picture of the participants.

Tatsuya Shimoji, General Manager of Panasonic, gave a lecture titled "International Standardization Status of Smart Cities - Continuity Planning of Urban Functions and Facilities". Next, Professor

Satoru Oishi of the Kobe University Urban Safety Research Center gave a lecture titled "Smart Disaster Prevention - Automatic Generation of Digital Twins and Construction of an Automatic Disaster Simulator". The three lectures were highly evaluated by the participants, and 17 people attended the social gathering after the lecture, enjoying a wide variety of technical discussions.



Get-together at a restaurant.

2nd Singularity Technical Lecture Meeting

New Power Electronics

on June 29th, LMAG Kansai, in collaboration with the IEEE Kansai Branch, held the 27th Singularity Technology Lecture in a hybrid format at the Umeda Campus of Osaka Institute of Technology. Tatsuya Hosoya, Chief Researcher at Murata Manufacturing, gave a lecture entitled "New Power Electronics Leading Innovation in the AI Generation and EV Evolution." 86 people attended the lecture.



Group picture of the participants.

At the beginning, Professor Emeritus Hiroyuki Matsunami of Kyoto University gave a speech. After the lecture, 10 people attended the social gathering and enjoyed talks on the theme and related technologies at the restaurant.



Ten persons enjoyed the get-together.

The 3rd Singularity Technical Lecture Meeting

On December 12th, the 3rd singularity Technology Lecture was held in a hybrid format at the Nakanoshima Center of Osaka University. LAMG Kansai Chair Kushiki expressed his gratitude to Osaka University for co-hosting the event, and explained the purpose of the opening session, saying that the singularity is when innovative technology is "implemented in society," bringing about a "change in civilization," and that this

"resonance is linked together." He explained the positioning of innovative technology as "co-creation" in Lecture 1 and social goals as "cooperation" in Lecture 2.



Ms. Ogawa's lecture.

In Lecture 1, Ms. Muchiko Ogawa, Director of the 2025 Japan World Expo Association and Panasonic Advisor, gave a lecture titled "What kind of changes will the innovative technologies introduced at the Osaka-Kansai Expo bring to society?" She explored the universal question of human life and how the power of technology affects it and gave a lecture on the theme of the Osaka Kansai Expo, "Designing a future society where life shines."

In Lecture 2, Panasonic Executive Vice President and IEEE Life Member Yoshiyuki Miyabe gave a lecture titled "Toward the Future to Come - Challenges for DX and GX." Currently, climate

change is thought to be caused by various new technologies such as semiconductors and generative AI, and the slogan "social change to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050" is an unavoidable future. Given this background, he proposed the stance that Japan should take on these issues.



Mr. Miyabe's lecture.



3 Speakers and audience

104 people participated in the venue and 103 people participated online. According to the questionnaires filled

out by the participants, the content of the lecture and the management of the hybrid conference were evaluated as very good. After the lecture, the reception was filled with about 57 people, and Ogawa, a famous jazz pianist, performed piano and singing in addition to her difficult talk as the final presenter of the Expo, greatly moving the attendees.



57 participated in the get-together



Ogawa's singing and piano performance

LMAG members contributions to society

On November 21st, the 23rd LMAG Technology Forum and the 1st "Passion and Challenge" Rich Engineer Life Forum were held. Tatsuo Kawasaki, former Managing Director of Matsushita Electronics, gave a lecture on how he has been continuing to "educate young LSI engineers using self-made educational tools implemented in microcontrollers" in Cambodia and Mongolia for over 20 years.

He was appointed as a professor emeritus by the Mongolian National University of Education for this achievement.



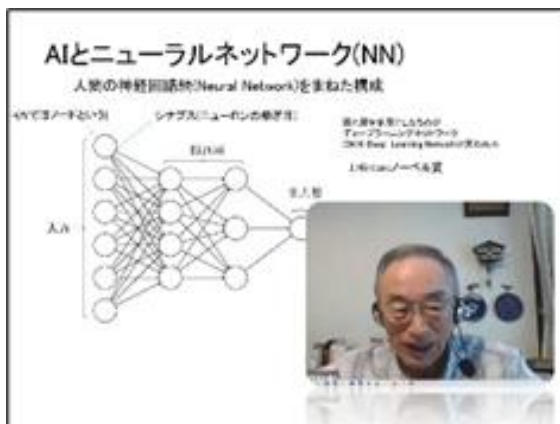
Dr.Kawasaki's Online Lecture



Plaque of gratitude to Dr.Kawasaki

Former IEEE-JC Chair Emeritus Professor Masaki Koyama of the Nara Institute of Technology gave a lecture titled "Generative AI as a Partner." He looked back on the history of the development and spread of "ChatGPT" and mentioned its impact on the business field and various future possibilities. After achieving great results during their active years, the two of them have once again achieved impressive results in completely new activities they started after retirement. This was held only as an online conference, and 74 people participated, but both presentations were very moving. LMAG Kansai and

LMAG-JC presented both with the certificate of appreciation for this lecture.



