



IEEE LMAG Kansai newsletter

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Masatsugu Kidode
Chair, IEEE LMAG Kansai

It is my great pleasure to publish the first English edition of IEEE LMAG Kansai Newsletter.

Kansai Region lies at the center of Japan's main island. This region is highly diversified in various meaning because within it, cities lying close to each other such as Nara, Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe have their own unique cultures. Further, Kansai is the birth place of various excellent companies started by entrepreneurial founders such as Panasonic, Sharp, Kyosera,

Omron, Nidec, Nintendo, and so on.

IEEE LMAG Kansai was established December, 2012, and currently, the number of members is about 160. Fully making use of the specific feature of this region, we actively interact within various fields such as culture and art as well as science and technology. In order to encourage young engineers and researchers, we are also actively collaborating with other affinity groups YP, WIE, and student branches in the

Kansai Region. We are glad to have any interesting plan for our members where we will enjoy it by ourselves as well as by themselves, which leads younger people to have much interests with IEEE and academic societies of this sort.

We have a plan to publish the newsletter twice a year. I believe that sharing topics and issues with IEEE members in the world by introducing our activities could contribute the advancement of IEEE.



Contributed Article

--Two benefits of LMAG members--

Masaaki Kobayashi, Vice Chair

If you search for the translation of "affinity group" in a Web dictionary, you can find a literal translation "related group" or katakana "affinity group". All of them are unfamiliar words. The dictionary has its meaning "small group of activists working together.". On the other hand, when we want to explain LMAG in a single phrase, we, officers, often use the word "club" which is a free translation with the meaning "circle of people with the same interest."

So, what is the same interest of LMAG ? In essence, it is to pursue benefits as a Life Member and to aim for both getting benefits and giving benefits. Examples of getting benefits include promoting membership within the LMAG Salon like alumni associations of EE engineers community and the satisfaction of intellectual curiosity at On-site Lectures, and so on., Examples of giving benefits include supporting

members in active service, especially the young who will lead the next generation.

As key words for developing activities toward the aim, "cooperation" can be included. In response to the establishment of LMAG Nagoya last fiscal year, there is increasing momentum for cooperation between the three sections of Tokyo, Nagoya and Kansai. At the same time, we are hoping to further deepen the cooperation among SYWL (S: Student Branches, Y: Young Professionals AG, W: Women in Engineering AG, L: Life Members AG), as ever in the past.

There are various LMAG events. Let's just hope that you enjoy participating in intriguing events as a Life Member and enjoy the two benefits (one will get directly from itself, and the other indirectly from your social contribution as you will give benefits).

Activity reports

On-site Technical Talks

On-site technical Talk at the Kansai Museum of National Diet Library

On November 22, 2017, the 12th On-site Lecture was held at the National Diet Library located in Keihanna, Kyoto. Following the opening address by Ms. Nobuko Katayama, the Director of the library and a tour to the facility including the underground archives, Mr. Nobuaki Honda gave a lecture on "Efforts on long-term preservation of electronic information".

After the On-site Lecture, an informal post-meeting party with the lecture participants including Mr. Masaya Ichikawa, the Vice Chair of LMAG Nagoya was held. Some subjects including LMAG activity cooperation between Kansai and Nagoya were discussed.



Fig. 1 Ms. Katayama giving the opening address



Fig. 2 Mr. Honda giving his talk

100th commemorative technical lectures at the Kansai Section

On December 16, 2017, the 100th commemorative technical lecture hosted by TPC Kansai was held in corporation with LMAG Kansai. Dr. Makoto Nagao, Professor Emeritus at Kyoto University and a world authority in the field of natural language processing, image processing and pattern recognition, gave a highly informative lecture on "History of Artificial Intelligence and My Research".

Since the 1st technical lecture on November 19, 1999, we have reached eventually up to the 100th in 18 years. The past lectures of the Kansai Section is listed on the following web site.

<https://www.ieee-jp.org/section/kansai/activity/lecture.html>

On-site technical talk at Panasonic Corporation.

On Monday, March 26, 2018, we held the 13th on-site lecture at Panasonic Corporation in Kadoma, Osaka. Ms. Michiko Ogawa, Executive Officer, Panasonic Corporation, gave us an interesting talk entitled as "Reviving the Technics brand". As is well known, Technics used to be a world famous brand of a audio system developed by Panasonic. However, due to a drastic change of the market,

businesses of a "classical" audio system have been shrunk in this decade. On the other hand, recently, new needs for high quality audio system such as a high-resolution audio have rapidly grown. This trends has given opportunities for audio engineers in Panasonic to challenge to revive the Technics brand, and several successful products have been developed,

After the lecture of Ms. Ogawa, we visited Konosuke Matsushita Museum and the Hall of Manufacturing Ingenuity which were opened on March 7, 2018, to commemorate the 100 anniversary of its founding. In the museum, Konosuke Matsushita's management philosophy and the history of business development were displayed in an easy-to-understand manner. At the Hall of Manufacturing Ingenuity, famous products such as a two-stop socket and radio, which were main products for starting up the company a century ago , and a large number of products which have been cornerstones for developing the company were exhibited.

