Message from the Chair

Looking Back at 2021-2022
Masaaki Kobayashi, Chair, LMAG Kansai

The Chair of LMAG is like a soccer head coach who takes charge. It is not possible for the Chair to struggle alone, but only through teamwork among the entire group of officers and the proactive movement of each person can the LMAG be well managed and active.

Here, I would like to look back on my two years (2021-2022) as LMAG Kansai Chair, and picture a “new perspective” of what is to come.

Two Pillars of LMAG Activities
I have always kept in mind the following two pillars of LMAG activities:

- Mutual exchanges among Life Members and Regular Members
- Collaborative activities with Students, Young Professionals, and Women in Engineering (SYW).

On-site Lectures, LMAG Salon, and Lecture and Social Gatherings are listed as specific events of mutual exchanges. The commemorative event held this fall to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of LMAG Kansai was also a part of the mutual exchanges. Collaborative activities include Student
Branch (SB) Brainstorming Workshop, SB English Presentation Competition, EA Educational Activities (EA), and other SYW co-sponsored events.

Activity Results and Evaluation

LMAG activities during the past two years have been generally sluggish due to the Covid-19 outbreak that began during the term of former LMAG Chair Nakamura. This low level of activity has continued to the present.

In terms of mutual exchange, On-site Lectures, which are lecture meetings with a tour of facilities, etc., were impossible to hold on site due to Covid-19, so this type of event was not held in 2021. In 2022, one online lecture and one on-site lecture were held. As the Covid-19 infection situation subsides, LMAG activities have picked up a bit and various events are being held in a hybrid format. While holding online-only events is unavoidable, it still has the disadvantage of making it difficult to deepen friendships from the perspective of mutual exchange. Hybrid events have the advantage of attracting a wide range of participants online and deepening friendships in person, and I believe this is a form of event that fits the current trends. For this year’s 10th anniversary event, we made it a prerequisite to hold it on-site. Fortunately, we were able to have the event in a hybrid format. We also held a reception, which was well-received as a fun and wonderful event. We felt that everyone enjoyed the event and that the hard work of our board members in organizing it was rewarded.

In terms of collaborative activities, we have supported SB Brainstorming Workshop and SB English Presentation Competition since 2020. We planned to hold a brainstorming workshop in 2021 and 2022, but unfortunately had to cancel them due to circumstances. As in the past, we served as judges for the SB English Presentation Competition this term and presented LMAG Awards to the winners. In addition, the collaboration between LMAG and YP at last year’s EA event was one of the catalysts for the YP Award to be presented at the SB English Presentation Competition in 2022. The competition this year was boosted by online participation from abroad.

As collaborative activities with SYW, we also co-hosted and sponsored various SYW events, such as workshops and symposiums. However, the participation of LMAG officers in these events was minimal, and unfortunately, I do not think that we have reached the point of true co-sponsorship or sponsorship. In addition,
as a collaborative activity with SYW, an EA event organized by the Kansai Section EA and co-sponsored by YWL was started in 2021, and LMAG was in charge of part of the planning of this event. It was disappointing that very few LMAG officers participated on the day of the event.

Prospects for next year and beyond

After the end of the Covid-19 infection, I believe that hybrid events will become the norm, based on face-to-face meetings with the use of online services, and that this will become the norm for all events. This will enable us to expect more participants and further promote mutual exchanges and joint events with LMAGs in other regions.

Regarding cooperative activities, I believe that the future direction is to move away from a form of co-sponsorship with SYW in which LMAG officers simply endorse and promote the event or merely participate in general. We should aim for a structure that involves some kind of service as a member of those involved in the event.

In addition, I think it would be a good idea for LMAG to organize its own EA event and co-host it with SYW as a collaborative activity in the form of LMAG hosting the event. For example, an event to improve skills in English, the de facto official language of IEEE and the world, could be held from a different perspective and method from the SB English Presentation Contest. Or a kind of EA event with an LMAG award, together with the Kansai Section EA-sponsored event could increase opportunities for English training. We would like to increase the opportunities for English training.

Conclusion

I have reviewed the activities of my two-year term and looked ahead to the next term.

