



LMAG Kansai

Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

Looking Back at 2021

Masaaki Kobayashi, Chair, LMAG Kansai



In 2021, I was appointed LMAG Chair and managed to carry out LMAG activities with the cooperation of the LMAG officers for one year in the COVID-19 environment that continued from the previous year. I would like to reflect on my experience from the perspective of face-to-face/hybrid event format.

LMAG Officer Structure and Officer Meeting

This year, we have a new officer structure with two new members and four existing members, for a total of six members. All three officer meetings were held online, as were the accompanying

get-togethers. It was not possible for the new and existing officer members to meet face-to-face for the first time, and I felt that the online meetings were slightly insufficient as opportunities to deepen bonds among officer members.

LMAG Salon and On-site Lecture

We are proud of two popular LMAG Kansai events, LMAG Salon and On-site Lectures. The LMAG Salon is a friendly, topical get-together. It was held once online, and the scope of participation was not limited to IEEE members in the Kansai region but also extended to LMAG

members in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Sendai. Participation is generally limited to the local area in a face-to-face meeting, but in an online meeting, it can be expanded to a broader area. This is an advantage of holding online or hybrid meetings. In fact, we often receive invitations from LMAGs in other regions to participate in online or hybrid events.

On-site Lectures are events where participants visit research institutes, experimental facilities, museums, and other facilities to receive lectures and tour the facilities. In the COVID-19 environment, it was practically difficult to plan and execute a remote online visit, let alone a regular face-to-face visit, so we decided not to hold the onsite lectures this year as we did last year. Next year, I would like to explore the possibility of holding a lecture with a remote tour, taking advantage of the online system, but more than anything, I just hope that COVID-19 will end and we can hold regular face-to-face On-site Lectures.

R10 LMAG Meeting

In R10 (IEEE local geographic organizational unit's Region 10, also referred to as the Asia Pacific Region), the R10 LMAG Meeting is now held online with the participation of the LMAG Chairs of each region (Section) under R10. This meeting was not held before the outbreak of COVID-19, and it can be said that this is a meeting that can only be held online. This is one instance in which we took advantage of the ability to meet online. I believe that this type of online meeting will

become the new normal even after the end of the COVID-19 outbreak.

EA Activities

The Kansai Section started Educational Activities (EA) this year. The first meeting was hosted by the Kansai Section EA and co-hosted by YWL (Young Professionals Affinity Group, Women in Engineering Affinity Group, Life Members Affinity Group). The event format was a typical hybrid, with face-to-face and online participation, live face-to-face lectures and online video lectures for the two lectures, and onsite and online groups for the group discussions. The equipment necessary for the online/hybrid event, including cameras and speakers, was purchased by the Kansai Section this year. This equipment was used for the first time in this EA event, and the high-quality online video was well received.

SB's English Presentation Contest

LMAG Kansai has been conducting various activities to support SYWL (Student Branch, YWL). As a part of these activities, the LMAG Kansai Award was established in the English presentation contest sponsored by Student Branch (SB). The awards are given to the two best presenters. Last year's contest was held only online. This year, the contest was held in a hybrid format due to a decreased number of new infections. Presentations and Q&A sessions were held with presenters participating onsite and judges and audience members participating online and onsite. The hybrid format was convenient for the contest, as it allowed

presenters to participate at the venue to enhance the reality of their presentations. At the same time, the online participation of the audience meant that they did not have to spend time traveling to and from the venue and could listen to the presentations and ask questions at a time that was convenient for them. This can also be expected to increase audience participation numbers. In addition, the fact that the contest is a hybrid format makes it more realistic, as most actual academic conference presentations are made in a hybrid format.

This year's LMAG activities were

reviewed from the perspective of the event format. While the online format has both advantages and disadvantages, I believe that the hybrid format mitigates the weaknesses of the online format and allows us to take advantage of both the face-to-face and online formats. In addition, it would be a good idea to use the hybrid format not only for one event but also for the entire year's event activities, using both face-to-face and online models in the right places for each event. Next year, I would like to use the hybrid type effectively to boost LMAG activities.

