



## LMAG Kansai

# Newsletter

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### Message from the Chair

## My thoughts as LMAG Chairman

Yukihiro Nakamura, Chair, LMAG Kansai



From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020, for two years, I have been the IEEE Kansai Life Members Affinity Group (LMAG) Chair.

LMAG Kansai members have been active for many years as engineers, researchers, and entrepreneurs and have significantly contributed to society. As LMAG Kansai, we have focused on the following: (1) using members' experience to support the activities of other IEEE committees; and (2) realizing opportunities for interaction, enjoyment, and growth among members.

To explain the above two focuses more

specifically, regarding (1), we send judges and advisors to SBs' English Presentation Competitions and Brainstorming Workshops and Contests, and give LMAG Kansai Awards for excellent presentations. Concerning focus (2), LMAG members hold LMAG Salons where we can make presentations and socialize.

In 2019, the above measures were implemented as scheduled. For example, we held the 16th On-site Lecture at National Museum of Ethnology, the 17th On-site Lecture at Marine Technical College, and many other meaningful and fun

activities.

On the other hand, in 2020, as the world stopped its activities due to COVID-19, LMAG also had no choice but to cancel these lectures and other events, and instead held online board meetings and online welcoming parties for new members.

As I dealt with difficult times under COVID-19, I feel I was able to grasp the essence of various matters. It was also an opportunity for us to think deeply about our role from the perspective of the LMAG members in light of this situation.

Japan has become the world's first super-aged society. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, as of September 15, 2020, the population of elderly persons aged 65 or older in our country was 36.17 million, accounting for 28.7% of the total population (aging rate), the highest rate of aging in the world. By 2040, it is expected to be 35.3%.

In addition to the current situation, in order to build a vibrant society in Japan, where the aging rate will continue to increase, it is necessary for the elderly to participate in society. In particular, elderly people who are motivated and capable are required to be supporters of society.

LMAG members have the potential to live a life that contributes to society by engaging in creative and productive activities, and I would like to actively promote the idea of utilizing our potential 'productivity' in society in LMAG activities.

On the other hand, from my experience working in various organizations, I feel that it has become increasingly clear that only a

society with a system in which young people show their strength freely in all fields can grow, not only in the world of games such as Go and Shogi. I think it is a good attitude for elderly people not to say too much and to give advice based on their own experience and knowledge when asked.

As you know, many IEEE LMAG members are enthusiastic and energetic. More than a few people want to engage in meaningful activities on their own initiative in order to further improve their abilities through mutual exchange, rather than merely contributing to society through their experiences. I believe that it is essential to focus our efforts on LMAG activities in the future to actively develop such motivation in LMAG activities.

There are many themes to discuss, but I don't have anything I can talk about in detail. However, let me offer one I recently experienced directly. At the IEEE MAW (Metro Area Workshop) 2016 in Kyoto, a Health Care Symposium was held. The theme was "How to clear the 2025 problem". The "2025 problem" is an issue in which the so-called "baby-boom generation" reaches the age of 75, and there are concerns about a strict environment for medical and nursing care services and a rapid increase in social security expenses. There is growing concern that this issue has been brought forward by COVID-19.

LMAG members should be deeply concerned about this issue. We can be actively involved in initiatives such as using ICT and AI to equalize healthy life expectancy with average life expectancy. I

believe that it would be appropriate for an LMAG initiative if each LMAG member participates as a participant in efforts to reduce the burden on society and improve productivity through its own life and activities and can disseminate its

experience knowledge and example of senior citizen's lifestyle to the world. As part of our LMAG activities, I also want to create an IT platform for sound social and intellectual activities by the elderly.

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## Contributed Article

### ICT Literacy?

Shuzo Morita, Vice Chair, LMAG Kansai

**T**here is a historic site named the Former Shizutani School in Bizen City, Okayama Prefecture, located about a 90-minute drive from my house.