In concluding my term as Chair, I would like to thank the LMAG officers and the Kansai Section Secretariat for supporting LMAG Kansai activities and all those who participated in various events. I sincerely hope and firmly believe that next term, LMAG activities will finally flourish under a new chair, free from the constraints of the Covid-19 infection environment. I will continue to participate in the activities as past Chair, and I hope to contribute to the excitement of the activities in any way I can.
first watched “Dae Jang Geum” a Korean TV drama almost 17 years ago. In the year of Joseon Dynasty in the 16th Century, Changeum, whose father and mother were killed in her childhood, became a court lady who cooked for the king, and once was dismissed as a slave but came back to the court as a medical woman and then, at last, served as the doctor in charge for the king. It was a success story in which she overcame, never swerved from various challenges and difficulties with relentless efforts and wisdom, and lived with dignity as a woman.

This drama itself was entertaining, but also, I learned a lot. It provided me with thought-provoking materials to let me think of “what research is,” and I have explained this to students by comparing it to cooking. That is, cooking should coordinate procedures based on a given concept or viewpoint, select food materials, preserve a given methodology, cook the materials with appropriate tools, set out foods, serve dishes on time to guests, and finally please them. Personally, I see the same systematic structure in cooking as doing research.

Research on improving algorithmic performance is like research on tools. Research on combining genetic algorithms and neural networks, for example, is like research on methodologies and so forth. By overviewing its whole structure, the objective and originality, as well as the target guests, should be clarified. Essentially, cooking is rich in diversity, such as full-course dinners, diet, food during and after illness, and baby food. Depending on users and their conditions, materials are chosen, a given cooking method is modified, and its tools are appropriately selected. All elements in the whole systematic structure do not have to be original. Even by using the existing methodology and tools, research to try to cook new materials which are not used for the current methodology should be all right.

Here I would like to introduce a few lessons I learned from Changeum. A tutoring court lady asked Changeum, an apprentice at eight years old, to bring water. But she was ordered to redo it over and again. She devised and made various tries, such as changing a vessel, bringing freshly drawn water, and changing the manner of behavior to bring it, but she could not clear the task. Finally, however, she came up with an idea to first know why the tutor needed water and to ask about the tutor’s physical condition or preferences and cleared the task. So, she learned the first lesson that “once even water is set to a vessel, it becomes cooking. When you cook, you should first pay attention to the guest and know that cooking is affection to people.” After she grew up and became a court lady for
cooking, she lost a sense of taste and was depressed just before an imperial match for cooking showdown against her rival faction. Here, her tutor encouraged her that “you have a talent to envision taste, and nobody, not even in the rival faction, or me, can go beyond it.” The talent to envision taste can be grasped as the power of imagination. There should be a few court ladies with a better sense of taste than Changeum, but she has an imagination that no one can go beyond. Not relying on the sense of taste that everyone trusts in cooking, and not giving way to so-called orthodox theories and principles requires bravery. However, imagination used instead of it might lead to a new possibility for creation.

Next, when she had exams for becoming a medical woman, to describe and discriminate between medicine and poison was on the test. She listed them up much more than others, but she was failed. On the other hand, her friend, who doubtfully listed up a few, passed the test. In practical works, to see patients whose symptoms seem to be the same, give a diagnosis, and decide which medicine was on the test. Changeum made diagnoses and decided on each medicine immediately but was ordered to support her friend to do so for a while. For several days Changeum took care of patients with her friend. She noticed her mistake and defect when hearing conversations between her friend and patients. Food that is believed to be good for health becomes poison depending on a patient’s condition. And vice versa, material that is said to be bad for health can become medicine accordingly. When making a diagnosis, paying attention to a patient’s daily foods and lifestyle before getting ill is essential. That is, we should not rely on knowledge alone, but should take time to observe a target and understand the context.

The basic philosophy of cooking and medical art that Changeum engaged in is the same. That is, “good tasting food should be good for health” and “a food that is good for health should taste good.” Moreover, “both cooking and medical art should not be manipulated by reins of power.” I admire Changeum’s diligence in living up to this philosophy.