Contributed Article

Philosophy of "Subtraction" in the Era of "Addition"

Katsunori Shimohara, Vice-Chair, LMAG Kansai

The term *philosophy* might be too exaggerated. It means a sort of a way of thinking or method in this article. The idea is that method of subtraction might enable to elicit people's spontaneous relationality as their "addition" by executing "subtraction".

We often feel some inconvenience when we lose something. We cannot recognize its utility and convenience until we lose or cannot use it anymore. Here we refer to "losing" as "subtraction" in the sense that subtraction of something means losing it. That is, subtraction

means losing something or some part from the whole and creating some emptiness in the sense that the whole gets to be not filled up.

When we have some blank interval in our communications, we sometimes try to speak as if to fill the blank interval. What happens in a case of interactions between a human and a system? Could a system elicit a human's spontaneous behavior as an "addition" from the human side by subtracting something from the system? If so, it might be possible to promote rich human-system interactions and weave

relationality rich in diversity and freedom. Suppose a human could find some meaning or value in relationality. In that case, it might be possible to trigger chain reactions of relationality between a human and a system and sustain the growth and expansion of relationality.

Here I would like to envision some aspects of "subtraction" as a system design method.

A. Subtraction as a method to find and recognize the value

We often recognize its importance and value when we lose something, whether tangible or intangible, including a person, an object, a function, a connection, a service, an event, and so forth.

In systems development, on the other hand, it is quite common to take strategies to add a new function or service or extend an existing function or service to increase so-called added value. From the viewpoint of functionality, we could say that we live in the "addition" oriented era.

Even in the "addition" oriented era in functionality, however, sometimes we do not know what function is needed or essential. Even if we could understand a function itself, it is sometimes hard for us to predict how people use and utilize the function and what kind of benefit they can feel and get through the function.

Thus, "subtraction" of a function one by one might be able to work in systems design, something like knockout mice in which a specific selected gene was invalidated. Suppose a feature of mice was not activated nor developed because of a

knockout gene. In that case, it should be clear that the gene should have some relationship with the deficiency of the feature, and eventually, its fact reveals the importance of the knockout gene.

Therefore, it might be possible to position "subtraction" as a method in systems design to find and recognize what and how depends on what.

B. Subtraction as a method to elicit people's spontaneous relationality

In Dry Garden Style, it is said that water itself is subtracted to want to feel the water much more. Subtraction brings some sort of absence, emptiness, or a situation not filled up. If such absence, emptiness, or situation with some space or room could elicit people's spontaneous relationality, subtraction could be a useful method in systems design.

What kind of spontaneous relationality can be derived from people? We might answer that people's imagination, interest, motivation, query, emotion, and behavior could be derived from people. In other words, people's imagination, interest, motivation, query, emotion, and behavior become available for a system. It means that interactions between people and a system should be activated, and such interactions should lead to chances to develop diverse relationality between people and a system.

C. Subtraction as a method to allow diverse interpretation or to increase freedom in interpretation

In the research field on human-to-robot communications, some studies focus

on eliciting users' spontaneous interpretation, and they try to originate users' interpretation by designing a minimal lead. Different from simply simplifying, they try to leave only what they think much of and get rid of others instead. That is, they try to originate users' interpretation by devising a minimal lead. In a sense, they aim to arouse people's rich imagination by minimizing the lead. This should be one aspect of subtraction as a method.

Especially in the relationship with the above *A* and *B*, what people feel and think against the absence or emptiness, what reaction can be generated, and then what kind of relationality can weave should depend on people's interpretation of the absence or emptiness, and on how they manage the absence or emptiness. Even leaving a minimal lead, we can utilize subtraction as a method to allow diverse interpretation and increase freedom in interpretation.

