

Kansai Section Report

PART A - SECTION SUMMARY

A.1 Executive Summary

A.1-1 Section Executive Committee Member List (2024)

Section Officers:

Chair:	Yoshinobu Kajikawa (Kansai University)
Vice-Chair:	Tetsuya Inoue (Sumitomo Electric Corporation)
Secretary/Treasurer:	Hideyuki Mukai (Sumitomo Electric Corporation)

Standing Committee Chairs:

Membership Development Committee Chair:	Yuichi Hayashi (Nara Institute of Science and Technology)
Nominations Committee Chair:	Tadahiko Murata (Osaka University)
Student Activities Committee Chair:	Kohei Ichikawa (Nara Institute of Science and Technology)
Technical Program Committee Chair:	Masahiro Ishida (Panasonic Corporation)
Awards Committee Chair:	Yoshiki Higo (Osaka University)
Chapter Operations Committee Chair:	Chikara Ohta (Kobe University)

Affinity Group Chairs:

Life Members Affinity Group Chair:	Yoshiaki Kushiki (formerly Panasonic Corporation)
WIE (Women in Engineering) Affinity Group Chair:	Takeshi Kumaki (Ritsumeikan University)
YP (Young Professionals) Affinity Group Chair:	Kazuki Nishatani (Osaka University)

Other member appointed by the Section Executive Committee:

Educational Activities Chair:	Shinji Tanabe (formerly Mitsubishi Electric Corporation)
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Past Officers/ Past Committee Chairs:

Past Chair:	Yutaka Hata (University of Hyogo)
Past TPC Chair:	Tetsuzou Ueda (Panasonic Corporation)

A.1-2 Section Highlights

IEEE Kansai Section was established in November 1998. As of December 2024, it comprises 2,245 members (see B.1).

In the activities of each Affinity Group of LMAG, WIE, and YP, the 26th IEEE Kansai Section LMAG Technical Lecture 'Current Status and Future of Smart City Standardization and Smart Disaster Prevention' was held, and the 27th IEEE Kansai Section LMAG Lecture 'New Power Electronics Leading Innovations in AI Generation and EV Evolution' was held as the 2nd Singularity Technology Lecture. Additionally, the 11th annual event 'WIE Symposium' was held. Through the dispatch of local participants to MAW2024, the R10 SYWL CONGRESS 2024, which was threatened by a typhoon, and SBLTW, we deepened exchanges with other sections.

Various events hosted by the section, such as technical lectures organized by MDC and TPC, the general meeting, section board meetings, the EA event 'Let's Talk About Cutting-Edge Technology in English,' the YP event 'YP 10th Anniversary Talk Event,' and the '6th Career Talk for Doctoral Students,' continued to be held in a hybrid format of in-person and online. Additionally, we hosted an

'Overleaf Workshop' at Tohoku University and co-hosted the 'IEEE Study Lab 2024 in Sendai' at the same university, striving to expand activities on a national scale and increase student participation.

A.1-3 Major Events (International, National)

A.1-3-1 Administrative Meetings

Kansai Section had the following six Executive Committee Meetings in 2024.

1st Meeting

January 16, Sumitomo Building 12th Floor Medium Conference Room, and online (16 participants)

- Confirmation of the 2023 financial report and 2024 budget plan, preparation for the Kansai Section General Meeting

2nd Meeting

March 26, Osaka Club 4th Floor Hall, and online (19 participants)

- Preparation for the Kansai Section General Meeting (arrangements, final confirmation of materials)

3rd Meeting

May 28, Osaka Club Room 2, and online (18 participants)

- Establishment of the Executive Nomination Committee
- Report on the R10 Meeting
- Report on the 1st JC Board Meeting
- Recruitment for the 2024 Young Professionals Award and Student Research Encouragement Award
- Recommendation of candidates for the JC Appreciation Certificate (Kansai Section)
- Report on the COC Meeting

4th Meeting

July 16, Osaka Club Room 2, and online (18 participants)

- Election schedule
- Report on the 2nd JC Board Meeting
- NC activity report
- Introduction of various AG events

5th Meeting

September 17, Osaka Club Room 3, and online (18 participants)

- 2025 Board election
- AG election regulations
- Draft of Newsletter No. 44
- Awarded the "2024 Region 10 Best Membership Retention Large Section Award"
- Sharing the preparation and implementation status of various meetings and events

6th Meeting

December 25 (Wednesday), Sumitomo Club, and hybrid format via Zoom (planned)

- 2025/2026 Kansai Section officers and board members
- 2024 financial report / 2025 budget plan
- 2024 award recipients (YP Award, Student Research Encouragement Award, new Senior Members)
- Sharing the preparation and implementation status of various meetings and events

A.1-3-2 Annual Section Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on March 26, 2024 (Tuesday) at the Osaka Club (Yodoyabashi) in a hybrid format, both in-person and online via Zoom. Reports on the 2023 activities and 2024 activity plans were presented by each Committee, Chapter, and Affinity Group. The Kansai Section reported on the 2023 financial results and the 2024 budget, which were approved. During the meeting, the Young Professionals Award and Student Research Encouragement Award ceremonies were held, along with the Kansai Section Medal presentation for new Senior Members and an introduction and lecture by new Fellows. The total number of participants was 91, with 59 attending in person and 32 online.

A.1-4 Major Chapter Activities

- A total of more than 70 events such as seminars, technical lecture meetings etc. were held by Chapters or jointly hosted by Chapters and other organizations (B.2).
- Notable events that a lot of attendees participated in are as follows.
 - On Oct. 29th, "IEEE 12th Global Conference on Consumer Electronics (GCCE 2024)"
The number of participants was more than 600.

