Creation of IEICE Malaysia Section

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It is our great pleasure to introduce the establishment of the IEICE Malaysia Section to all of general readers of IEICE Global Plaza, as the Representative of the Section. As you remember, the program of IEICE Overseas Section has been evolved since it was commenced with four regional Representatives in 2003, and the number of Sections was extended to eleven Sections in 2012. Further, it was reformed to the current IEICE International Section program in 2014, to promote autonomous regional academic activities in a multicultural society. Thus, our Section has just started as one of twelve IEICE International Sections this year. The fundamental idea and activity plan of the Section in a global academic environment are summarized as follows.

Background
This Section endeavors to support the IEICE mission with the aim of promotion of scholarly growth, industrial advancement, and cultivation of human resources. Most of relevant researchers in Malaysia have contributed in several journals published under the different societies of IEICE over the years and we observe the growing number of publications in recent years. We also observe the growing IEICE membership in Malaysia with a significant number of IEICE members from several academic and non-academic organizations in Malaysia. However, to date we have no proper and formal platform for conducting IEICE activities in Malaysia. Therefore, we hope that with the formation of this Section, we can better facilitate and support all upcoming IEICE activities to be held in Malaysia. This Section will also act as a liaison between IEICE and the members in the proposed Section as well as the IEICE member communities across Malaysia. We shall be responsible in disseminating and sharing the relevant information to all members while providing the necessary follow-up support especially to Malaysian students who studied in Japan and returned to the homeland.

This article summarizes our current research scope and technology focus, organization and role assignment, some recent IEICE related activities, strategies to extend the membership along with plans and key milestones for 2015. We believe you will more understand IEICE Malaysia Section through this article and find expected collaborations with the Section or Section members.

Current Research Scope and Technology Focus
The current research scope and technology focus cover but they are not limited to the following issues:
- Optical Wireless Technology
- Intelligent Autonomous Control
- Artificial Transportation Systems
- Biology Information Systems
- Renewable Energy Research
- Wireless Convergence
- New Generation Networks
- Internet of Things
- Cloud Computing
- Big Data Processing
- Information Security

With the above selected scope and focus, we look forward to possible collaborations with all relevant IEICE Societies/Group including the recently established Nonlinear Theory and Its Applications Society (NOLTA).

Organization and Role Assignment
The key personnel appointed for IEICE Malaysia Section are:
- Representative: Prof. Dr. Swee-Hua Heng, Multimedia University (MMU)
- Deputy Representative: Dr. A.S.M. Mukter-Uz-Zaman, MMU
- Board Member for Conference : Prof. Dr. Nowshad Amin, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
- Board Member for Finance: Ir. Dr. Rosdiaidee Nordin, UKM
- Board Member for Public Relations: Mr. Wong Wei Wen (Student Member), MMU
- Board Member for International Relations: Dr. Pooria Varahram, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

IEICE Related Activities
In order to promote research in the selected areas and to provide a platform for students, researchers, scholars and practitioners to exchange new ideas, most relevant universities will regularly host workshops or conferences. For the time being, some recent IEICE related research activities conducted by Multimedia University staff and students as follows will be shared by the Section members as well.

(1) Japan MESCORP (Multimedia University Engineering Society Overseas Research Program) Research Trip held on May 20-31, 2014. With the research title of “Hydrogen Fuel Cell: The Future of Clean and Efficient Energy in Malaysia”, the MESCORP team had visited Japan to harvest information about the advanced fuel cell technology covering research activities in the biggest synchrotron radiation facilities in the world called SPring-8 and its application to ICT, especially for the natural disaster prevention in mobile communications.

(2) The 10th International Conference on Space, Aeronautical and Navigational Electronics (ICSANE2014), held on October 22-24 in Melaka. It was co-organized by Technical Group on Space, Aeronautical and Navigational Electronics (SANe), IEICE, Japan and Center for Remote Sensing and Surveillance Technologies, MMU, and supported by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Japan National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Electronic Navigation
Research Institute (ENRI), Multimedia University, IEEE GRSS Japan Chapter and IEEE AESS Japan Chapter. The main objective of this conference is to provide an opportunity for engineers and researchers to discuss new and viable technical topics of electronic system in spacecraft, aircraft, ships and ground facilities. Please visit http://www.ieice.org/cs/sane/CSANE2014/ for more details.