D. Subtraction as a method to have a consciousness to crossing the border

A sort of "emptiness", i.e., vacant space, is created by the method of subtraction, for example, in an alcove, a veranda-like porch in a traditional Japanese room, and a tea-ceremony room. Such vacant spaces display art or flowers according to changes of seasons or some

temporal subject. In other words, "emptiness" should be managed so that people could have a consciousness of nature or outside even if they are inside the room. Moreover, only a minimal arrangement of art or flowers might elicit people's spontaneous and rich imagination for nature or outside.

Four aspects of the method of subtraction are listed above. Although those aspects are derived from different viewpoints and standpoints, their essence should be the same. That is, the method of subtraction should elicit people's relation, imagination, interpretation, and management spontaneously and should work for generating diversity and freedom in them through creating a sort of "emptiness".

Suppose we could apply such a method of subtraction to systems design properly. In that case, it might be possible to achieve a system that elicits users' spontaneous interest, imagination, interpretation, and management, promote interactions between users and a system, and weave diverse and flexible relationality. In other words, systems designed to derive users' spontaneous "addition" by using the method of "subtraction" might explore a new frontier of system science.

Innovations in My Eco System

Yoshiaki Kushiki, Vice-Chair, LMAG Kansai

OSS has evolved greatly

I participated in the founding of Linux Forum Japan around 2000. This is a typical example of OSS (Open Source Software) activities, featuring volunteer development, open for the world, and free use. To see what's going on after that, I participated in the forum of OSS in December 2021.

Activities to jointly develop software as volunteers, beyond the walls of companies and universities, were becoming more and more prosperous. Engineers worldwide have participated, with 1.7 million engineers from Japan. The contents were from a broad range of topics: OS and API containers, cloud conventions, and DevOps being put into practical use by many companies as common software infrastructure worldwide.

Basic software for cyberspace is shared across the boundaries of organizations such as international organizations, government agencies, corporations, and academic institutions. OSS develops, operates, and maintains open specifications and software integrated globally, and I think it is the most advanced organization in common rules and practical application development.

Evolve as an Eco System

Recently, the ecosystem has become a grave problem due to the lack of semiconductor procurement. OSS has

realized the Eco System for software development. Engineers from diverse organizations work around the world with common rules for various applications, issues, and solutions. To these activities, engineers must possess high communication skills and IT literacy. Although it is volunteer participation, recently, the number of companies that recognize its value has increased, and funds are also circulating.

Also, individual participants and the direction of OSS lead to dreams and hopes. The SDGs for realizing the social contribution of corporate activities have begun to spread, and I think that the philosophy of OSS is in line with the main requirements of the SDGs.

IT life innovating due to COVID-19

Communication has changed drastically in the age of telework due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the SDGs, inclusive social contribution activities have been clarified. This is a major issue in forming an Eco System as an individual. DX and SX are becoming necessary not only for corporate organizations but also for our own lives. Many things need to be done, such as using smartphones, using clouds, online meetings, electronic payments, and managing information security.

Innovations in My Eco System

What about my Ecosystem? Family and

relatives, local communities, companies, friends, involved associates in cross-industry forums, surrounding natural environment, country/region administration, etc. In any case, these support one's own life and are indispensable for dreams, hopes, and daily life.

Since we, the members of LMAG, have had a lot of experience, I think we have a role in understanding and supporting new activities deeply. Are we in harmony with our community, and can we contribute? Aren't we becoming selfish with demands as we become elderly? It is necessary to

calmly evaluate myself as the biggest risk.

Accountability is required to respond appropriately to telework and e-mails in work/cultural activities/community activities/family services. The realization of My Eco System using IT is also essential to ensure safety through information security, finance, and insurance.

Eventually, cognitive ability and living ability will be impaired, and the Eco System for transitioning to nursing care life must be prepared for while healthy. Let this year be the year to think about MY Eco System of life.

