

You will find female peers and role models

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IEEE

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【Career】

Majored into mechanical engineering in Kyoto Institute of Technology, followed by working for researches on Kansei information processing as a visiting researcher in Thomas Bata University in Zlin. After returning to Japan, she worked for the high-tech research center of Ryukoku University. Now she is in charge of lectures on material mechanics and composite material engineering in Shonan Institute of Technology and also researches related to sports IoT and sport gear production and assessment.

【The current research】

Evaluating mechanical properties and monitoring behaviors and loads during the use of sports gears made of FRP, especially surfboards.



What brought you to IEEE?

When I was a postdoctoral research fellow, I participated in an IEEE-sponsored international conference to present my research outcome; that's when I knew IEEE. My boss at that time told me that the registration fee was discounted for IEEE members, and he encouraged me to attend as many international conferences as possible. So, I casually decided to join.

At first, the purpose of membership for me was to attend conferences; however, the boss came to organize an international conference and I helped him with it. This broadened connections with many people, who kindly invite me to domestic and international IEEE events.

What do you do in IEEE now?

I'm a committee member of IEEE Tokyo/Shin-etsu Joint Section WIE (Women in Engineering), which supports self-sustainability and communication of female researchers and engineers in technology industries, and also a board member of CT Society (Consumer Technology, formerly the Consumer Electronics Society). My motivation is to contribute to organizing international conferences, support for female researchers, and improve the presence of Japan and Asia, albeit with little I can do.

CT Society from those days I joined in has less female members, so I suggested to the then JC WIE Chair that WIE can award at an international conference to encourage female researchers. Then she asked me to become a board member, and now I am creating opportunities where female researchers can get together and selecting speakers for events.

I had opportunities to take on a responsible position at an early stage of my career, which gave me various experiences, and even I received an Early Career Award through my activities.

Through domestic activities of WIE, I got to know many researchers beyond my own field, and their positivity to enjoy their life motivates me a great deal.

As an organizer of international conferences, not just as an attendee, now I look through a wider range of papers than before and think about what a meaningful service is for participants from students who are new to academic conferences to experienced engineers. Now I'm thinking holistically about the whole field and conference. That's one of the greatest learnings I got.

What's good about IEEE and IEEE WIE?

When I am involved in IEEE activities, I can meet female researchers and engineers from other organizations, and I can get a lot of power from them: which is the best part.

Although the number of female researchers has increased, the number is still small; in my university, there are only one or two female professors and lecturers per faculty. However, IEEE has a large number of members and covers a wide range of fields, so I can connect with many people.

In particular, many members who are active in WIE are positive and energetic, which is very inspiring. It is fun to be able to talk not only about research but also about personal matters.

I am really happy to have made good connections and good friends. I am also glad that those activities such as managing academic conferences allow me to build strong ties with diverse people, regardless of gender, age, origin or affiliation.

What do you want to do in the future in IEEE?

I'd like to increase the number of female engineers and researchers; the college I work at specializes in engineering, and there are still few female students if more than it used to be. In order for that, we should address elementary or junior-high school students to make them interested in engineering, not only high school students. Of course, it's not only for girls, and I'd like to nurture young students who are going to make the next generation of this field.

Also, we know so many fantastic people; it would be great if we can develop a framework where collaborative study or the like. I want to think about creating such opportunities.

【Message】

- If you are looking for a female researcher for your role model

In IEEE are not only WIE but also YP (Young Professionals) which is a group for young people and their supporters; there are some communities for each person to fit, and everyone enjoys their activities.

One of the greatest points about IEEE is that you can make friends who you can connect with even in your personal life through a common subject, research. It may be true that female researchers have difficulties to find role models nearby, but IEEE will broaden your sight and let you find various people. Let's join us!



Prototype equipment
(for torsion stiffness evaluation/ behavior monitoring)

URL

<https://ieee-jp.org/about/voice.html>

