

[December 28, 2020]

**Message from the Tokyo section chair at the end of two year term
2019-2020 Tokyo Section Chair Hideyuki TOKUDA
(President, National Institute of Information and Communications
Technology)**

My name is Hideyuki Tokuda, and I have been appointed as the Tokyo Section Chair for 2019-20. With the warm support and understanding of our members, I have been able to complete my term of office. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of our members.

This year, the world was hit by an unprecedented crisis due to the pandemic of COVID-19. In Japan, too, a state of emergency was declared on April 7, and people refrained from going out unnecessarily, which had a great impact on social and economic activities. Our work styles have also become more telework-oriented, with remote classes in education and telemedicine in hospitals. On the other hand, issues in the application procedure for various benefits and their processing have been exposed, and the delay in digitization of society as a whole has become apparent. In the future, I think it is important to promote the digital transformation (DX) of society through the development of advanced ICT infrastructure that provides contactless, remote, and ultra-realistic services, as well as cybersecurity, with the aim of avoiding the "Three Cs" to cope with the new normal society.

The impact of COVID-19 is that the activities of IEEE Tokyo Section have been mainly conducted in online meetings on cyber space to avoid the "Three Cs" from the traditional face-to-face style. Most of the face-to-face meetings and symposia have been shifted to activities using online tools such as WebEx and zoom.

First, the IEEE Region 10 Annual Meeting, which was scheduled to be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in March, was changed to online and we experienced a large WebEx with over 100 people. In May, "Current Situation of COVID-19-Japan vs. others" was held online, co-hosted by five WIEs in Japan and one WIE in Indonesia. In addition, the All Sections Congress 2020 scheduled for August in Ottawa, Canada

was unfortunately cancelled, the Region 10 SYWL Congress scheduled for September in Bangkok, Thailand was moved online and TENCON2020 in Osaka, scheduled for November at the Osaka International Convention Center, was held online.

The advantages of holding the conference online using WebEx or Zoom are zero travel costs, zero travel time, zero venue fees, and the ability to participate from anywhere as long as there is no time difference problem. On the other hand, there were some difficulties in bonding with people from different regions who were meeting for the first time. Also, depending on the state of the ICT infrastructure in each country, the connection to the conference may be unstable, and the issues such as adjusting meeting times for international symposiums and other events were also apparent.

Looking back over the past two years, the Tokyo Section has been focusing on fostering the challenging mindset of young engineers and researchers and supporting the activities of female researchers. In July of this year, the Tokyo-Shines Section Joint WIE was established and the kick-off event was held in December. With this, the Japan Council WIE, which has been in existence for 15 years, has been expanded and spread to each Section, and it is now possible to participate in the WIE activities of each Section. Also, in October, the LMAG (Life Members Affinity Group) 10th anniversary event was held in a hybrid format on the same day as the IEEE Day. As for the IEEE Milestone Awards, Fujitsu's "High Electron Mobility Transistor (HEMT)" was awarded in 2019, and NEC's "First Operational Large-Scale Latent Fingerprint Identification System" and "First Commercial Digital Signal Processor Chip" were awarded in 2020. In each case, a commemorative lecture was held, and it was a memorable experience to learn about the wonderful achievements of Japanese engineering and the secret stories of the businesses that supported them. As for the IEEE Fellows, which we have been focusing on continuously, five were promoted in 2019 and six in 2020, and we expect that the newly formed promotion group to strengthen the nominations will work in the future.

Once again, I would like to express my deepest respect for the fact that various lectures, events, workshops, etc. were planned and operated at the Tokyo branch and contributed to the revitalization of the member community despite the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. In particular, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the secretariat for all the coordination work, telework support, and

smooth operation of the hybrid events.

The new Section Chair from January 2021 is Prof. Yoshiaki Nakano (University of Tokyo). I sincerely hope that the IEEE Tokyo Chapter will develop further under the new management team, and ask for the continued support and cooperation of all the members of the Tokyo Section.

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IEEE Tokyo Section welcomes any comments, requests or inquiries from our members. Please send them to tokyosec@ieee-jp.org.