- On May 9th, “LSI and Systems Workshop 2024” The number of participants was 500.

A.1-5 Major Student and Affinity Group Activities

At SAC, we continued our efforts from last year to increase student membership and support student member activities.

1. We focused on increasing student membership, supporting student member activities, promoting external activities, and facilitating information exchange among Student Branches (SBs) at seven existing universities (Osaka University, Kyoto University, Ritsumeikan University, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, University of Hyogo, Kansai University, and Doshisha University).
2. We held workshops in collaboration with MDC, SAC, YP, and WIE in May and November, working together to increase membership and support activities, including those for YP and female members.
3. A Student Branch Chair Meeting was held at Kansai University on June 13, where SB Chairs discussed the status of activities in the first half of the year and future plans, while also deepening mutual exchanges. Mr. Nishiya from YP joined us to discuss joint event planning with YP.
4. An SB Research Exchange Meeting was held in a hybrid format in Umeda on August 2. Participants presented their research and engaged in discussions about each other's work.
5. As an overall SB event, we co-hosted the English Presentation Competition with LMAG and YP at Ritsumeikan University's Biwako-Kusatsu Campus on November 25. Thirteen participants presented their research in English.
6. The brainstorming event planned as a joint project with SB and LMAG could not be held this year due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, which disrupted the handover of planning methods. We need to consider revamping the event and establishing it as a new initiative.
7. In collaboration with AC, we planned and judged the IEEE Kansai Section Student Research Encouragement Award.
8. A year-end exchange meeting (handover meeting) was held on December 22, hosted by the University of Hyogo, where we reported on the activities of each SB and discussed plans for the next year.
9. Additionally, we supported student participation in exchange events with other SBs, such as R10 SYWL, SBLTW, and joint events with Hokkaido SB, striving to further invigorate student activities.

A.1-6 Awards

- Kansai Section Student Paper Awards were presented to 4 recipients in 2024.
- Kansai Section Young Professional Award was presented to 2 recipient in 2024.
- Japan Council Medals (formerly, Kansai Section Medals) were presented to 20 newly elevated senior members in 2024.

A.2 Financial Report

Kansai Section's finances are in good condition as shown below.

Income		(JPY)	
IEEE Headquarters		2,676,405	Remarks
	• Section Rebate	2,165,148	Section Rebate \$ 13,480.05 (160.73 JPY/USD) - Bank Fee
	• Chapter Rebate Payments	▲ 389,772	(\$ 200X11)X1.1+ \$ 75X3= \$ 2,645
	• Affinity Group Rebate Payments	▲ 47,415	
	• SB Rebate	137,692	\$866 (160.73 JPY/USD) - Bank Fee
	• SB Rebate Payments	▲ 173,905	
• Section Rebate Subtotal		1,691,748	
	• Section Assessment	5,363,162	first \$ 34,172.10 (153.80 JPY/USD) second \$ 701.43 (153.25 JPY/USD)
	• Japan Council Payments	▲ 4,558,688	85% of Section Assessment + Bank Transfer Fee
• Section Assessment Subtotal		804,474	
	• LMAG Fund	0	
	• WIE Fund	0	
	• YP Fund	0	
• AG Fund Subtotal		0	
• Other Expense		7,620	Senior Member Elevation Nomination Incentive (\$60)
		74,320	2024 Region 10 Best Membership Retention Large Section Award (\$500)
		98,243	Interest of CB Account and Domestic MUFJG Bank Account
		180,183	
Section Support from Japan Council		185,544	
• Section Support (YP)			
• Section Support (EA)		185,544	EA Event supported by JC
• Section Support (Awards related)			
Subtotal		2,861,949	
Surplus Carried Forward		4,637,977	Domestic MUFJ Account: ¥2,766,944.- CB Account: \$16,773.39 (TTB Avg:111.55)
Total		7,499,926	

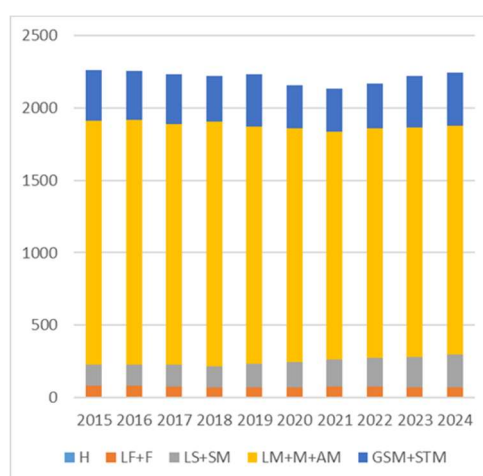
Expense	(JPY)	
Meetings, Awards and Support	3,967,066	Remarks
Activation Activities of Kansai Section	1,183,653	YP, NC and EA Events, Equipment for Web Conference
Annual Meeting	889,202	Brochure, Awards, Supplies, etc.
Annual Meeting Banquet Participation F	▲ 132,000	33 Participants
Technical Meeting (TPC)	19,980	Technical Meeting
Executive Committee Meetings	441,630	Room Charges, Supplies, etc.
Committee Meetings	124,740	MDC/SAC/YP/WIE Joint workshop, etc
YP Awards, Student Paper Awards, Kansai Medal Awards, etc.	252,050	Awards, Certificate, Medals, Postage, etc.
Student Branch Support	164,819	Hokkaido SB event travel expenses, etc
LMAG Support	200,264	Technical Meeting, etc.
WIE Support	350,108	WIE Symposium, etc.
YP Support	442,620	SB-YP joint event, etc.
EA Support	0	
Chapter Support	30,000	The venue usage fee for the ISSCC report meeting
Others	13,444	
Office supplies expenses	3,038	Microphone cable
Carriage expense	10,406	Medal shipping costs, etc.
Charge for Services	▲ 459,319	
Bank Transfer Fee	▲ 459,319	Exchange gain, etc
Subtotal	3,521,191	
Surplus Carried Forward	3,978,735	
Total	7,499,926	