For these two years, I had the opportunity to serve as a Vice Chair of the IEEE Kansai LMAG. I worked on the support for SB activities such as the SB English Presentation Competition and SB Brainstorming Competition. The latter event was canceled for two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, I had a valuable time interacting and communicating with the SB Chairs about planning and making a program. In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the board of the IEEE Kansai LMAG for their support of my duty as a Vice Chair. Thank you very much.
Taking advantage of the diversity of LMAG members

Yoshiaki Kushiki, Vice-Chair and 2023 Chair, LMAG Kansai

Diversity of fields

LMAG’s members are a diverse group of people who have graduated from educational institutions, government agencies, and companies. As a member of IEEE, it is easy to sympathize with them because they share the same management and philosophy. Their thoughts and beliefs as Electrical and Electronics Engineers are at the core of connecting the diversity of science, environment, space, information, society, and culture surrounding various issues. People are more likely to connect when there is a common logic in understanding and solving problems. At Kansai LMAG in 2022, we learned about hot themes such as cyber security lectures and tours of the National Institute for Fusion Science and exchanged a wide range of opinions. We also learned about themes that delve into the history of Japanese business, such as the study of long-established stores. We exchanged views on the fusion of traditional and new technologies in corporate management. Participating in other LMAG and TC activities in Japan, I think the free and open communication that transcends industry and interdisciplinary fields is unique to LMAG.

Generational diversity

LMAG members are old but have experienced hard work in their youth, leadership in middle age, society and family, success and failure, and enjoy themselves now. LMAG is co-sponsored by EA, YP, WIE, and SB, and we want to be an activity that conveys to young people the joy of life that overcomes a wide range of experiences. From the young people’s point of view, I would like to see a future of young professionals who enjoy what they have achieved rather than struggling to carry out such activities.

Enjoy diversity

I look forward to seeing many diverse projects coming out of the free ideas of the LMAG members. I would like to manage it so members can freely demonstrate their experience, abilities, and hobbies. We would appreciate it if you could use each person’s experience in their field of expertise, such as those who are knowledgeable about education, those who have experience in corporate management, those who are good at planning new themes, and those who have been active globally.

Diversity of LMAG activities

Over the past two years, online meetings have been added for COVID-19, and hybrid meetings with real meetings have been added. Instead of being able to interact directly, it has the added advantage of explaining live broadcasts, even the details you can’t usually
see. As a theme unique to LMAG, I would like to enjoy meetings such as scientists’ hobbies, analysis of management and technology history, essays on the life of engineers, etc., using real + online.

Relation to LMAG activities

Kazuo Hirano, Secretary, LMAG Kansai

As I was engaged in the Kansai Section secretariat in 2012, I touched the LMAG Kansai establishment. The 1st LMAG Kansai Chair, Dr. Koyama, asked me to do the LMAG secretariat, and ten years have passed since then. We could have the 10th-anniversary event this year. I felt we had one significant milestone.

From shut-in to action (stay-home to outdoors)

Shigeru Sugimoto, Secretary, LMAG Kansai

The following is an update on my recent activities focusing on planning and managing lectures. Slowly and surely, I think everything is going well.

One of the events was a tour of the National Institute for Fusion Science, held on-site for the first time in three years in collaboration with the Nagoya-LMAG, as we had previously announced. Next, I am thinking about how to approach the “nuclear fusion” that Kyoto University is promoting with an eye to the Kansai region. On the other hand, I am also researching the “Museum of Heijo-Kyo (AD710~) and Heian-Kyo (AD794~) Culture” to consider this field because six years have passed since visiting the Kashiwara Institute of Archaeology in Nara Prefecture.

I am also personally continuing to participate in various webinars this year.

Here is a quick list of the number of times I have participated in 2022: IEEE-related (32 times); Kyoto City and others (3 times). Kyoto University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and others (5 times).

I have also participated in “Tutoring online-use with my grandchild” (2nd-year university student) once or twice a month. In addition, if monthly online drinking parties are included, the total number of meetings will be about 60 times.

Since the second half of this year, I have had more opportunities to go out, both publicly and privately. We would like to hold events in a “hybrid” format, i.e., both on-site and online, to facilitate participation from various locations.
**Online Lecture**

On February 25th, LMAG Kansai held the first Lecture and Social Gathering online with thirty-one participants, including members from the Sapporo, Sendai, Tokyo, and Nagoya Sections. The lecture was titled “Cybersecurity – Security behind the Evolution of Cyber Technologies” and given by Mr. Mitsuo Kojima, the CEO of Imatrix Holdings corporation, and Mr. Hibiki Oka, a Senior Researcher of Imatrix ResearchLaboratory Corporation.

