

# IEICE Global Plaza no.4

— Monthly community plaza in English for students, faculties and engineers —

## Essay

### Expectations to ICT scholarship students

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Hello, all of you.

I am one of engineers who have pursued their Master degree in the field of ICT under the sponsorship of Japanese Government. I have received a call from Prof. Takahashi of IEICE-TFIPP to contribute an article in Global Plaza and share my experience with international students studying ICT in Japan. It is my great pleasure if my sharing would be beneficial to you.

After I graduated from Multimedia University in Malaysia, I was enrolled in University of Tokyo with the help from Prof. Takahashi in 2001. I passed the entrance examination of Graduate School of Information Technology and joined Aoyama-Morikawa Lab as a Research Graduate. I devoted myself to research activities on Sensor Network, RFID and Context Aware Middleware technologies.

I was lucky to have access to some of the world class technologies and also have the opportunities to present my research papers in IEICE conferences, under the warm-hearted coordination of Prof. T. Aoyama, Prof. H. Morikawa and the other Lab leaders.

Meanwhile, because of my work in the lab, I was engaged by IDTechEx Ltd. It is a well known international leading firm in UK. The business of this company is focused on emerging technology consultancy, exhibition and publication. As part of IDTechEx, I fortunately gained massive international experience there. I was the technical representative member of IDTechEx in Auto-ID Center at MIT, Boston USA. This group was the original creator of the first EPC (Electronic Product Code) Standard and now the defacto RFID Standardization Body, EPC Global.

After I completed Graduate Course in University of Tokyo, I returned to my country and successfully founded one of Malaysian ICT enterprises, "EcoSensa Technologies Sdn Bhd". The Malay word "Sdn Bhd" means a private company. The primary business of this company is focused on consultation, design and integration of novel solutions based on emerging technology innovation represented by RFID (Radio Frequency Identification), ZigBee for wireless personal networks, UWB (Ultra Wideband radio technology) or RTLS (Real Time Location Systems).

As a pioneer in RFID industry development in Malaysia, I also have helped Governments to set up the foundation of RFID Industries in Malaysia. Due to my professional background and international experience in RFID development, I was elected as the editor for Malaysian Communications and Multimedia

Commission (e.g., MCMC for standardization and regulation) Working Group 2.3. We have drafted the RFID UHF Spectrum Regulation of the radio band 919~923MHz for the country. Thus, many system integrators in Malaysia now enjoy the readiness of the regulations to deploy and use RFID UHF technologies. I also have been involved in the planning and implementation of many RFID Catalyst Projects like Malaysia Microchip, KLIA (Kuala Lumpur International Airport) RFID e-baggage project, CD/DVD Tagging (Fig.1). I am humbled that some peers regard me as "RFID Man of Malaysia" who always carries many RFID tags and gadgets around. The RFID which I learned in University of Tokyo is my passion now. I also speak regularly in RFID Conferences and Seminars as an invited guest.

Frankly speaking, from my experience of cooperative work with a company during my years with Aoyama-Morikawa Lab, I think it will be beneficial for ICT students or even professionals if IEICE can bridge the gap between academic and industrial worlds. For example, IEICE's coordination of internship or consultancy work for foreign scholars studying in Japan, in collaboration with IEICE's membership companies, would surely spark their new ideas, blend foreign culture and thinking into Japanese way of invention or technological innovation in real environments.

My sincere advice to foreign scholars in Japan is to have passion on what you do. With passion, you will have unlimited energy to keep you ahead, and excel in the field of your research and work. I will be so much delighted to share my experience with all of you. Please reach myself at [info@ecosensa.com](mailto:info@ecosensa.com).



Fig.1 Showcasing RFID e-baggage tag to Ex-Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a RFID Conference (Ex-PM on the left, the author on the right in the center)

## Hot Topics

### Let's join the Welcome Party in annual IEICE Society Conference! IEICE Communications Society

IEICE holds nationwide conferences twice a year. The four societies and one group of IEICE co-organize the General Conference every March to provide a forum for your paper presentation and enhancement of your studies through discussion with the participants, simultaneously hold a Young Researcher's

Award ceremony. About six months later, each of the societies organizes paper presentation sessions and conferment ceremony of newly authorized IEICE Fellows according to the strategy and planning of the society in the same Society Conference where you may join and have presentations.