I often visit there to enjoy the beautiful nature around the site in each different season. It is the oldest public school for common people in the world. It was built in



***The Lecture Hall of Former Shizutani School***

1670 by Mitsumasa Ikeda, who was Governor of this region. In the well-maintained large campus, many old

buildings, including the lecture hall and the sacred hall dedicated to Confucius, are preserved as national treasures and important cultural properties of Japan.

In the Edo period (1603~1868), schools called *Terakoya*, which were originated in temples in the Medieval Ages, played a role as educational institutes and were organized to teach common people reading, writing, and arithmetic. It is said that more than 160,000 Terakoya were established all over Japan in the late Edo period. Reading, writing, and arithmetic were not only culture but also indispensable for the daily lives of commoners in the Edo period. Official notices from the government were delivered by printed materials or displayed on bulletin boards at street corners. As a matter of course, the abilities of reading, writing, and arithmetic were also indispensable for merchants for their business. Furthermore, commoners' higher literacy promoted publication

businesses such as a newspaper called Kawaraban and popular novels called Kanazoshi. Although there are no exact statistics of literacy in the Edo Period, it is said that it was over 70%, which surpassed the rest of the world at that time.

The purpose of the Former Shizutani School, which was built to foster leaders of the local area, was slightly different from that of the Terakoya. As a teaching material, the Analects of Confucius were used, and not only reading and writing but also the ideas of Confucius as a social norm were taught. For Japan, which did not have such rich natural resources, common people with higher literacy were precious resources for modernization. This high level of education contributed to establishing a higher cultural level.

Concerning the 21st century, ICT literacy is one crucial factor for enjoying a rich Quality of Life (QoL). The Web system is indispensable media for our daily life. Mastering skills to use various tools such as a PC, a tablet, and a smartphone are necessary to access information and services provided by the Web system and keep human networks as widely and efficiently as possible. On the other hand, although ICT is not extraordinary for people called "Digital Natives" who were born after 1980, I wonder if ICT has matured as much as technologies supporting the social infrastructure surrounding the telephone system did before the age of the Internet.

Recently, some electronic settlement services have been stopped because some

fraudulent activities were found. Fake information is confusing our society, and cases of verbal violence driving a targeted person to suicide have occurred. Furthermore, although online meeting systems such as Zoom and Webex have become popular with the rapid spread of COVID19, various troubles always happen when starting a meeting, especially when a lot of people attend. These troubles are caused by different specifications of the wide variety of devices used (from new and old, to kinds of devices such as PCs, tablets, or smartphones, etc.), different basic software systems (e.g., Windows, iOS, Android), and their different versions from old and new, and unstable "best effort based" communication environments from core networks to Wi-Fi system at a user premise. It is difficult even for specialists to solve problems immediately when trouble occurs. The diversity of ICT in various meanings has expanded its possibilities, and free business competitions allow us to enjoy various services at a low price. However, tall hurdles remain for us to make use of them without any stress.

In principle, there is a trade-off between easiness-of-use and security, and it is a matter of course that using free services may cause risks such as leakage of private information. It is impossible to find complete technical solutions for these issues. ICT literacy is needed nowadays not only to acquire knowledge and master skills to use services, but also to understand these issues correctly. For most people, it would not be difficult to learn skills and

knowledge, but there is no effective method to make users understand the risky aspects of ICT services. Merely showing some guidelines to avoid risks would not be effective. They could not completely cover any cases of risks because new cases are happening somewhere in the world every day. Further, I wonder how many people read a warning notice showed by service providers before starting to use them.

Here, I recall the famous Japanese proverbs: "You can't get anything for nothing." and "There is no pleasure without pain." These proverbs are valid in any age

and any situation in our society. For ICT literacy, not only teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, but social norms such as common sense are also needed. As Confucius's ideas were taught as a social norm in the Former Shizutani School, they should be taught to children in compulsory education or at home as common sense.

As for me, a conservative ICT user, I still use an old simple mobile phone called "*Garakei*" in Japanese, and at this moment, I have no plan to change it to the latest smartphone model.