Dr.Koyama's Online Lecture



Plaque of gratitude to Dr.Koyama

Cooperation with Other Groups

Educational Activities

As part of collaboration with other Kansai Chapter organizations, on September 7th, the "4th IEEE Kansai Chapter EA Event" was held in a hybrid format at the Osaka Institute of Technology Umeda Campus, entitled "Cutting-edge technology in English - Basic elements of technical communication", and was co-hosted by the LMAG Kansai Chapter. Since 2021, we have been cooperating with the Kansai Chapter's educational activities to encourage young researchers and high school students, with the support of LMAG Kansai Past Chair Kobayashi and the participation of LMAG Kansai officials.



Three lectures were given at the events.

Support for Student Branch Activity

On November 25th, the "IEEE Ritsumeikan University Student Chapter English Presentation Competition 2024", hosted by the IEEE Student Chapter Kansai Chapter, was held at the Ritsumeikan University Kusatsu Campus. Past Chair Kobayashi participated as one of the judges. Thirteen technical presentations were made, four people were awarded

four prizes, and the Kansai LMAG presented the "LMAG Award".



13 Students presented their theme.

WIE Symposium 2024

WIE Symposium 2024 On October 5th, the IEEE Kansai Chapter WIE (Women in Engineering) Affinity Group held the 11th WIE Symposium entitled "Let's Enjoy Science, Technology and Life!" in a hybrid format at Ritsumeikan University Ibaraki Campus. Kansai LMAG co-hosted the event and related executives participated.

YP Conference 2024

YP Conference 2024 On November 10th, the IEEE Kansai Chapter YP (Young Professionals Affinity Group) co-hosted the 10th Anniversary Workshop with Nagoya Chapter YP and Japan Council, and the 6th "Career Development in Doctoral Programs" on June 6th. LMAG Kansai executives also participated in the event.

IEEE R10 SYWL2024 Congress 2024

IEEE R10 SYWL2024 Congress 2024 The IEEE R10 Students, Young Professionals, Women in Engineering and Life Members (SYWL) Congress is a biannual event of the IEEE Asia-Pacific Region (R10). The 2024 meeting was held on August 29th in Tokyo hosted by the Japan Council and all IEEE chapters in Japan. LMAG Kansai made a reservation to attend but was unable to attend due to traffic closures caused by the typhoon.

Other activities

LMAG Officers' Meeting

This year, we held 8 officers' meetings online. One of the topics was to discuss and have a draft of new officers of LMAG Kansai Board in 2025. Please, refer to the final page of the newsletter.

Kansai Section Officer's Meetings

Kansai Section held 5 officer's meetings and a general meeting. Mr. Kushiki, Chair of LMAG Kansai, attended them.

LMAG Welcome Party

On March 25th, we held a 2024 Welcome Party for new Life Members, online. Seven new members and seven LMAG Kansai officers participated, and Participants enjoyed a talk.



Screenshot of the party.

R10 LMAG Meetings

Four R10 meetings were held online and Mr. Kushiki, Chair of LMAG Kansai, participated in them.

Activity Plan 2025

Under the board officers newly appointed in 2025, we would like to strengthen LMAG Kansai activities further, and the following are the current plan for 2025:

- 1) ExCom meetings: bimonthly.
- 2) Technical Lecture meetings: over three times in a hybrid format. Other goals of this activity are to encourage new LMAG Kansai Members to join our community and to transcend regional limitations among LMAGs to collaborate with other LMAG members of geographically distant areas.

These ideas were derived from our experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 3) We will co-sponsor YP, WIE and SB AG's events.
- 4) We will continue to support Educational Activities (EA) and Student Branch English Presentation Competition.
- 5) All activities based on the plan above are to be published in the LMAG Kansai Newsletter once a year to call for broad participation in our activities and report them to our members.

Editor's Note

I have been serving as a vice president of LMAG Kansai since 2020. For first three years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the officers of LMAG Kansai have had difficulties to continue our activities as before. However, we found a way to get over those difficulties and, could hold enough numbers of events, such as technical lecture meetings in a hybrid format, or cosponsored many events jointly with other affinity groups, chapters, and other sections in Japan. This year, for the second time, we

honored and gave testimonials to two LMAG Kansai members for their academic contributions and significant influences on industry and society.

I thank all officers of LMAG Kansai, including Dr. Kobayashi, past Chair of LMAG Kansai, and the IEEE LMAG Kansai members who participated and supported the events for their contributions to LMAG Kansai activities.

Toru Chiba

Submitting Articles

We welcome articles for this newsletter, such as tales of your IEEE activity, essays on novel or interesting technical issues, and so on. Manuscripts should be written in English or Japanese. Please include your

Life Grade, Member Number, and email address with your submission.

Imag-kansai@ieee-jp.org

Contact Us

Imag-kansai@ieee-jp.org

2024LMAG Kansai Officers

Chair:	Yoshiaki Kushiki
Vice Chair:	Yasuo Ariki
	Toru Chiba
Secretariat:	Kazuo Hirano
	Kazuyoshi Oshima
	Kiyokazu Yasuda
Past Chair:	Masaki Kobayashi

2025 LMAG Kansai Officers

Chair:	Yasuo Ariki
Vice Chair:	Kazuyoshi Oshima
Secretariat:	Kiyokazu Yasuda
	Mamoru Ito
Past Chair:	Yoshiaki Kushiki