

IEEE Kansai WIE Symposium 2018



IEEE Kansai WIE Symposium 2018 was held at UMEDA campus of Osaka Institute of Technology on September 29, 2018. Kansai Section WIE AG organized the symposium with the cooperation of Kansai Section YP AG, Student Branch at Doshisha University and Student Branch at Osaka University. We had the fifth anniversary of Kansai WIE symposium in this year! The total number of participants was 49 including 19 IEEE members and 30 non-members. And many students (four high school students, one undergraduate student, and 11 graduate students) participated in this symposium.

The symposium consisted of a welcome message, three role model talks by women engineers, poster talk by four company women engineers, and a group-talk session. Welcome message, which was given by the Chair of Kansai Section WIE AG, included the history of the Kansai WIE AG.

Three role model talks were given by three women researchers from different generations. The first talk, titled "Enjoying Research on Dependability, Education, Life, WIE, and more," was given by Prof. Michiko Inoue from Nara Institute of Science and Technology. She is the founder of Kansai WIE AG. She explained about her original matching algorithm which is fast and has high reliability. Also, she talked about her activities to empower women engineers and to enjoy her researches and daily life. The second talk, "Exploring Brain, mind, and society through eye blinks," was given by Prof. Tamami Nakano from Osaka University. She explained her research topic that the spontaneous eye-blinks are involved in switching internal and external brain networks. She also introduced a lot of episodes as a researcher and as a mother. The third talk entitled "The Fun of Factory Automation Industry and Surprising Points About Panasonic" was given by Ms. Kanako Kouzai from Panasonic Smart Factory Solutions Co., Ltd.. She explained some mechanical systems of the manufacturing field. Also, she talked about episodes which she was surprised at her company life.

After the presentations, we held the poster session by Dr. Shoko Araki from NTT Communication Science Laboratories, Ms. Yoriko Shinki from Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc., Ms. Yukiko Yanagawa from OMRON Corporation, and Ms. Misaki Tsujikawa from Panasonic



Corporation. In this session, the talks of the presenter and the participants were exciting and the session time was exceeded.

We also had a group talk session where all the participants were divided into eight groups and they exchanged opinions and information on how to enjoy science, technology and life in each group and then across the groups. The symposium ended with the closing remark by Prof. Miki Yamamoto, the IEEE Kansai Section chair.

Participants enjoyed the symposium to get images of careers as women researchers and make a WIE network.