Involvement in LMAG Activities - Past and the Future -

Kazuo Hirano, Secretary, LMAG Kansai

I finished the secretariat job of the Kansai section in 2011-2012. Ten years have passed since I joined the management of LMAG Kansai just established in 2012. I have continued by following each Chairs' leadership. As LMAG is an organization of higher-aged members, we must have inconvenient activities due to the COVID-19 influence. I was not so active in the LMAG

activity this year.

On the other hand, the number of students at my cultural school is increasing, so the job gave me great pleasure and the out-going opportunities to go out.

Next year is the 10th annual year of LMAG Kansai. We want to make more real LMAG events to make out-going schedules.

Staying at home (Hikikomori) for 2 years

Shigeru Sugimoto, Secretary, LMAG Kansai

I haven't been very active in anything for the last two years. Isn't it using

'COVID-19' as an excuse or self-reflection?

Starting a few months ago, I came to "walk around town" little by little. Though, it was two years left to be still frustrated.

On the other hand, it had been difficult to participate in lectures held in various areas, but it is easy to participate in 'webinars' by IEEE, Universities, Prefecture, etc.

I have participated in many webinars and feel some kind of fulfillment.

Needless to say, I'm a secretary. So, I'll not only participate but also hold webinars.

What is a secretary originally? According to Wikipedia...

"A secretary, administrative professional, or personal assistant is a person whose work consists of supporting management, including executives, using a variety of project management, communication, or organizational skills.

However, this role should not be confused with the role of an executive secretary, who differs from a personal assistant."

(EN.Wikipedia)

The next year, 2022 will be the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Kansai LMAG. (General Assembly established on December 19, 2012)

By the way, I have reached the double milestone of "Koki (70 years old)".

I'll plan and manage a commemorative event and play an "administrative" role in collaboration with neighboring LMAG. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation with LMAG & all IEEE-members.

As mentioned above, I would like to look back on the past and continue to look forward and bright. While praying for the convergence of COVID-19 ...

"From the statement of determination to action !!" I keep telling myself.

Activity Reports

Technical Lecture Meetings

On-site Lectures

We plan several on-site lectures in various premises such as laboratories, plants, and museums in ordinary years.

However, we have had to abandon these activities again this year to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection.

LMAG Salon

This year's LMAG Salon

The LMAG Salon program was newly introduced in 2016 to help foster active communication among our members. This year, we adopted an online format for this meeting for the first time and found it adequate for our purposes.

On April 20th, we held the LMAG Salon online with thirteen participants. The lecture, titled "Introduction to *Shinise*-study", was given by Mr. Yoichiro Maekawa, a visiting professor at Kochi University of Technology and a former member of the Board of Directors at Panasonic.

The Japanese word *Shinise* means a firm or company with a long history, and in Japan, some have continued to exist for over a thousand years. The concept of *Shinise* and managing style are topics of

focus in Japan's business world. After a hot discussion from a great variety of viewpoints, participants agreed that such examples of *Shinise* are constructive for Life Members to appeal to and support young engineers in their fruitful careers.

LMAG-Kansai is planning a series of this kind of lectures online in response to the severe control measures introduced by the Government for the current COVID-19 pandemic.



6th LMAG salon held on-line

Cooperation with Other Groups

Support for Student Branch activities

SB English Presentation Competition

As part of our cooperative activities with the SB, we established the "LMAG Kansai Award (certificate and extra prize money)" in 2018.

On January 9, later than usual, the 17th SB English Presentation Competition 2021 was held online, unlike previous years due

to the COVID-19 pandemic. We supported the competition by participating in the audience and asking questions to enhance the effectiveness of the presentation practice. Our other support for the competition is giving the LAMG Kansai award to two outstanding speakers tackling attractive future themes. This time, unfortunately, all speakers were non-IEEE

members, so there were no winners. Seven speakers attended the competition, one moderator and six audience members, of whom three were LMAG officers and one was a member.



Screen shot of participants.