The lecturers talked about the history, present situation, and the future of cyber security - very timely topics under the current situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic for all Internet users, including consumers, corporations, and governments. All the participants got interested in the topics, and fruitful discussions about future technologies continued until the time limit. LMAG Kansai plans to hold this kind of lecture and social gathering online throughout the year.

**Online Tour and Technical Lecture**

For these two years, we have had to abandon on-site lectures and tours to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection. To cope with these difficulties, many institutes and companies have started to provide various online tours and lectures, and LMAG officials decided to utilize these functions for our activities. On June 30th, we held a “tour and technical lecture”, online at R-CCS (RIKEN Center for Computational Science), jointly with TPC Kansai Section. Thirty-two members from LMAG Kansai and other sections participated. Dr. Ueda, the Chair of TPC Kansai, gave the opening address, and Dr. Sato, a vice director of R-CCS, gave a general introduction about “Supercomputer Fugaku”. Fugaku is a supercomputer developed by RIKEN and Fujitsu using A64FX processors, and the average performance is around 70 times faster than its predecessor supercomputer, “Kei”. Then, Ms. Takada, a person in charge of public relations at R-CCS, guided us on a tour of “FUGAKU.” Fugaku is installed on a 50m x 60m floor with lots of spaces among racks because the cooling system of “Kei” is reused to save the cost.

After the tour, we had an extended question and answer session regarding issues such as Quantum computing technologies, Linux-based OS, applications, and Dr. Kobayashi, the chair of LMAG Kansai, gave a closing remark where he showed deep gratitude to R-CCS and members and noticed that this year is the 10th anniversary of LMAG Kansai. Next year is the 25th anniversary of the Kansai
Section, and he would like us to plan various activities.

A single CPU makes up a node, and 158,976 nodes are mounted on 432 racks.

On-site Tour and Technical Lecture

On December 16th, the 20th on-site tour and technical Lecture was held at National Institute for Fusion Science (NIFS) in Toki-city, Gifu Prefecture, by cooperating with LMAG Nagoya. Even though the on-site tour was the first one in three years because of COVID-19, 19 people participated, including 11 from Nagoya and one from Tokyo Council. At the beginning of the tour, Dr. Kobayashi, the Chair of LMAG Kansai, gave the opening address. Then, Professor Masaki Osakabe, the Executive Director of the LHD (Large Helical Device) Project, gave an opening address and made introductions of NIFS and related technologies.

Professor Osakabe’s lecture.

NIFS is one of five research institutes of the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS), and to realize fusion power generation, professors, researchers, and postgraduate students are engaged in the following:

1. High-temperature plasma research
2. Theory/simulation
3. Fusion reactor design

NIFS claims that “One of the world’s top priorities is undoubtedly to obtain an energy source that is eco-friendly and inexhaustible”. Globally, the promotion of fusion power generation research has been the focus of attention due to global environmental and energy issues. Many start-up companies, national laboratories, and universities have been working on developing technologies in this area worldwide. Among them, the recent achievement of fusion ignition at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is an epoch-making breakthrough.
After learning these basics, we divided into two groups. One group went on to the institute tour, and another group had a brief explanation of “Plasma heating technology,” which was recently released by NIFS, and then went on to a reduced version of the institute tour.

One of the tour topics was the drainage technology of tritium produced in the process of plasma fusion, which is inevitable for continuous nuclear fusion generation.

At the end of the tour, Professor Akira Mizuno, the Chair of LMAG Nagoya, gave closing remarks and gratitude to the staff of NIFS.

The Control Center of LHD.

Cooperation with Other Groups

**Educational activities**

Since 2021, we have been cooperating in Kansai section educational activities to encourage young researchers and high school students. The second Kansai section Educational Activity was held on September 3rd, 2022, at the Umeda campus of Osaka Institute of Technology, in hybrid format, with 70 participants. The event's title was “Cutting Edge Technologies and Global Business: For Success of Start-up Business”. During the event’s second session, a video titled “A Beginner’s Guide to Quantum Computing” by Talia Gershon from IBM was used as teaching material. Following this video lecture, a lively discussion took place among young members, effectively supported by one of the participants whose native language is English.