PART B - ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

B.1 Membership Development Activities

The member statistics by grade in the section at the end of December 2024 are as follows:

Grade	Grade Code	Number
Honorary Member	H	1
Fellow	F	68
Senior Member	SM	228
Member	M	1,530
Associate Member	AM	47
Graduate Student Member	GSM	283
Student Member	StM	88
Total		2,245



In 2024, the first MDC&SAC&YP&WIE Joint Workshop was held on May 29, and the second on November 25. Unlike last year, which included online sessions, both workshops this year were conducted in person at the Osaka Garden Palace. Through the organizations involved in MDC, SAC, YP, and WIE, we widely promoted the benefits of IEEE activities, facilitating the smooth transition of student members to regular members and encouraging regular members to advance to senior membership. Additionally, in collaboration with SAC and YP, we focused on increasing the number of student members, particularly graduate students. This year, we also newly included WIE to appeal to female members.

To prevent a decline in the number of regular members, we sent renewal reminder emails in May and November to encourage timely renewals. We continued to support the application process for senior membership, resulting in 10 members advancing to senior status in 2023.

As of December 31, 2024, the total number of members was 2,245, surpassing the previous year and recovering to the pre-COVID-19 level of 2018. The increase in senior members and student members was particularly notable.

We co-sponsored the "Career Talk for Doctoral Students" event hosted by IEEE Kansai YP on October 10, where we delivered a lecture encouraging student membership in IEEE. Following last year's success, we held a joint event with IEEE Kansai YP and SAC on October 9. Members from companies affiliated with MDC (Kyocera, Sharp, NTT, Panasonic, Furuno Electric, Mitsubishi Electric) shared their work experiences and success stories with students, fostering mutual understanding between professionals and students. During these events, we distributed IEEE brochures and novelty items to promote IEEE membership and guide members on advancing to senior membership.

As a new initiative, in collaboration with YP, we organized the "IEEE Kansai Section Company Tour for Students" on November 12, where student members toured ROHM Co., Ltd., to learn about the company's activities and initiatives.

B.2 Chapter Activities

- Total number of Chapters in the Section is now 14 including 5 joint chapters.
- All 14 Chapters had activities in this year.
- Summary of Chapter activities is as follows.

Organizational Unit	Meeting Title	Meeting Date	Number of Attendees
SP01	SSS'24	2024/12/13	85
SP01	The 39 th Signal Processing symposium	2024/12/16	200
SP01	IEEE SPS Kansai Joint Chapter Special Talk	2024/6/28	32
SP01	IEEE SPS Kansai Joint Chapter Special Talk	2024/7/16	32
SP01	IEEE SPS Kansai Joint Chapter Special Talk	2024/7/17	40
SP01	IEEE SPS Kansai Joint Chapter Special Talk	2024/10/23	130
SP01	Fellow Seminar	2024/10/23	210
AP03	IEEE AP-S Kansai Joint Chapter Special Talk	2024/4/11	-
AP03	IEEE AP-S Kansai Joint Chapter Special Talk	2024/9/19	-
AP03	IEEE AP-S Kansai chapter and MTT-S Kansai Chapter Young Engineer Technical Meeting 2023	2024/12/14	-
CAS04	IEEE CASS Kansai Chapter Seminar	2024/1/17	-
CAS04	Workshop on Muon-Induced Soft Errors	2024/3/15	-
CAS04	Nonvolatile Computing from Energy Harvesting Systems to Datacenters	2024/7/8	-
CAS04	Quest for Scaling Earthly AI Holistically - Advancing AI to help children with speech and language service needs	2024/8/5	-
CAS04	Study Session on Soft Errors (and Other Radiation Effects on Semiconductors)	2024/9/4	-
CT08	IEEE 12th Global Conference on Consumer Electronics (GCCE 2024)	2024/10/29	600
CT08	IEEE President & Nobel Prize laureate Special Talk	2024/10/11	225
CT08	2024TRON Symposium	2024/12/11	100
IE13	Regular Workshop	2024/4/13	111
IE13	Regular Workshop	2024/6/15	85
IE13	Regular Workshop	2024/9/14	72
IE13	Regular Workshop	2024/10/12	61
IE13	Regular Workshop	2023/12/14	192
ED15	IEEE DL seminar	2024/4/9	25
ED15	IEEE Kansai EDS Round-Table Workshop	2024/8/30	14
ED15	Electronic Device Workshop	2024/10/11	59
ED15	The 2024 International Meeting for Future Electron Devices, Kansai	2024/11/21	167
C16	Control Society Multi Symposium	2024/3/17	533
C16	Tutorial Lecture	2024/8/5	92
C16	Automatic Control Conference	2024/11/23	583
C16	The 56th ISCIE International Symposium on Stochastic Systems Theory and Its Applications	2024/12/13	86
MTT17	Distinguished Microwave Lecturers	2024/3/28	37