Educational activities

This year, LMAG started cooperating with Kansai section educational activities to encourage young researchers and high school students. The 1st IEEE Kansai Section Educational Activities Event was held on August 21, 2021, at Osaka Institute of Technology in hybrid format, with 77 participants, following IEEE COVID-19 guidance. The title of the event was "Learn Cutting-edge-Technologies in English". During the second session of the event, we utilized the video of Professor Yoshua Bengio's keynote speech titled "Challenges for Deep Learning towards AI" from the 2019 International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) cited from the IEEE Learning Network. To help the attendees' understanding, we produced and showed a short video before the main video, providing an outline, a background, and the aims of the research studies mentioned in the speech. In keeping with the theme of the video, we created the Japanese narration of the short video using an AI voice synthesizer.



Co-hosted by YP, Wie, and LMAG Kansai.

English Presentation Competition 2021 at Ritsumeikan University

The Ritsumeikan University Student Branch organized the English Presentation Competition 2021 in cooperation with LMAG Kansai, in hybrid format, on October 23, at the Co-learning House on the Ritsumeikan Kusatsu Campus. Sixteen speakers attended the event: three judges, including the VC of LMAG-Kansai Professor Shimohara, four executive members of the Ritsumeikan SB, one counselor of the SB, and Dr. Kobayashi, Chair of LMAG Kansai. Three distinguished speakers were commended, and the LMAG Kansai Award was given to one of the speakers. We plan to cultivate cooperation with SB and position the event as one of LMAG Kansai's original EA activities.



LMAG Kansai Award to Mr. Qi Li.

Other activities

LMAG Officers' Meeting

In 2021, we held four officers' meetings online.

- On February 8, we held this year's 1st officers meeting, and newly appointed officers participated.
- On June 10, we held the second officers' meeting. COVID-19 pandemic affected many events, and we had to adjust our plan.
- On September 10, at the third officers' meeting, we discussed the next LMAG salon and tentatively agreed on the theme: Cyber Security.
- On December 22, at the fourth officers' meeting, we discussed mainly about activities in 2022, and various ideas were proposed.



6 officers participated in the fourth meeting.

LMAG Welcome party

On March 12, we held a welcome party for new Life Members online. Dr. Kobayashi, the LMAG Kansai Chair, gave a welcoming address, and the members enjoyed a friendly discussion.



Screenshot of the party.

R10 LMAG Meeting

On February 23, we held the first R10 meeting, and Dr. Kobayashi participated in the meeting online and introduced LMAG Kansai and its plan.



Presentation by Dr. Kobayashi.

On September 18, we held the Second R10 LMAG meeting online, and four officers from LMAG Kansai participated.

On November 20, we held the third R10 LMAG meeting was held online. Dr. Kobayashi and the other nine members participated, and Dr. Verma Sharone made a welcoming address.



Dr. Sharone Verma hosted the meeting.

R10 Life Member website is ready

Region 10 inaugurated its Life Member website on July 25, and Dr. Kobayashi, Chairman of IEEE Kansai, attended online. Mr. Deepak Mathur, Region 10 Director, made the Inaugural Address.

Women in Engineering (WIE) Symposium

LMAG Kansai would like to deepen the cooperation with WIE, and three officers attended WIE Symposium held on September 25 online.

SYWL Workshop Sapporo

IEEE SYWL (Students, Young Professionals, Women in Engineering, Life Members) Workshop was held on October 31 in Sapporo, jointly with MAW 2021, and Dr. Kobayashi, Chairman of LAMG Kansai, attended the meeting.