Co-hosted by YP, Wie, and LMAG Kansai.

Support for Student Branch activities
The Ritsumeikan University Student Branch organized the English Presentation Competition 2022 in cooperation with LMAG Kansai, in hybrid format, on October 29th, at the Rohm Plaza in the Ritsumeikan Kusatsu Campus. Prof. Nishihara, a Vice-Chair of the IEEE Ritsumeikan University Student Branch, gave an opening speech. Sixteen technical presentations were made by students from Ritsumeikan University, University Teknologi Malaysia, Jakarta State University, NARA Institute of Science and Technology, King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi, Hybria, Institute of Business and Technologies. Fourteen people participated in the event, including the Vice Chair of LMAG-Kansai, Professor Shimohara, and Dr. Kobayashi, the Chair of LMAG Kansai.

At the end of the event, the closing speech and award ceremony were given by Prof. Shimizu, the Chair of the IEEE Ritsumeikan University Student Branch, where three distinguished speakers were commended, and the LMAG Kansai Award was given to two of the speakers. We plan to cultivate cooperation with SB and position the event as one of LMAG Kansai’s original EA activities.

Towers Kansai

On October 9th, YP Kansai held the first IEEE Towers (Transdisciplinary-Oriented Workshop for Emerging Researchers) Kansai in a hybrid format at the Umeda campus, Osaka Institute of Technology, and LMAG Kansai cooperated with YP.

WIE Symposium Kansai

On October 8th, WIE Kansai held “IEEE Kansai WIE Symposium 2022” at Campus Plaza Kyoto, and LMAG Kansai cooperated with WIE.

Other activities

LMAG Officers’ Meeting

We held two officers’ meetings online.
- On July 29th, we held 1st officers' meeting and discussed nomination for 2023 officers.
- On December 21st, we held the second officers’ meeting, and Professor Yoshinobu Tonomura of Ryukoku University, the next vice chair, and Professor Kazuyoshi Oshima of Osaka...
Institute of Technology, the next Secretary, attended.

Six officers participated in the meetings.

**LMAG Welcome party**

On March 11th, we held an online welcome party for new Life Members. Five new members and seven existing members participated. Dr. Kobayashi, the Chair of LMAG Kansai, gave a welcoming address, and all participants enjoyed the discussion.

Screenshot of the party.

**R10 LMAG Meetings**

Three R10 meetings were held online on March 26th, June 19th, and October 16th. Dr. Kobayashi, the Chair of LMAG Kansai, participated in all these meetings.

The third meeting was held on-site in Jeju, Korea, but LMAG Kansai skipped this because of the COVID-19 pandemic in Japan.

Fourteen members participated at the fourth meeting on October 16th, including Dr. Kobayashi, the Chair of LMAG Kansai.

Dr. Ritvik Bansal gave a welcoming address at the fourth meeting.

**SYWL+I Workshop in Tokushima 2022**

IEEE SYWL+I (Students, Young Professionals, Women in Engineering, Life Members plus Industry) Workshop was held on October 8th at Tokushima University, jointly with MAW 2022, and Dr. Kobayashi, Chair of LMAG Kansai, participated in the workshop. It was organized by IEEE JAPAN SYWL + Industry 2022 Committee. The theme of the workshop was “Eraiyccha Eraiyaccha Engineers!”. Two keynote presentations, “Planned Happenstance” and “Entrepreneurship - Introduction to Startup,” were followed by group discussions.

The Workshop was held on-site and online.
MAW (Metro Area Workshop) 2022 in Tokushima

MAW 2022 in Tokushima was held at Tokushima University on October 7th in hybrid format, and Dr. Kobayashi attended. The presenters gave five lectures on the workshop theme “Shikoku’s technology that shines; new challenges in education, research, and industry”.

The Workshop was held in a hybrid format.

Kansai Section Officer’s Meetings

Kansai Section held six officer meetings, and Dr. Kobayashi, the Chair of LMAG Kansai, attended all of them.