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## Officers' Feelings

### LMAG Activities in Collaboration with SB, WIE, and YP

Masaaki Kobayashi, Vice Chair, LMAG Kansai

The LMAG Kansai has been working with the SBs (Student Branches) for several years now, and there have been some notable activities. But unfortunately, this year, we were affected by the new coronavirus infection, and our activities have been severely limited. The WIE (Women in Engineering) and the YP (Young Professionals) AGs (Affinity Groups) have not had any collaborative activities to date, and they are still being postponed to future dates.

To deepen the cooperation between LMAG, the WIE AG, and the YP AG, it would be ideal to hold some kind of joint event

with these AGs. In order to reach that point, it is important for LMAG members to actively participate in WIE and YP events that are open to IEEE members in general, not only to the members of these AGs. This would be the first step for collaborative activities.

For example, it would be good for LMAG members to participate in workshops co-hosted by WIE and YP, where we often have table talks in groups of several people. It would be effective for LMAGs to express their opinions and comments, and to have discussions from the standpoint of LMAGs at the table talks to deepen cooperation. It is

hoped that LMAG officers will take the initiative in participating in these workshops

and that LMAG members, in general, will also participate.

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## Involvement in LMAG Activities - Past and the Future -

Kazuo Hirano, *Secretary, LMAG Kansai*

LMAG Kansai was established in 2012 when I had just retired. After retirement, I have been involved in LMAG activities as my contact with society. So far, I have enjoyed the On-site Lecture Meetings. They include Abeno Harukas, the tallest building in Japan, just before the opening event, MU radar site locating in the raccoon village, and Supercomputer KEI with high performance and many excellent results. And I became good friends with many famous professors and company executives through those

activities.

We didn't have enough activities this year due to COVID-19. Online meeting is our primary form of activity nowadays, but we want to act again as before.

In the future, real on-site lecture meetings will be planned in each local Section, and online ones will be arranged across many local Sections. I hope that both of them will be realized.

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## I Am Hoping to Help in Return

Shigeru Sugimoto, *Secretary, LMAG Kansai*

As a LMAG secretary, I am always hoping to help our members in return. Before that, as a big premise, I should broaden my own perspective.

Without doing SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat) analysis, I think LMAG's greatest strength lies in the careers of its members and the breadth and depth of their connections.

In addition, it is a characteristic of IEEE

that we can always find some members concerned who will be of help when there is a problematic incident or matter. This is very encouraging.

I am sorry for the topic about my wife's surgery, but thanks to the "Strength", we were able to decide to have surgery on her artificial hip-joint. That is, last year, one of LMAG members who knew a famous doctor in the field of "robotics and medical

practices" introduced us to the doctor. Now she is completely recovered and no

longer needs a walking cane. This is why I am hoping to help in return.

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## Activity Reports

### Technical Lecture Meetings

#### On-site Lectures

Plans for three On-site Lectures have been started as part of Technical Lecture Meetings in order to further revitalize in the

eighth year of LMAG activities.

But these lectures have not been held until today due to the spread of COVID-19 infection.

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### LMAG Salon

#### This year's LMAG Salon

The friendly LMAG Salon, which was launched as a new activity in 2016, was

scheduled to continue this year, but has not yet been implemented.

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### Cooperation with Other Groups

#### Support for Student Branch activities

##### SB English Presentation Competition

As part of our cooperative activities with SB, we had planned to participate in the SB English Presentation Contest and to present the LMAG Kansai Award (certificate and extra prize money) to two excellent speakers.

This year's contest will not be held before the end of the year, but is scheduled to be held early in the new year.

##### SB's Brainstorming Workshop and Contest

We had planned to cooperate in planning and management of SB's Brainstorming Workshop and Contest.



However, this year's workshop and contest has not yet been held.

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## Other activities

### LMAG Officers' Meeting

In 2020, four officers' meetings were held online.