MTT17	Microwave English Presentation symposium	2024/7/6	34
MTT17	IEEE MTT-S Kansai Chapter Workshop	2024/10/26	37
MTT17	IEEE AP-S Kansai Chapter and MTT-S Kansai Chapter Young Engineer Technical Meeting 2024	2024/12/14	57
COM19	IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Special Talk	2024/10/26	37
COM19	IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Special Talk	2024/10/26	97
COM19	IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Special Talk	2024/4/10	22
COM19	IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Special Talk	2024/4/18	22
CS23	Technology seminar	2024/10/4	70
CS23	Poster Meeting	2024/10/4	100
MAG33	Summer School on Magnetism	2024/7/13	43
MAG33	IEEE Kansai/Shikoku Joint Sections Magnetics Society Chapter Lecture	2024/10/29	31
MAG33	MRIS 2024	2024/12/5	58
MAG33	IEEE Kansai/Shikoku Joint Sections Magnetics Society Chapter Lecture	2024/12/10	18
MAG33	IEEE Kansai/Shikoku Joint Sections Magnetics Society Chapter Lecture	2024/10/4	21
MAG33	IEEE Kansai/Shikoku Joint Sections Magnetics Society Chapter Lecture	2024/10/7	19
PHO36	IEEE Photonics Society Kansai Chapter Special Seminar	2024/1/22	25
PHO36	Distinguished Lecturer	2024/7/4	75
PHO36	Distinguished Lecturer	2024/10/18	22
PHO36	MTT-S Kansai, COMS Kansai – Joint Chapter Workshop	2024/10/26	37
PHO36	IEEE Photonics Society Kansai Chapter English Presentation Workshop	2024/11/2	13
SSC37	ISSCC 2024 Reporting Workshop	2024/3/15	154
SSC37	LSI and Systems Workshop 2023	2024/5/9	460
SSC37	VLSI Symposium Reporting Workshop	2024/7/24	60
SSC37	Summer camp	2023/7/23	20
SSC37	IEEE SSCS Kansai Chapter Technical Seminar	2023/7/25	98
SSC37	d.lab-VDEC Refresh Seminar	2024/8/1	12
SSC37	d.lab-VDEC Refresh Seminar	2024/8/5	4
SSC37	d.lab-VDEC Refresh Seminar	2024/8/21	28
SSC37	d.lab-VDEC Refresh Seminar	2024/9/2	10
SSC37	d.lab-VDEC Refresh Seminar	2024/9/3	7
SSC37	d.lab-VDEC Refresh Seminar	2024/9/5	10
SSC37	d.lab-VDEC Refresh Seminar	2024/9/9	10
SSC37	d.lab-VDEC Refresh Seminar	2024/9/17	5
SSC37	d.lab-VDEC Refresh Seminar	2024/9/24	6
SSC37	Acceleration Technology Conference	2024/9/26	37
SSC37	Integrated-Circuit Workshop	2024/9/28	30
SSC37	Hardware Security Workshop	2024/11/1	46
SSC37	Design Gia 2024	2024/11/12	148
PSE43	The 4th IEEE PSES Japan Chapter Meeting	2024/5/31	11
PSE43	The 5th IEEE PSES Japan Chapter Meeting	2024/8/31	8
PSE43	The 6th IEEE PSES Japan Chapter Meeting	2024/12/20	9

B.3 Professional and Continuing Education Activities

In 2024, we held a total of four technical lectures, including those organized and co-organized, as shown in the table below.

Event No.	Date	Theme	Format	Speakers	Participants (IEEE Members)	Organizing/Co-organizing Organizations
125th	May 27, 2024	Standardization of Smart Cities and the Current and Future State of Smart Disaster Prevention	In-person/Online	Tatsuya Shimoji (Panasonic Holdings Corporation, Platform Division, General Manager) Tetsu Oishi (Professor, Kobe University, Urban Safety Research Center/Department of Civil Engineering)	77 (60)	Organized by LMAG, Co-organized by TPC
126th	June 29, 2024	New Power Electronics Leading Innovations in AI Generation and EV Evolution	In-person/Online	Tatsuya Hosoya (Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd.)	86 (51)	(2nd Singularity Technology Lecture) Organized by LMAG, TPC
127th	November 20, 2024	Device Process and Reliability Technologies Supporting the Evolution of AI and Carbon Neutrality	Online	Koji Uraoka (Professor, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Graduate School of Materials Science)	48 (21)	Organized by TPC, Co-organized by NC
128th	December 12, 2024	How Innovative Technologies Will Change Future Society: "Co-creation and Collaboration"	In-person/Online	Michiko Ogawa (Executive Officer, Panasonic Holdings Corporation, Kansai Public Relations and Expo Promotion, Technics Brand Business/Director, Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition) Yoshiyuki Miyabe (Director/Executive Vice President, Panasonic Holdings Corporation, Public Relations, Solution Partner, Tokyo Representative)	207 (65)	(3rd Singularity Technology Lecture) Organized by LMAG, TPC, Co-organized by Osaka University, WIE, YP

Prior to each lecture, we promoted the events not only through the IEEE Kansai Section website but also by sending eNotices (email announcements for IEEE members) via the IEEE Japan Chapter. This helped to encourage widespread participation beyond the Kansai Section and contributed to enhancing our activities.

