

[April 11, 2023]

Message from the new Tokyo Section Chair
Kiyoharu AIZAWA, 2023-2024 Tokyo Section Chair
(Professor, the University of Tokyo)

My name is Kiyoharu Aizawa, and I will serve as IEEE Tokyo Section Chair for two years starting January 2023. Together with the new officers, I will do my best to support the activities of the Tokyo Section.

Broadly speaking, IEEE activities have two pillars: academic and technical activities such as international conferences and journals, and membership and regional activities. Since my contact with IEEE up to now has been conferences and journals, I have not been able to see the second pillar. IEEE has 420,000 members worldwide and is divided into 10 regions. Japan is part of the Asia-Pacific region called Region 10, which has 60 sections. In Japan alone, there are nine sections (Sapporo, Sendai, Shin-Etsu, Tokyo, Nagoya, Kansai, Shikoku, Hiroshima, and Fukuoka) with about 14,000 members in Japan. Each section has its own activities such as Student Activity, Women in Engineering, Life Member, and Young Professional, and many lectures and events are planned in connection with these activities. It also supports awards such as the Milestone Award, which recognizes historically important technologies. Activities are highly flexible. For example, a Manga Project progresses, in which Japanese university students' creative plots are selected and professionally produced as manga.

This is the first time I have become involved in IEEE section activities, except for the student branch. As the Corona pandemic has settled down, a face-to-face Region 10 meeting was held in Vietnam in early March (Photo 1), where Region 10 chapter officials and HQ officers gathered to share information about the direction of IEEE and section activities. There are various countries with different backgrounds. In such a situation, it was a new experience for me to have a stimulating exchange of opinions in the section activities. (Personally, I found the exchange of opinions on the relationship between domestic societies

and IEEE very meaningful.) In addition, we had a party, in which there were awards for sections. Three Japanese sections (Tokyo, Sendai, and Shin-Etsu) received the Best Member Retention Award for the best retention of members in large, medium and small sections. Seven of the nine sections (except Tokyo and Shin-Etsu) received flags to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their sections. (photo 2, the silver plaques are those of the Best Membership Retention Award.).

The IEEE is a very useful place to promote internationally recognized achievements and world-class technologies and products, and it offers awards such as Fellow and Milestone. The number of IEEE Fellows in Japan has been decreasing in recent years, while the number of Fellows in domestic societies has been constant. There are many achievements in Japan that are recognized internationally, and it is important to promote them internationally. Japanese companies and institutions have produced unique technologies and products, which are materials for Milestone. We would like to promote them, too.

Even though we are a section, I have learned in these three months that we have a wide variety of activities. We hope that our section activities will not be too much of a burden for the volunteers and that both participants and volunteers will enjoy them. I look forward to working with you for the next two years.

PS Additional information that was not known to most of you: IEEE members, even student members, can use the premium version of Overleaf, the collaborative editing tool you use to write your latex papers, for free. That alone is quite a bargain, so if you are not using it yet, I recommend you to do so.

Photo 1



Photo 2



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