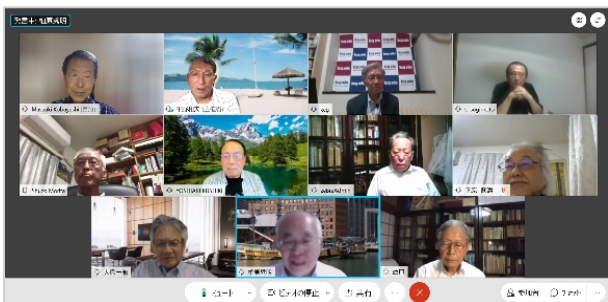
On June 10, the first online officers' meeting was held using Zoom application to discuss the next officers.

On July 24, in order to respond to JC's (Japan Council's) request, Educational Activities was discussed at the second online officers' meeting via Webex.



***Second online officers' meeting.***

On September 25, we held a third online officers' meeting that doubled as a



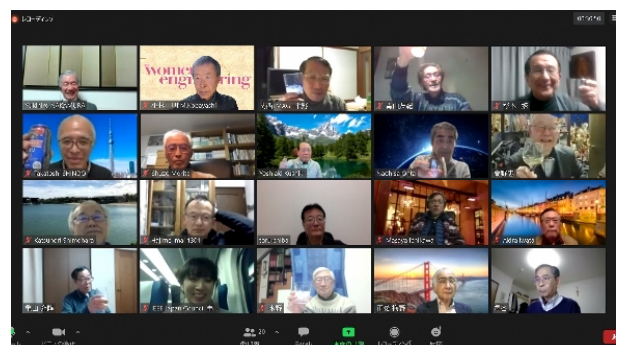
***Third online officers' meeting doubled as a welcome party for new LMs.***

welcome party for those who became new LMs (Life Members) this year and deepened their friendship.

On November 19, the current and next officers reviewed this year's activities and discussed next year's activity plans at the fourth meeting.

### 4-LMAG Joint Officers' Meeting

On December 19, 4-LMAG Joint Officer's Meeting that doubled as a year-end party via Zoom was held. This was the first event for the officers of the four LMAGs in Tokyo, Kansai, Nagoya and Sendai, which are active in the IEEE Japan Council, to get together online to toast, introduce themselves, and interact on topics related to LMAG activities.



***First 4-LMAG joint officers' meeting.***

It was the idea of Dr. Tadashi Takano, the current LMAG Tokyo Chair, and the Zoom meeting was arranged by Professor



Emeritus Yukihiro Nakamura of Kyoto University, the current LMAG Kansai Chair.

All current and future officers of LMAG Kansai participated in the meeting.

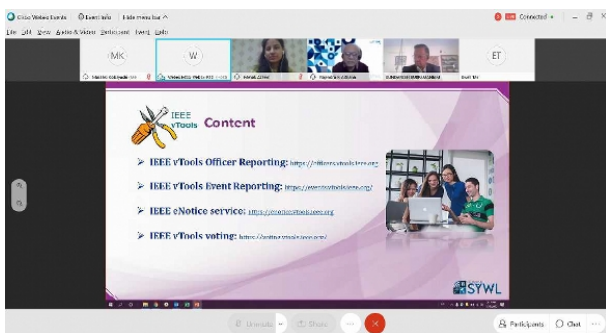
### R10 SYWL 2020 Virtual Congress

In late September and early October, R10 SYWL\* 2020 Virtual Congress was held online over a period of weeks.

(\* Students, Young Professionals, Women in Engineering, Life Members)

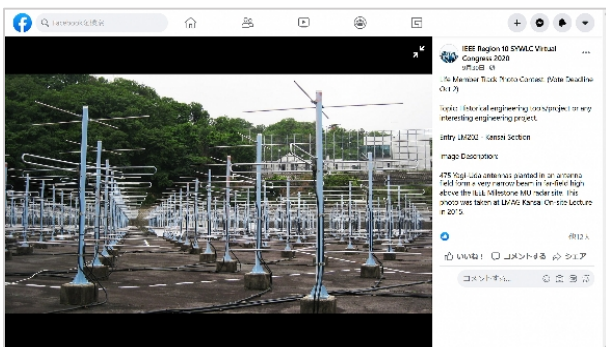
Three officers joined in the program, Life Members Affinity Group Meet on September 28.