For the 125th lecture, we invited Mr. Tatsuya Shimoji from Panasonic and Professor Tetsu Oishi from Kobe University to speak on the standardization of smart cities and smart disaster prevention. The lecture highlighted the recent focus on building smart cities using ICT, the establishment of Japan's first smart city standard as an international standard, and its application in disaster prevention and recovery.

The 126th lecture was held as the second Singularity Technology Lecture, following last year's lecture by Professor Emeritus Matsunami from Kyoto University. We invited Mr. Tatsuya Hosoya from Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd., who discussed how advanced power electronics are supporting the rapidly growing fields of AI and EVs.

For the 127th lecture, we invited Professor Koji Uraoka from the Nara Institute of Science and Technology. He presented his latest research findings, including innovative reliability evaluation technologies using light, which earned him the title of Fellow last year. He also shared insights into the Fellow application process, encouraging members to advance their IEEE membership status.

The 128th lecture was conducted as the third Singularity Technology Lecture, featuring talks by Ms. Michiko Ogawa and Mr. Yoshiyuki Miyabe from Panasonic. Ms. Ogawa introduced the main exhibition concepts of the upcoming Osaka Expo and how technology will contribute to future society. Mr. Miyabe discussed how we should approach DX (Digital Transformation) and GX (Green Transformation) in the context of a future society advancing in AI and carbon neutrality. The lecture, held just before the Expo, garnered significant interest and active participation from Kansai Section members, attracting a large audience.

B.4 Students Activities

The activities were performed by collaboration with SAC, see B.1.4.

B.5 Affinity Group Activities

B.5-1 Young Professional Affinity Group

In collaboration with SAC, MDC, WIE AG, EA, and SB, we planned and co-hosted events to promote networking and career advancement for young researchers and engineers. Additionally, we held two joint events with YP AGs from other sections, supporting the networking and career development of young engineers across Japan as the Kansai Section YP AG. Below is a list of the main events:

- (Jointly held) IEEE Japan YP Study Lab 2024 in Sendai (May 18)
- [Co-hosted] "Creating Personal Websites Using GitHub and ChatGPT"
- [Hosted] "Overleaf Study Session"
- (Co-hosted) IEEE Kansai Section 4th EA Event (Sep 7)
- (Hosted) 3rd Networking Event for Professionals and Students (Oct 9)
- (Co-hosted) IEEE Kansai WIE Symposium 2023 (Oct 21)
- (Co-hosted) 5th Discussion on Career Paths for Doctoral Students
- IEEE Japan YP Career Lab 2023 in Himeji (Nov 12)
- (Supported) The 20th English Presentation Competition in Ritsumeikan (Dec 1)
- (Co-hosted) The 4th Hokkaido Young Professionals Workshop (Dec 12)
- Board Meeting (held monthly)

B.5-2 WIE Affinity Group

(1) Kansai WIE Symposium

The year 2024 marks the 11th anniversary of Kansai WIE, and following the 10th anniversary, we aim to further invigorate our activities. For the annual WIE Symposium held in the fall, we improved the visibility of the posters from the previous year to enhance their appeal. While focusing on in-person participation, we adopted a hybrid format combining online and on-site attendance to accommodate participants from distant locations. The symposium, titled "IEEE Kansai WIE

Symposium 2024," was held on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at Ritsumeikan University Ibaraki Campus and online. The event was co-hosted by IEEE Kansai Section Young Professionals Affinity Group, IEEE Kansai Section Educational Activities, IEEE Kansai Section Life Member Affinity Group, IEEE Student Branch at Osaka University, IEEE Student Branch at University of Hyogo, IEEE Student Branch at Ritsumeikan University, IEEE Student Branch at Kyoto University, IEEE Student Branch at Kansai University, IEEE Student Branch at Doshisha University, IEEE Student Branch at Nara Institute of Science and Technology, and IEICE Kansai Section. These groups particularly assisted with publicity and preparation. In addition to the eco-bags created last year, we prepared and distributed many IEEE novelties. In the first half of the symposium, in addition to the usual female engineers and researchers, we invited a former Kansai WIE member who is now a principal at a technical college to give a lecture. The topics and speakers were as follows:

- "Casual Programming Learning - Aiming for Flexibility and Diversity"
Lecturer Erina Makihara, Ritsumeikan University
- "Measuring Plant Shapes with Images - Plant Image Processing and Its Applications"
Lecturer Yuzuko Utsumi, Osaka Metropolitan University
- "Career Formation from Relearning and Challenges as a Principal"
Principal Etsuko Ueda, Kagoshima National College of Technology

In the second half of the symposium, we conducted group discussions, dividing participants into those attending in person and those online. The theme was "Tips for Enjoying Science, Technology, and Life." The symposium had 76 participants. We saw the effects of sending posters to gender equality promotion offices at major universities in Kansai, as well as to universities and high schools in the Kansai region. This symposium will continue to be a central event in the annual activities of the WIE AG, regardless of the format, with the aim of empowering female engineers and researchers, female graduate and undergraduate students in science and engineering, and high school girls considering careers in science and engineering in the Kansai region.

