

Message from the new Tokyo Section Chair

Yoshiaki NAKANO, 2021-2022 Tokyo Section Chair

(Professor, the University of Tokyo)

I am Yoshiaki Nakano, being elected and appointed as the Chair of the IEEE Tokyo Section for two years since January 2021. I would like to work together with you to make the Tokyo Section activities more vital and valuable. First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the former Chair, Dr. Hideyuki Tokuda, the officers and executive committee members of the Tokyo Section, and the IEEE members, who have made a great effort in various activities of the Tokyo Section.

Unlike domestic academic societies which are divided into relatively narrow areas, IEEE covers a wide range in electrical and electronic engineering fields, and conducts various activities globally, including research support, industrial standardization, publication, career development, and startup support. We, the Tokyo Section, are also willing to support such activities of our members in a many-sided manner.

As for my experience with IEEE, I have been a member over 40 years since I was a university student. The international conference where I made my first English presentation on my graduate school research was IEEE Semiconductor Laser Conference held in Boston, 1988. Since then my primary relation with IEEE has been through Photonics Society (PS) and Electron Devices Society (EDS). I was elected as a member of the Board of Governors of the Lasers and Electro-Optics Society (LEOS) in 2004, which became the Photonics Society later, and served for three years. Then I worked as the Chair of the PS Japan Chapter in 2010. Through IEEE's activities, I have learned the importance of creating academic research community with researchers all over the world. Being appointed as the Chair of the Tokyo Section this time, I wish to reward the academic community for the benefit I have received from it so far.

Looking at the current status of the Tokyo Section, despite the declining tendency of the number of members in most Japanese academic societies, it maintains about seven thousand in member number. Another merit of our section is active participation of industrial members. Even so, without contenting ourselves with current situation, we would like to take actions which should increase the value of the Section further. In particular, we will focus on the following actions in this term: 1) increase in the number of high-grade members, i.e., Fellows and Senior Members, 2) increase in the number of IEEE Milestone awardees, 3) support of the Student Branch activities, and 4) cooperation with domestic academic societies.

Last year, the world was hit by an unprecedented crisis due to the COVID-19. It influenced Tokyo Section activities, too, by forcing most of them to be online. It turned out that the online approaches brought us zero travel costs, zero travel time, zero venue fees, and the ability to participate from anywhere in the world as long as time difference is managed. On the other hand, we lost chances to come across new people and to enlarge one's human network. In this term, we would like to retrieve the traditional value of the academic society which is only acquirable through face-to-face occasions, as well as to take advantages of the online meetings we have found.

I appreciate very much your continuous support and encouragement toward our 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.