LMAG Kansai 10th Anniversary Event

On November 12th, LMAG Kansai held our 10th-anniversary ceremony at “Chuo-Denki Club” in Osaka city, and thirty-three people attended online and face-to-face. Dr. Msaaki Kobayashi, the Chair of LMAG Kansai, gave an opening address. Professor Toshio Fukuda, the past IEEE chair, gave a congratulatory address from Brazil despite a great hardship due to the time gap. Dr. Tadashi Takano, Professor Emeritus of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, and Dr. Hajime Imai, Professor Emeritus of Japan Women’s University, Professor Yutaka Hata, the Chair of IEEE Kansai Section, gave congratulatory addresses.

At the second session of the ceremony, attendees enjoyed an excellent video program titled “The History of LMAG Kansai” made by Dr. Kobayashi and Dr. Masaki Koyama, Professor Emeritus Nara Advanced Institute of Science and Technology and the first chairman of LMAG Kansai, gave a speech about the details of LMAG Kansai. Then, Professor Isao Shirakawa, Professor Emeritus Osaka University and the Chair of the IEEE History Committee, and Professor Masasugu Kidode gave commemorative lectures titled “Milestone of Japan and Kansai” and “Computer Image Processing and Technologies of Robotics Vision: The Past Ten years and the Next Ten Years”, respectively.

Thirty-three people attended LMAG Kansai’s 10th-anniversary ceremony in Osaka City.

Finally, Professor Yukihiro Nakamura, Professor Emeritus Kyoto University, and the former Chair of LMAG Kansai, gave a closing remark. Miss Kato, the clerk of
the IEEE Japan Council, arranged a wide variety of novelty goods for the ceremony, which the attendees welcomed.

After the ceremony, we had a dinner party, and 20 people enjoyed talking in person for a long time.

Dr. Kushiki, the next LMAG Chair, gave an address.

Region 10 LM Photography contest

The IEEE Region 10 Life Member Committee held its annual photography contest, and Dr. Kobayashi, the Chair of LMAG Kansai, entered Category Two. The photo was taken during the 2013 LMAG Kansai on-site tour at the Harukasu Building, the tallest in Japan. Unfortunately, we did not have a winner in this category this year.

Dr. Kobayshi’s Photo.
Activity Plan 2023

This year, we were able to hold the LMAG Kansai 10th-anniversary ceremony in a hybrid format, and 2023 year is a kind of starting point for us to step in the next decade. Under a board of newly appointed officers, we will further strengthen LMAG Kansai activities, including online events. The following are the current plan for 2023:

1) ExCom meetings: monthly or bimonthly.
2) Technical Lecture meetings: over three times, including on-site ones. Other goals of this activity are to encourage new LMAG Kansai Members to join our community and to transcend regional limitations among LMAGs to collaborate with other LMAG members of geographically distant areas. These ideas were derived from our experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3) We will strongly support and sponsor activities and co-sponsor its Brainstorming Workshop and English Presentation Competition from a wide range of perspectives, including the presentation of the “LMAG Award”.
4) Cosponsor YP and WIE AG’s events.
5) All activities based on the plan above will be published in the LMAG Kansai Newsletter once a year to call for broad participation in our activities and report them to our members.

Editor’s Note

For these three years, due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, we have had difficulties continuing our activities as before. However, this year, we tried various ideas to overcome the hardship. One example was the online tour of “Supercomputer Fugaku” provided by Riken, and we could enjoy their on-site lectures simultaneously. Another example was that we found it easy to hold various kinds of events shared by different groups that are geographically separated.

Next year, the new officer group will expand LMAG Kansai AG’s activities. I’d like to report them to members timely. And let me ask you, members, to participate in these activities and support LMAG, as always.

Toru Chiba
Vice-Chair, LMAG Kansai
Submitting Articles
We welcome articles for this newsletter, such as tales of your IEEE activity, essays on novel or interesting technical issues, and so on. Manuscripts should be written in English or Japanese. Please include your Life Grade, Member Number, and email address with your submission.

Contact Us
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2021-2022 LMAG Kansai Officers
Chair: Masaaki Kobayashi
Vice Chair: Yoshiaki Kushiki
Toru Chiba
Katsunori Shimohara
Secretary: Kazuo Hirano
Shigeru Sugimoto

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