(2) Board Meetings

- April 3, 2024: 1st Committee Meeting of 2024 (in-person and online)
- May 24, 2024: 2nd Committee Meeting of 2024 (in-person and online)
- August 26, 2024: Poster and Flyer Distribution Work (in-person)
- October 5, 2024: 3rd Committee Meeting of 2024 and Symposium (in-person and online)
- November 18, 2024: 4th Committee Meeting of 2024 (in-person)

B.5-3 Life Members Affinity Group

- On May 27, 2024, we held the event "Current and Future of Smart Cities and Smart Disaster Prevention," with 21 participants attending in person and 61 online. The event began with an opening address by LMAG Kansai Chair Mr. Kushiki, who introduced the concept of the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) white paper on earthquake disasters being promoted as an international standard originating from Japan. Mr. Tatsuya Shimoji, General Manager at Panasonic, delivered a lecture titled "International Standardization of Smart Cities - Continuity Planning for Urban Functions and Facilities." Following this, Professor Satoru Oishi from the Research Center for Urban Safety and Security at Kobe University gave a lecture titled "Smart Disaster Prevention - Automatic Generation of Digital Twins and Construction of Automatic Disaster Simulators." The

three lectures were highly praised by the participants, and 17 people attended the networking event afterward, enjoying diverse technical discussions.

- On June 29, 2024, LMAG Kansai co-hosted the 27th Technical Lecture with the IEEE Kansai Section at the Umeda Campus of Osaka Institute of Technology in a hybrid format. Mr. Tatsuya Hosoya, Principal Researcher at Murata Manufacturing, delivered a lecture titled "New Power Electronics Leading Innovation in the AI Generation and EV Evolution." The lecture was attended by 86 participants. The event began with an opening address by Professor Hiroyuki Matsunami, Emeritus Professor at Kyoto University. After the event, 10 people attended the networking event, enjoying discussions on the themes and related technologies at a restaurant.
- On December 12, 2024, the 3rd Singularity Technology Lecture was held in a hybrid format at the Nakanoshima Center of Osaka University. LMAG Kansai Chair Mr. Kushiki expressed gratitude to the co-host Osaka University and explained the purpose of the event, defining singularity as the time when innovative technology is "socially implemented," leading to a "civilizational shift" and "resonance chain." He positioned the lectures as "co-creation" for innovative technology (Lecture 1) and "collaboration" for societal goals (Lecture 2). In Lecture 1, Ms. Riko Ogawa, Director of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition and Advisor at Panasonic, gave a lecture titled "What Transformations Will Innovative Technologies Introduced at the Osaka-Kansai Expo Bring to Society?" She explored the universal question of human life and how technology impacts it, aligning with the Expo's theme "Designing Future Society for Our Lives." In Lecture 2, Mr. Yoshiyuki Miyabe, Executive Vice President at Panasonic and IEEE Life Member, delivered a lecture titled "Towards the Coming Future - Challenges for DX and GX." He discussed how climate change is driven by various new technologies such as semiconductors and generative AI, emphasizing the unavoidable future slogan "Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2050." He proposed Japan's stance on these challenges. The event was attended by 104 people in person and 103 online. According to the participant surveys, the lecture content and hybrid meeting management were highly rated. The networking event afterward was attended by about 60 people, where Ms. Ogawa, also a renowned jazz pianist, shared her experiences as the final presenter at the Expo and performed piano and singing, leaving a deep impression on the attendees.
- On November 21, the 23rd LMAG Technical Symposium, the first "Passion and Challenge" Engineer Life Symposium, was held. Mr. Tatsuo Kawasaki, former Executive Vice President of Matsushita Electronics, gave a lecture on "Training Young LSI Engineers Using Self-Made Educational Tools Implemented on Microcontrollers," which he has continued for over 20 years in Cambodia and Mongolia. As a result of his efforts, he was appointed Honorary Professor by the National University of Mongolia. Professor Masaki Koyama, former IEEE-JC Chair and Emeritus Professor at Nara Institute of Science and Technology, delivered a lecture titled "Partnering with Generative AI." He reviewed the history of the development and spread of "ChatGPT," discussing its impact on business areas and future possibilities. Both speakers, after achieving remarkable accomplishments during their active careers, have again achieved impressive results in new activities started after retirement. This online-only meeting was attended by 74 participants and left a significant impact. LMAG Kansai and LMAG-JC presented appreciation certificates to both speakers.
- In collaboration with other organizations in the Kansai Section, on September 7, the 4th IEEE Kansai Section EA Event titled "Cutting-edge Technology in English - Basic Elements of Technical Communication" was held in a hybrid format at the Umeda Campus of Osaka Institute of Technology, co-hosted by LMAG Kansai. Since 2021, LMAG Kansai has been supporting educational activities encouraging young researchers and high school

students, with LMAG Kansai Past Chair Mr. Kobayashi and other LMAG Kansai officers participating.

- On November 25, the "IEEE Ritsumeikan University Student Branch English Presentation Competition 2024" was held at the Kusatsu Campus of Ritsumeikan University, organized by the IEEE Kansai Section Student Branch. Mr. Kobayashi, Past Chair, participated as one of the judges. Thirteen technical presentations were made, and four awards were given, including the "LMAG Award" presented by LMAG Kansai.
- On October 5, the IEEE Kansai Section WIE (Women in Engineering) Affinity Group held the 11th WIE Symposium titled "Enjoying Science, Technology, and Life!" in a hybrid format at the Ibaraki Campus of Ritsumeikan University, co-hosted by LMAG Kansai, with participation from related officers.
- On November 10, the IEEE Kansai Section YP (Young Professionals Affinity Group), in collaboration with the Nagoya Section YP and Japan Council, held the 10th Anniversary Workshop and the 6th "Career Development in Doctoral Programs" event. LMAG Kansai officers also participated in the event.
- The IEEE R10 SYWL 2024 Congress, the biennial event of the IEEE Asia-Pacific Region (R10), was held on August 29 in Tokyo, organized by the Japan Council and all IEEE Sections in Japan. LMAG Kansai had planned to participate but could not due to transportation disruptions caused by a typhoon.
- In 2024, LMAG Kansai held eight online officer meetings. One example is the discussion on new officers for the LMAG Kansai Board in 2025 and the revision of the LMAG Kansai By-Laws. On March 25, an online welcome party for new Life Members in 2024 was held, with seven new members and seven LMAG Kansai officers participating. Participants enjoyed discussions on a wide range of topics.
- The R10 LMAG meetings were held online four times.