(3) MMU MESCORP Conference held on November 11, 2014, supported by Yayasan Universiti Multimedia (YUM), Telekom Malaysia (TM), and the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water, Malaysia (KeTTHA). The main purpose is to provide a platform for knowledge and information exchange, in order to stimulate the development of fuel cell technology in Malaysia.

Fig.3 Guests at the MESCORP Fig.4 Organizing committee of Conference ICSANE 2014

Strategies to Extend the Membership
Some immediate strategies which we have in mind in extending the IEICE membership are highlighted as follows:

- Circulation of the establishment of IEICE Malaysia Section to researchers working in the related disciplines
- Conducting the membership recruitment drive periodically by advertising the benefits of IEICE membership
- Collaboration with student engineering societies such as MESCORP and other similar engineering societies
- Designing and opening an official Website for Malaysia IEICE Section and populating it with informative content
- Setting up a researcher database for IEICE Malaysian members for information exchange and sharing

Plans and Key Milestones for 2015
In addition to the new membership recruitment drive as highlighted above, we envisage the following activities to take place in 2015:

- Launching of Malaysia IEICE Section and a networking session within IEICE members
- First General Meeting to discuss the detailed bi-annually plan and way forward
- Organizing the academic talk in conjunction with other academic societies in Malaysia by inviting distinguished Professors from Japan. Prof. Dr. Yasuhiro Iwasawa from University of Electro-Communications will give the first IEICE lecture this year.
- Conducting IEICE Workshop/Conference in Malaysia.

Call for Collaboration and Support
In order to promote scholarly growth, industrial advancement, and cultivation of human resources, and also in the pursuit of international network and collaboration, IEICE Malaysia Section looks forward to strengthen its regional and global linkages through research and academic collaborations with IEICE Societies and IEICE Local and International Sections. We also seek for the best level of support from all as we embark on this exciting and yet challenging journey.

End Note
- Establishment of IEICE Malaysia Section approved by IEICE International Affairs Committee on January 16, 2015
- Authorization of IEICE Malaysia Section in IEICE Board meeting on February 16, 2015

We are glad to note that the initial set up of this International Section was supported by more than 20 IEICE members from 3 universities in Malaysia. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the International Affairs Committee for approving the establishment of IEICE Malaysia Section. We also wish to convey our utmost appreciation to Prof. Dr. Kenzo Takahashi for his kind assistance and encouragement.

Note by the editor, Prof. Kenzo Takahashi
The author, Prof. Dr. Swee-Huay Heng is one of world level outstanding academicians and she has been devoted to the higher education and research activities in Malaysia. Her initiative of the regional Section development with the Deputy Representative, Dr. A.S.M.Mukter-Uz-Zaman will surely encourage researchers and students in the other active regions over the world toward the establishment of their local IEICE International Sections. The author also contributed to IEICE Global Plaza with her article introducing MMU and promoting international research collaborations.(See the details at http://www.ieice.org/eng/activities/ieice_Global_plaza/2013/54.htm#1.) She received her PhD. deg. from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 2004. Her research interests cover Cryptography and Information Security. She played the Program Chair of ProvSec 2010 and CANS 2010.

Reminder
International Conference ICTF2015 Comes Up! IEICE Europe Section
The 2015 IEICE Information and Communication Technology Forum (ICTF2015) will be held in Manchester, UK on June 3-5, 2015. The acceptance of the full manuscript will be notified on April 19, 2015. Your participation is most welcome.

It will provide a number of technical tracks, workshops and keynote sessions covering the interests of IEICE members. See the details of the conference at http://www.ictf2015.ieice-europe.org/

The publications of the Conference will be uploaded into the digital data base of IEICE (I-Scover) with best paper awards. The selected papers will be considered for publication within Special Section in IEICE Transactions on Communications. For any enquiry, please access pior.zwierzynkowski@put.poznan.pl.

Upcoming International Conferences
