

# Share your passion with like-minded people

## Toya Kitagawa



### 【Career】

Majored in acoustic signal processing at Yamagata University. After graduation, he joined Panasonic Corporation, where he was engaged in research and development of spatial acoustics in the Technology Division. At the same time, he entered the doctoral program of the same graduate school, and has been conducting research on acoustics as a working doctor.

### 【The current research】

At Panasonic, he is engaged in researches on a space where people can relax and work efficiently along with working for sound approach. At Yamagata University, he is studying about a navigation system using stereophony for value added to earphones.



### What brought you to IEEE?

I became a member when I was a student in order to get a discount to attend an international conference called GCCE (=IEEE Global Conference on Consumer Electronics). After that, I participated in IEEE TOWERS, which is an event organized by students, and that was when I came to actively participate in IEEE activities. The TOWERS event was apparently a poster session which is not that unusual, but I was attracted by the fact that they were allowed to present their published papers and got awarded. I thought it was good, for getting feedback to one's own research is precious for students. The atmosphere was congenial and everybody spoke up; everything was interesting and it was also meaningful that I could interact with somebody specializing in other fields. I found it fresh for teachers involved in Towers to enjoy themselves in the activities.

### What do you do in IEEE now?

I launched a community of YP (=Young Professionals), which is a group of young researchers, in Sendai region and now am the leader. TOWERS is an organization based in Tokyo, and I used to join the events there, but I launched such an organization in Sendai to let students in Tohoku area enjoy an event by passionate comrades. These days, we have more online events, which is convenient, but I believe that offline things must be as important as online things are. It was because I went to Tokyo that I could connect with teachers leading the IEEE activities, and it was at a social gathering after an event that the launch of Sendai YP was mentioned. Chatting face to face should be welcomed; I want to build a place where it's possible and carry over this to the next generation.

### What is great about IEEE?

#### 『Support cycle』

In IEEE your challenge will be supported by many people just with your voice, "I want to try." I myself could've not been what I am without such support; the launch of Sendai YP, building a new organization, was completely new to me, but teachers in Tokyo and members in Sendai assisted me a great deal to make it happen. I think this environment encouraging new things is one of the greatest points of IEEE. I'd like to show my gratitude for teachers I owe a lot to by supporting the young generation, and I'm now actively working to create such opportunities to support young researchers. If their opportunities are expanding, it will enrich the world, leading to a good cycle, I believe.

### 『A place to find comrades, not of a company, nor of a university』

I'm now working for a company and taking a doctoral course as a postgraduate at the same time, and I feel that I can enjoy myself at IEEE even in my private time, for there are like-minded people who have brand new projects. It is exciting to meet such friends. Thinking about communication with senior and junior researchers helps me improve my own skill.

### Why you should join IEEE as well

Development of a new technology requires you to keep up with the trend of the world, not only shut in the lab. Especially those who are involved in developing a product for consumers, like myself, should think about the outcome. You can find and talk with various researchers, including professors and specialists in companies, at IEEE, and you will find the upshot of your research. Opinions from other fields than your own one broadens your mind and allows you to see "what is popular now or what is acceptable to consumers now". I'm always stimulated greatly by these things, so I want to be involved in IEEE as long as I am a researcher and I also want to recommend IEEE to other researchers.

### 【Message】

#### – IEEE as lingua franca: build a comradeship with peers

Your dream or vision will not come true just by envisioning it; sharing it with people and getting like-minded comrades will increase the possibility of making it true. IEEE is a place to find such people. We have a common background as a member of IEEE and it breaks the ice, and we often talk about some problems or issues of our own researches and stimulate one another. I'd like to have more young researchers to build the future. Please contact us casually and freely whatever you are now. Get connected!



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