B.6 Awards & Recognition Activities

- Kansai Section Student Paper Awards were presented to 4 recipients in 2024.
- Kansai Section Young Professional Award was presented to 2 recipient in 2024.
- IEEE Japan Council medals were presented to 20 newly elevated senior members in 2024.

B.7 Communication Activities (Newsletter, Home Page, E-mail etc.)

- Kansai Section updated the Kansai Section Web Pages more than once a month. There it announced Section Annual Meeting, Young Professionals and Student Awards applications, new Section and Units' officers, and new Executive Committee members and candidates, as well as summaries and announcements of the past and upcoming technical meetings.
<https://www.ieee-jp.org/section/kansai/>
- Kansai Section also tried to piece out its English Web Page.
<https://www.ieee-jp.org/section/kansai/english/index.html>
- Kansai Section actively used Mailing List (eNotices) for timely announcements and sharing information of upcoming events.

B.8 Industry Relations

Please see B.1 (Member Development Activities)

B.9 Humanitarian Technology Activities

N/A

B.10 Community Activities

N/A

PART C - OTHERS

C.1 Special Events

- Kansai Section Sponsored Lecture
Under the planning of the Technical Program Committee (TPC), a total of seven technical lectures, including those hosted and co-hosted, were held throughout the year. Details are provided in the TPC activity report.
- MAW / Japan SYWL Workshop / SBLTW
Three AG members from the Kansai Branch were dispatched to the Japan SYWL2024, MAW2024, and associated events held at Shinshu University from August 29 to September 1, 2024. However, due to the impact of a typhoon, including the suspension of transportation services, the number of participants was lower than usual.
- Co-sponsored Conferences, etc.
 - (i) The 11th Electronic Device Forum Kyoto ~ Exploring Strategies for the Leap of Japan's Semiconductor/Electronic Components in the New Era!! ~ Organizer: Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (NEDIA) Date: Thursday, October 31, 2024 – Friday, November 1, 2024 Venue: Kyoto Research Park (KRP)
 - (ii) 13th IEEE CPMT Symposium Japan (ICSJ2024) Organizer: IEEE EPS Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 – Friday, November 15, 2024 Venue: Ritsumeikan University Suzaku Campus
 - (iii) The 77th Analog Technology Trend Seminar (HAB Seminar) Organizer: NPO High-Frequency & Analog Semiconductor Business (HAB) Research Association Date: Friday, December 6, 2024, 14:00 – 17:00 Format: WEB (Zoom)

C.2 Relationship with National and International Societies and Non-Government Organizations (NGO)

- The International Meeting for Future of Electron Devices Kansai (IMFEDK 2024)
Organizer(s): EDS (Electron Devices Society) Kansai Chapter
Dates: November 21th-22th, 2024
Place: Ryukoku University

C.3 Collaboration with other IEEE Sections

Several collaborations with other IEEE sections via joint chapter activities (meetings and conferences in B.2.

C.4 Support extended to Sub-sections & Society Chapters within the Section

N/A

C.5 Best Practices of your Section (which you would like to share with other Sections for the benefits of members)

N/A

C.6 Problems anticipated and suggestions for solutions, if any

N/A

PART D - GOALS AND PLANS

D.1 Continuation of project/activity in progress and their implementation plans

D-1-1 Executive Meetings

Kansai Section will have five regular executive committee meetings, and possibly one or two occasional meetings in 2025. We already had one executive committee meeting in February.

D-1-2 Membership Development Committee

In 2025, we will continue our efforts to increase membership. As before, we will collaborate with MDC, SAC, YP, and WIE, focusing particularly on increasing new memberships among Senior Members and young members, including students.

We will hold the MDC/SAC/YP/WIE Joint Workshop twice a year (around May and November) to facilitate information exchange and collaboration among Committees, aiming to increase membership.

Through encouraging upgrades and providing application support, we aim to further increase the number of Senior Members. We will share the initiatives of the IEEE Computer Society Kansai Chapter with other Committees and Chapters through JC MD meetings, creating pathways to increase the number of members who upgrade.

We will conduct promotional activities at academic conferences and research meetings (such as distributing IEEE posters and brochures) to encourage membership in IEEE. If this becomes difficult due to online events, we will distribute posters and brochures to the institutions of MDC officers to carry out promotional activities.

We will send renewal reminder emails twice a year to prevent membership loss due to forgotten renewals.

D-1-3 Nominations Committee

In 2025, regarding the 2025 Fellow Nomination with a deadline of February 8, 2025, we will request current Fellows within the Kansai Section to recommend new Fellows and encourage current Senior Members to become nominees. Additionally, we will utilize opportunities such as the "IEEE Kansai Section Fellow Club" and Kansai Section events to actively seek recommendations from current Fellows. Furthermore, we will hold study sessions and lectures aimed at upgrading IEEE membership qualifications at companies and universities located in the Kansai region.