The lecture was held in cooperation with TPC and WIE of IEEE Kansai Section.



Fig. 3 Ms Ogawa giving her talk



Fig. 4 Ms. Ogawa and participants

On-site technical lecture at the Kyoto Advanced Technology Research Institute.

On May 14, 2018, 14th onsite technical lecture was held. Professor Naoko Tosa gave a talk on "Cultural Computing and Art Innovation.

Professor Tosa is a media artist as well as a professor at Kyoto University. In her long career as an artist, her primary interests and challenges have been how to apply state-of-the-art technologies to connect art and culture, and bring new values into a society by the art innovation.

In her talk, looking back her creative activities, she explained how technologies have been related to artistic expression in her works. Following to her early works of video arts, in early 1990's, she challenged to treat human emotion by a computer and proposed a new art form based on interaction between human and a life-like character realized by using neural networks and computer graphics animations. These ideas were further developed to the world with plot such as Japanese double acts "Manzai" to show new possibilities of Interactive Arts. She also explored a new genre "Cultural Computing" which helps inter-cultural understanding. "ZENetic Computer," in which some aspects of Buddhist

philosophy was applied as a model in computer science, is a typical example of Cultural Computing. ZENetic Computer is an interface that evokes self-awakening through essential aspects of Zen Buddhism culture. Through esoteric riddles, ZENetic Computer teases particular cognitive responses from users, as reflections of their inner and subliminal consciousness.



Fig. 4 Professor Tosa giving her talk

Professor Tosa is currently challenging to find "arts" in nature itself by making use of insights of science and technology. Finding art in the nature has been based on an artistic sensibility of Oriental culture, and could be an art innovation which she has been pursuing as her life work. She is now trying to visualize a dynamism underlying in the nature by capturing physical phenomena making use of currently available high-end technologies in collaboration with specialists in Kyoto University.



Fig. 5 Prof. Tosa and participants

LMAG Free Talk Salon

LMAG Salon is an opportunity for LMs to share common interests with each other. It is also opened to nonmembers, and held in a relaxing atmosphere. Through these opportunities, we expect to motivate members to join various LMAG activities as many as possible.

"Where is Japanese Higher education going?"

On May 19, 2017 we invited Dr. Hiroshi Matsumoto, the President of Riken, as a guest speaker for the LMAG Salon at Kyoto Computer Academy. Dr. Matsumoto was the former President of Kyoto University and the former Chair of the IEEE Kansai Section. In his talk, current fundamental issues of higher education in Japan were raised and enthusiastic discussions with participants were made.



Fig. 6 Dr. Matsumoto giving his talk

"Drum and harmonica performance"

On April 21, we held the third LMAG salon at the live house ARTCLUB in Shinsaibashi, Osaka changing the taste a little bit. This time, we enjoyed the performance of the drum and the Bruce harmonica and lecture by Dr.. Kohshi Okumura a former professor at Kyoto University.

Even more than excellent performance of instruments, that were not thought to have been started after retirement, he gave impressive talk on his own perspective for the influence of western music on Japanese popular music in the last 150 years, that made a salon highly sophisticated as well as friendly one.



Fig. 7 Drum performance by Dr. Okumura

Cooperation with other groups

We are actively cooperating with other organizations. Some LMAG Kansai members joined to Nagoya MAW (Metropolitan Area Workshop) in October, 2017. In terms of a collaboration with SB, we participated in SB English Presentation Contest in August 2017. We gave advices and opinions regarding to future operations of these events. In September, 2017, we also participated in the training sessions and hands-on events of a brainstorming sponsored by SB (Student Branch). We dispatched an instructor and some volunteers of LMAG members joined to a brainstorming session with students.

Other activities

Administrative meetings by LMAG Kansai officers to discuss about operation of the group future event planning, and so on. are held every other month averagely.

The specifically designed LMAG membership badge is given to any members participating to LMAG Kansai events.



Fig. 8. LMAG Kansai membership badge

IEEE LMAG Kansai officers

Chair: Masatsugu Kidode

Vice Chair: Yukihiro Nakamura

Masaaki Kobayashi

Secretary: Shuzo Morita

Secretariat: Kazuo Hirano

Shigeru Sugimoto

IEEE LMAG Kansan Newsletter

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