

[February 20, 2025]

Message from the Tokyo Section Chair at the end of two year term 2023-2024 Tokyo Section Chair Kiyoharu Aizawa (Professor, The University of Tokyo)

I am Kiyoharu Aizawa, who had the honor of serving as the Chair of the IEEE Tokyo Section for the 2023-2024 term. Thanks to the strong support from our members, I was able to fulfill my term successfully. From 2025 onward, under the new leadership of Prof. Toshiro Hiramoto, I am confident that the section will continue to develop further. The number of members in the Tokyo Section has not decreased but has been gradually increasing. I hope that the Tokyo Section will continue to be a community where each member can create valuable connections.

When I began my tenure in the Tokyo Section, the world was just emerging from the COVID-19 crisis. My first activity was attending the Region 10 Meeting held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Unlike the IEEE technical conferences and journals I had previously experienced, this meeting focused on discussions and reports about membership and regional activities. It was a gathering where representatives from Japan's nine sections and the Japan Council, all funded by IEEE, exchanged opinions and built relationships with other sections in Asia Pacific. The content and atmosphere were entirely different from technical conferences, which was a refreshing experience for me. I also learned that the IEEE encompasses not only section activities but also various initiatives such as Young Professionals, Student Branches, Life Members, Women in Engineering, the History Committee, and the Fellow Committee, all of which operate across technical fields.

I may not be able to do anything too big, but I thought I would focus on two things during my tenure. First, I aimed to support the recognition of Japan's excellence on the global IEEE stage. Second, I sought to make the quarterly Tokyo Section Board meetings meaningful. The first objective could only be realized through IEEE's global platform, with key indicators such as IEEE Milestone, IEEE Fellow, and IEEE Senior Member. For the second objective, I

transformed the board meetings into a more engaging experience by organizing them as company visits in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

Regarding the first objective, the relevant committees were already conducting effective activities. Over the past two years, there have been a sufficient number of new IEEE Milestone applications (eight from the Tokyo Section and five from other sections). Seven awards were granted across Japan during this period, including two award ceremonies held by the Tokyo Section. While the number of IEEE Fellows remained steady, the number of IEEE Senior Members saw a significant increase, which I expect will lead to more Fellow nominations in the future.

As for the second objective, the board meetings conducted in a field trip format turned out to be quite enjoyable. We visited companies such as IBM, CyberAgent, Toshiba, and LINE Yahoo, using their conference rooms for our meetings. Some visits also included company tours, and at the beginning of each meeting, a representative from the host company gave a 15-minute presentation. (I sincerely appreciate the hospitality of those who welcomed us.) After the board meetings, we held networking gatherings nearby, where we could discuss matters that could not be covered in the fast-paced two-hour board meetings. The combination of excursions and social gatherings significantly helped strengthen the connections among board members and contributed to the high attendance rate. Personally, I always looked forward to the informal gatherings after the meetings.

In addition, in August 2024, we supported the SYWL Congress, a biennial event organized by Region 10, held in Yoyogi, Tokyo. The nine Japanese sections collaborated to host this event, which brought together students, Young Professionals, Women in Engineering, and Life Members from across Asia Pacific. It was a vibrant event fostering leadership development and networking. Simultaneously, the Tokyo Section organized Industry Engagement Workshop (IEW) 2024 at the same venue, creating an opportunity for industry-academic collaboration within IEEE. Talks from large corporations, mega ventures, and startups provided valuable inspiration for participants.

In 2025, for the first time, IEEE's highest-level event, the IEEE Vision,

Innovation, and Challenges (VIC) Summit and Honors Ceremony, will be held outside the United States, taking place in Tokyo on April 23-24. This prestigious event will bring IEEE's major medal recipients to the ceremony, accompanied by various associated events.

Furthermore, the Region 10 Humanitarian Technology Conference (HTC) 2025 will be held at Chiba University of Commerce from September 29 to October 1. With the theme "Beyond SDGs," this conference will bring together researchers from across Region 10.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the core members who supported the Tokyo Section's activities. The section's executive board members, Dr. Yutaka Sata and Dr. Haruhiko Okumura from Toshiba, and Professor Kenichi Higuchi from Tokyo University of Science, held monthly Zoom meetings with me to discuss various matters. I am also deeply grateful to our administrative staff, including Ms. Kato, Mr. Kim, and Ms. Kimura, for their invaluable support. We managed to get through the past two years thanks to these core members and the board members and committee members who were actively involved. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved.

Finally, I hope that Japan's presence will be further enhanced through the activities of the Tokyo Section under the new organization starting in 2025.

Notice from IEEE Tokyo Section Office

Tokyo Bulletin is published via E-mail.

- Tokyo Section encourages membership upgrade to Senior Membership. Visit IEEE website for [online application](#). For details, please refer to [Senior Member Application procedure](#).
- Please make sure to notify IEEE HQ of any changes in your address, etc. Online profile management is available on your [Web Account](#).

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