D-1-4 Student Activities Committee

(1) Establishment of Student Branches (SB)

Continuing from last year, we will advance the recruitment of student members and continue efforts towards the establishment of new SBs. With support from the existing branches at Osaka University, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto University, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, University of Hyogo, Kansai University, and Doshisha University, we will explore the establishment of new SBs at other universities and technical colleges.

(2) Activation of Student Member Activities

We will plan events such as lectures, tours, and IEEE activity briefings aimed at students to further increase student membership. With the cooperation of the seven existing university SBs, we will actively provide services to student members and promote membership growth even at universities without SBs. We will continue to hold exchange meetings centered around the seven university SBs in the Kansai Section to deepen interactions between SBs. Additionally, we will hold SB Chair meetings to promote activity and strengthen cooperation among SBs. We will also collaborate with various AGs such as LMAG, YP, and WIE to organize various events. Furthermore, it is necessary to evaluate the contribution of each initiative to the increase in student membership.

(3) Awards and Research Encouragement

We will continue to plan the IEEE Kansai Section Student Research Encouragement Award, which started in 2004 (in collaboration with AC), to recognize students who have presented excellent English papers and encourage their research. We will also provide

opportunities for awardees to give lectures on their award-winning content to further activate student member activities.

(4) Collaboration with Student Activities of Other Sections

Through information exchange and collaboration with the student activities of the other eight sections established domestically, we aim to further deepen student member activities in the Kansai Section.

D-1-5 Awards Committee

In 2025, we will continue to implement the rigorous selection process as in previous years, while making greater efforts to increase the number of applicants. We will position the "IEEE Kansai Section Young Professionals Award" and the "IEEE Kansai Section Student Research Encouragement Award" as strategies to strengthen our young and student membership. We will actively promote these awards through various research meetings and mailing lists associated with the Kansai Section. In 2024, the number of applications for these awards decreased compared to the previous year. Therefore, to increase the number of applications, we will collaborate with the SAC and actively encourage student members who have made significant contributions to IEEE activities, such as those involved in Student Branch activities, to apply. Additionally, since there were no applications for the "Young Professionals in Industry" category, we will actively encourage young professionals in industry to apply for this award.

D-1-6 Chapter Operations Committee

In 2025, the primary activity goal will be for the COC Chair and COC Secretary to collaborate in systematically accumulating case studies related to the review of Chapter support fund applications. This will help identify specific points of attention and areas for improvement in the application process, thereby enhancing the accuracy of support applications. Based on these insights, we plan to update the document "About IEEE Chapter Support (September 21, 2022)" distributed to each Chapter within the Kansai Section. This update will aim to reflect the latest information on the application process and review criteria, making the document practical and easy to understand. Through these efforts, we aim to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the Chapter support fund review process and further invigorate the activities of the entire Kansai Section.

D-1-7 Technical Program Committee

Continuing into 2025, we will position the organization of technical lectures as our primary activity. We aim to plan and hold approximately four lectures per year, either in an online format or a hybrid format combining online and in-person attendance. Additionally, we plan to support and co-sponsor seminars and other events that contribute to expanding the knowledge and perspectives of IEEE members. In these activities, we will actively plan and hold lectures on interdisciplinary fields that span multiple Chapters, new and emerging fields that do not belong to any specific Chapter, or topics related to the latest trends in the market and technology.

D-1-8 Affinity Groups

● **Life Members Affinity Group**

Under the newly appointed officers in 2025, we aim to further strengthen activities within LMAG Kansai. Our current plans for 2025 are as follows:

- LMAG Kansai Officers' Meetings: Bi-monthly.
- LMAG Technical Lectures, Singularity Technology Lectures, and Engineer Life Technical Discussion Meetings: At least three times in a hybrid format.
- Welcome event for new members of LMAG Kansai.
- Visits to external technical topics and exchanges with LMAG members in geographically distant regions.
- Co-sponsorship and support for events organized by YP, WIE, and SB AG.
- Support for educational activities (EA) and the Student Branch English Presentation Competition.

- Annual publication in the LMAG Kansai newsletter to broadly report activities to members and encourage participation.

- **WIE Affinity Group**

In 2025, under the new leadership, we aim to further invigorate our activities.

- Create a brochure introducing Kansai WIE activities to strengthen public relations.
- Actively recruit members who support WIE activities to reinforce the operational structure.
- Organize a symposium to support female researchers and engineers. This will include content to support the near-future careers of female graduate and undergraduate students in science and engineering, as well as to assist high school students considering a career in science, thereby expanding the participant base.
- Promote WIE activities in Kansai in collaboration with Student Branch, YP, LMAG, JC WIE, and other organizations involved in supporting women.
- Invite engineers active in the semiconductor field to give technical lectures.

- **YP Affinity Group**

We will continue to hold collaborative events within the section to promote networking and career advancement for young researchers and engineers. We are also considering organizing workshop/competition-type events that we were unable to hold last year. Joint events with YP AGs from other sections, such as the "Overleaf Study Session," are also planned. By dispatching YP AG members to various locations nationwide for networking and career advancement activities, we aim to attract new YP members and provide ongoing support for YP activities to those who have transferred from other sections.

D-1-9 Chapters

Each chapter will hold individually and/or jointly with other organizations various events including technical meetings, workshops, and conferences.

D.2 Goals and Future Plans

N/A

D.3 Any innovative ideas to make IEEE more creative and value added for sustaining the membership retention and recruitment goals.

N/A

D.4 Business Plan for Sustainable Growth and Financial Stability.

N/A