

IEEE Kansai WIE Symposium 2016



IEEE Kansai WIE Symposium 2016 was held at UMEKITA Knowledge Center of Osaka Institute of Technology on October 22, 2016. Kansai Section WIE AG organized the symposium with cooperation of Kansai Section YP AG. The total number of participants was 43 including 26 IEEE members and 17 non-members. The symposium consisted of welcome messages, two role model talks by women engineers, and a workshop session.

Welcome messages included messages from Prof. Takako Hashimoto, Chair of IEEE WIE and Ms. Emi Yano, Chair of IEEE Japan Council as well as a message from Chair of Kansai Section WIE.

Two role model talks were given by two women researchers from different generations. The first talk, entitled “Discovering my unconscious bias through VMInclusion”, was given by Ms. Hanae Ishikawa from VMware Inc.. She introduced the VMInclusion projects and their effect to the company performance. She also mentioned typical “STEM for girls” programs in the US, in which her 10-year-old daughter has participated. The second talk, "Research for intelligent vehicles taking you to your important place", was given by Ms. Chihiro Abe from Honda R&D Co., Ltd.. She introduced the state-of-the-art intelligent vehicle techniques for autonomous cars. She also told how and why she selected a STEM career that includes her major at the university and her job at the vehicle company.

At the workshop session, which was coordinated by Ms. Kyoko Higashiyama from Estrolab, all the participants were divided into eight groups and discussed the reason “Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology and Engineering”. First, each participant tried to enumerate 12 (or more) reasons. Then, after the group discussions, we shared the outcomes.

The participants enjoyed the symposium to get images of careers as women researchers and engineers, and to make a WIE network.



Hanae Ishikawa



Chihiro Abe



Workshop session