



## **Event Report: IEEE Tokyo YP Student Transition and Elevation Partnership (STEP) 2021**

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Among the myriads of events organized by IEEE Tokyo YP round the year, Student Transition and Elevation Partnership (hereafter, STEP) has been one flagship event with rich and glorious history. Held with the objective of aiding a smooth transition of graduating students into the professional world, Tokyo YP acts as an interface between academia and enterprises, helping them connect with each other. More specifically, STEP is traditionally held as a day-long industry-tour for people belonging to academia, including but not limited to, students, researchers and young academics where they get to experience the privileged inner world of esteemed enterprises, which is otherwise closed to the outside world. The benefits of STEP are manifold – on one hand it provides a rare opportunity to students to experience the inner culture of blue chip enterprises before going into the job-hunting and internship season, on the other hand it facilitates the enterprises to forge connection with academia and make their brand well-known among the students ahead of hiring. IEEE Tokyo YP has been organizing STEP for more than a decade. Past STEP events have been held at some of the big houses operating in and around Tokyo metropolis, including the likes of Bosch, Ericsson, Fujitsu, NEC, Hitachi, LINE etc.

In its 11<sup>th</sup> year, IEEE Tokyo YP STEP 2021 was held successfully at one of the biggest names in the manufacturing and technical scene of Japan – Sumitomo Electric Industries (hereafter, SEI). With its rich and illustrious history, SEI is a household name in Japan, and over the years, it has contributed in immeasurable proportion to the technical advancement particularly in the areas of semiconductors, telecommunication devices and optical fibers among many others.

### Event highlights

- ✧ Call for participation: **October 17, 2021.**
- ✧ Deadline for registration: **November 15, 2021.**
- ✧ STEP 2021: **November 17, 2021.**
- ✧ Venue: Zoom

Organized by IEEE Tokyo Section Young Professionals (YP) affinity group  
Co-organized by IEEE Tokyo Section Educational Activities Committee (EAC)

✧ Number of participants who joined the Zoom session: 12 (industry+academia) (few more students had registered, but could not join the event on the day)

IEEE Tokyo YP STEP 2021 was themed around three topics of much interest in recent times:

1. Data collection system in IoT networks
2. Multi-core optical fibers and their connectors for next generation communication system
3. Infrared sensors

Table 1. Schedule of IEEE Tokyo YP STEP 2021

17:00	Zoom room open
17:30-17:50	Program start: Opening greetings from IEEE Tokyo YP and introduction to Tokyo YP activities
17:50-18:10	Company profile and R&D explanation
18:10-19:20	Presentation by young employees from SEI (3 persons x 20 min.[including discussions])
19:20-19:30	Break
19:30-20:10	Group discussions in Zoom (Breakout rooms were not required due to small number of participants)
20:10	Closing



Fig. Screenshot of IEEE Tokyo YP STEP 2021 (all attendees are not present here)



The event started with opening remarks from IEEE Tokyo YP Chair Prakash Chaki, and the activities of IEEE Tokyo YP were introduced to the participants. Vice-Chair Yutaro Ishigaki also greeted the participants. The main event started with presentations from 3 departments of SEI. The first topic was about electronics, especially making semiconductors. SEI employees spoke about their work style, and about conducting lot of experiments before designing the products. Second topic was about multi-core optical fibers and connectors assuming their use in data centers which plays a critical role in today's work environments because most companies are either operating on cloud, or using cloud services extensively for business. Third topic was about software development. SEI employees introduced the IoT programming tools that they are developing using Amazon Web Service (AWS) to support self-driving cars. The participants found the topic interesting because it is a new emerging field and might change people's perspective about future cars. For each topic, the participants asked many questions and the company side replied as elaborately as possible. It was a wholesome educational experience for the participants as they learnt a lot through the event and were also exposed to the work culture in each departments, the daily work schedules of the employees as well as their plans for future.

On behalf of IEEE Tokyo YP committee and IEEE Tokyo EA committee, we extend our deepest gratitude to SEI authority for being a very kind host of the event. We sincerely hope to have their continued support in our future events as well. We also thank the participants for registering for STEP 2021 and contributing to its success. We wish them a very successful transition to the professional world, and we are always around to help them in this process.