One officer attended the program, IEEE V tools and IEEE Collabratec, on October 1.



**Screenshot of LM Track Session 5 IEEE Vtools and IEEE Collabratec.**

In Life Member Track Photo Contest held at the congress, the current LMAG Vice



**First Prize Photo posted on the congress Facebook page.**

Chair Dr. Masaaki Kobayashi 's photo of 475-Yagi-Uda antenna array of the IEEE Milestone MU radar in Shigaraki, Koka, Shiga won the first prize. The photo was taken at LMAG Kansai On-site Lecture in 2015.

### LMAG Tokyo 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium

On October 8, the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium of LMAG Tokyo was held and two officers participated online.

### MAW 2020 in Hiroshima

On October 16, MAW (Metro Area Workshop) 2020 in Hiroshima was held on site and online. No officers attended.

### IEEE Japan SYWL Workshop in Hiroshima 2020

On October 17, MAW2020 joint event, IEEE Japan SYWL Workshop in Hiroshima 2020 was held on site and online. One officer participated online to deepen our interactions and collaboration with SYW (SB, YP, WIE).



**Screenshot of IEEE President's Review after Group Discussion at the SYWL workshop.**

### Tokyo/Shin-etsu Joint Section WIE Kickoff Event

In July 2020, IEEE Tokyo/Shin-etsu Joint Section WIE has been established.

On December 5, Tokyo/Shin-etsu Joint Section WIE Kickoff Event was held on site and online. One officer participated online to deepen our interactions and collaboration with WIE.



**Screenshot of Tokyo/Shin-etsu Joint Section WIE Kickoff Event.**

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## Event Calendar

- ◆ SB English Presentation Competition
  - Date: January 9, 2021
  - Place: TBD

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## Activity Plan 2021

The year 2021 will be the ninth year of our activities, and under a new board of officers, we will further strengthen LMAG activities including online events.

As in the year before last, 2019, we will hold several Technical Lecture Meetings such as On-site Lectures in cooperation with Kansai Section TPC (Technical Committee), and WIE.

Another goal is to make LMAG Salon activities become established. During

2021, we hope to have a more active salon format with a broader range of topics by using online services to transcend regional limitations and to collaborate with LMAGs of geographically distant areas.

In addition, we will actively promote collaboration with YP, SB, WIE and other LMAGs. Specifically, we will support the activities of Kansai Section from a wide range of perspectives, including the participation of experienced LMAG

members in the activities of our collaborators and the presentation of the LMAG Award.

These activities will be published as the "LMAG Kansai Newsletter" to call for wide participation in our activities as well as to report them to our members.

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## Editor's Note

Unfortunately, this year's LMAG activities were inactive due to the new coronavirus epidemic, which prevented us from carrying out our planned activities. As a result, the main article of this newsletter, Activity Reports, has become obsolete in this issue. Next year, I hope

that LMAG activities under the new normal will be more active and that the article in the next issue will be as substantial as before.

Masaaki Kobayashi  
Vice Chair, LMAG Kansai

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## Submitting Articles

We welcome articles for this newsletter ; tales of your IEEE activity, essay on novel or interesting technical issues, and so on. Manuscripts should be written in English or in Japanese. Please include your Life grade, member number, and/or email address with your piece.

## Contact Us

lmag-kansai@ieee-jp.org

## 2019-2020 LMAG Kansai Officers

Chair:	Yukihiro Nakamura
Vice Chair:	Masaaki Kobayashi Shuzo Morita Yoshiaki Kushiki
Secretary:	Kazuo Hirano Shigeru Sugimoto