The workshop was organized by the SYWL Workshop, with the cooperation of the Japan Council Student Activity Committee, IEEE Shikoku-Hiroshima-Fukuoka WIE Section, IEEE Tokyo/Shinetsu/Joint Sections WIE Affinity Group, and IEEE Sapporo/Sendai/Tokyo/Nagoya/Kansai Young Professional Affinity Group. The theme of the workshop was "Engineers be Ambitious" associated with the famous

words "Boys be ambitious" by Dr. Clark, who was the first vice president of Sapporo Agricultural College (currently Hokkaido University) and is well-known in Japan. Attendees were organized into eight subgroups and actively discussed the theme, which was presented later in the meeting. Dr. Kobayashi had good discussions with attendees, and this should be helpful for future collaboration with these related groups.



The Workshop was held on-site and on-line.

IEEE Sapporo LMAG Kick-off

Celebrating IEEE Sapporo LMAG establishment this year, we held a commemorative meeting on October 31st at Hokkaido University in hybrid format. Dr. Kobayashi, Chairman of LMAG Kansai, attended the meeting. Prof. Fukuda, Past IEEE President, and Prof. Nishihara, Past R10 Director, made congratulatory addresses.



Prof. Fukuda, past IEEE Chair, and Prof. Nishida, past Region 10 Director, made celebratory speeches.

MAW (Metropolitan Area Network Workshop) 2021 Sapporo

The well-known road, bordered by a line of poplar trees in the Hokkaido University campus was beautiful with its yellow leaves. MAW 2021 Sapporo was held at the university's Faculty of Information Science and Technology on October 30th in hybrid

format, and Dr. Kobayashi attended. The presenters gave five lectures on the workshop theme "Cooperation among Different Fields and Social Implementation by Data Science".



Main Campus of Hokkaido University.

Event Calendar

- ◆ SB English Presentation Competition
 - Date: TBD
 - Place: TBD
- ◆ English Presentation Competition 2022
 - Date: TBD
 - Place: Ritsumeikan University
- ◆ LMAG Salon
 - Date: February 25, 2022
 - Place: online (Zoom. From pm7)
 - Title : Details of Cyber security
- present and future-

Activity Plan 2022

The year 2022 will be the tenth year of our activities, and under a current board of officers, we will further strengthen LMAG activities, including online events. And we are considering holding a new event to celebrate the 10th anniversary.

Unfortunately, the whole world is still amid the COVID19 pandemic, so it is challenging to plan Technical Lectures onsite. However, we will try to find a way to hold such pseudo onsite events as much as three times, in cooperation with the Kansai Section TPC (Technical Committee) and WIE.

Another goal is to make LMAG Salon activities more active to encourage new LMAG Kansai members to join our community. In 2022, we hope to have a more active salon format with a broader range of topics by using online services to

transcend regional limitations and collaborate with LMAGs of geographically distant areas.

In addition, we will actively promote collaboration with YP, SB, WIE, and other LMAGs. Specifically, we will support the activities of the SB Brainstorming Workshop and contest and SB's English Presentation Competition from a wide range of perspectives, including the participation of experienced LMAG members in the activities of our collaborators and the presentation of the LMAG Award.

We are also planning, at least, three regular Excom Meetings.

These activities will be published as the LMAG Kansai Newsletter to call for broad participation in our activities and report them to our members.

Editor's Note

Unfortunately, this year's LMAG activities were inactive due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic, which prevented us from carrying out our planned activities. As a result, most meetings and conferences were held online or in a hybrid format, and some planned events were canceled. However, we have experienced and known that these online events were

operated suitable enough for the original theme and went well. Next year, I hope that LMAG activities under the continuing situation will be more active and that the article in the next issue will be as substantial as before.

Toru Chiba
Vice-Chair, LMAG Kansai

Submitting Articles

We welcome articles for this newsletter ; tales of your IEEE activity, essay on novel or interesting technical issues, and so on. Manuscripts should be written in English or in Japanese. Please include your Life grade, member number, and/or email address with your piece.

Contact Us

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2021-2022 LMAG Kansai Officers

Chair:	Masaaki Kobayashi
Vice Chair:	Yoshiaki Kushiki Toru Chiba Katsunori Shimohara
Secretary:	Kazuo Hirano Shigeru Sugimoto

