

Message from the Tokyo Section Chair at the end of two year term 2021-2022

Tokyo Section Chair Yoshiaki NAKANO (Professor, The University of Tokyo)

I am Yoshiaki Nakano, being appointed as the Tokyo Section Chair for the 2021-22 term. With the warm support and understanding of our members, I will be able to complete my term of office very soon. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all.

The Tokyo Section holds nearly 8,000 members, and has been recognized by the IEEE headquarter as 2022 "Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance" as a result of all section members' support.

The two year term I chaired has been the term being at the mercy of COVID-19 from the beginning to the end. IEEE Region 10 Annual Meeting became full online both in 2021 and 22. Important events of the section such as the Annual General Assembly, the Executive Committee Meeting, and Fellow Presentation Ceremony, have all been held in a hybrid manner (on-site and online combined) where on-site attendees were minor and majority were online. It has been a pity that I have not been able to meet members and officers in person over the past two years with whom, otherwise, I should talk face to face. On the other hand, thanks to the online tools developed during the pandemic, participation from remote places became easier, which made inviting overseas speakers possible and the number of remote attendance increased. This could be said as "light in the dark". I hope that in the next term we can resume full-scale face-to-face activities, but also that the online tools newly acquired are fully made use of.

In this term, despite the pandemic, there have been several delightful events of the section; on March 5th, 2021, there was an IEEE Milestone Dedication Ceremony held at Palace Hotel Tokyo, where "Physical contact push-pull technology for fiber optic connectors" was certified as one of the IEEE milestones, being the 38th IEEE Milestone in Japan. Prof. Toshio Fukuda, IEEE Past President, presented the plaque to Mr. Hiromichi Shinohara, Chairman of the Board for NTT. Then 2021 Life Members Affinity Group (LMAG) Achievement

Award was presented to Tokyo Section LMAG. This award is given to one LMAG whose activities in 2020 were recognized as the best among more than hundred LMAGs in global IEEE. The award ceremony was held on December 10th at the Kikai Shinko Kaikan in the hybrid format. Prof. Fukuda, IEEE Past President, handed the plaque to Dr. Hajime Imai, LMAG-Tokyo Chair. On November 1st, 2022, the Tokyo Section Technical Program Committee (TPC) hosted an on-site/online lecture meeting by Dr. K. J. Ray Liu, the current IEEE President, who attended in person at the University of Tokyo. After the lecture talk, a dialogue session was held between President Liu and local members on site and online, where an insightful bilateral communication in a warm atmosphere was made possible thanks to very friendly personality of President Liu. As for the continuing effort of increasing the number of Fellow upgrades from our section, as many as 11 and 9 members have been upgraded in 2022 and 2023, respectively, which might be the indication that the measures such as the nomination promotion by the Fellow Nomination Committee and the "how to become Fellow" webinar series are bearing fruit.

This term has also been the one when young members are very active. To list a few, in March 2022, Tokyo Section Educational Activities (EA), whose operation is mainly by young members, held an Educational Webinar where Ms. Susan Kathy Land, IEEE Past President, could kindly attend from the US taking advantage of the online tool, and gave a talk entitled "My Personal Journey with IEEE". The talk was excellent in the sense that it encouraged women and youngsters very much. In June 2022, Young Professionals (YP), together with EA, held a YP International Webinar "IEEE Region 10 and you", and invited IEEE Region 10 Director Deepak Mathur online who spoke about activities and advantages of IEEE Region 10 to young members in Japan. These programs would not have been possible without the online tools of the pandemic. I really appreciate IEEE headquarter principal officers' cooperation with young members' activity of Tokyo Section. I also think that it was due to young members' activeness. Please give a big applause to young members and officers of our section.

I would like to express my deepest respect to members and officers of Tokyo Section for planning and operating various lectures, events, and workshops besides the above-mentioned ones, and for having contributed to the vitalization of the member community despite in the pandemic over the past two years. 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 2023 is Prof. Kiyoharu Aizawa, the University of Tokyo. I sincerely hope that the IEEE Tokyo Section will develop further under the new management team. Also from 2023, Prof. Takako Hashimoto, 2021-22 IEEE Japan Council Chair, will be on duty as the IEEE Region 10 Director-Elect, so I would like to ask all Tokyo Section members for continued support and cooperation to her to make IEEE even more beneficial and attractive.

Last but not least, I would like to thank you all once again, and wish you another happy new year of 2023.

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