Additionally for the Society Conference held at Ikuta Campus of Meiji University last September, IEICE Communications Society held the first Welcome Party (Fig.2). This party was planned to provide an opportunity of free opinion exchange to all participants in an easy and friendly environment. In fact, 205 people covering various generations of normal members, students, younger engineers took part in the party and enjoyed talks without awareness of class.

In the party venue, 18 Technical Committees under the Society and 11 relevant ICT industries and 2 public organizations opened their own exhibition booths and introduced their activities or businesses with posters, to the party participants (Fig.3). They positively discussed each other. As a part of the party program, each of 13 younger ICT researchers presented a 3-minutes speech and appealed how attractive evolving ICT industries or their contributions to the academic progress would be for themselves. Soft drinks and appetizers provided in the party venue made the participants take it easy and promoted free walking around for talks in the venue, irrespectively of age and sex.

Considering the effect of better human relations by the event, IEICE Communications Society plans to hold the second Welcome Party in 2009 Society Conference which will be held at University of Niigata on 15-18 in coming September. We are looking forward to seeing you there.



Fig.2 First Welcome Party of IEICE Communications Society



Fig.3 Poster session in the party

## Many ISAP2008 / EUC2008 participants visited IEICE exhibition booth

### *IEICE International Affairs Committee*

IEICE set up an exhibition booth in the International Symposium on Antennas and Propagation (ISAP2008) held at Taipei International Convention Center on 27-30 October 2008

and further in the International Conference on Embedded and Ubiquitous Computing (EUC2008) held at Courtyard by Marriott Shanghai Pudong in China on 17-20 December 2008. Every IEICE booth exhibited IEICE's publications represented by IEICE transactions to make them widely understood by the participants. These transactions reviewed by a project of National Institute of Informatics, Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC Japan) and many current volumes were displayed as a part of IEICE's SPARC project.

ISAP2008 was organized by Yuan Ze University and Oriental Institute of Technology with IEICE's co-sponsorship, 455 people participated in the Symposium and most of them visited IEICE's booth. 42 booths in total were arranged in the Exhibition Hall of the venue. IEICE's publications exhibited in the booth covered 70 volumes of English transactions, 150 brochures of English transactions, 50 brochures of SPARC Japan, 50 brochures of Call for Papers concerning Special Issues on Communications, 100 brochures of ELEX, 10 Global News Letters by IEICE Communications Society and 100 souvenirs. The IEICE's exhibition was successful with the kind support of Prof. Tzong-Li Wu of National Taiwan University, IEICE Taipei Section Representative and his colleagues.

EUC2008 was organized by Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Shanghai Computer Society, the number of participants reached around 200. IEICE's special booth was set up in the center of the venue entrance, the exhibited publications covered 85 English and 8 Japanese transactions, 100 brochures of English transactions, 50 brochures of SPARC Japan, 50 brochures of Call for Papers in English transactions. The IEICE's exhibition was successful with the kind support of Prof. Rong-Hong Jin of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, IEICE Shanghai Section Representative and his colleagues, as well.

## *Message from TFIPP Secretariat*

### **Global Plaza successfully starts in IEICE Home Page (English) as well!**

IEICE Task Force for International Policy and Planning (TFIPP) under IEICE International Affairs Committee has discussed and decided to use the following media:

(1) Mail Magazine "Global Plaza on Line" via Internet

This is delivered in the beginning of next month just after the edition to transfer the most updated information. The delivery of the mail magazine depends on your free choice. The first issue was delivered last December and successive issues were punctually delivered. The coming issues will try to add the updated recruitment information for foreign students.

(2) IEICE Home Page (English)

This is delivered little later after the delivery of Global Plaza on Line to taking the time for the html based design and implementation of the articles. It started in February 2009. URL is [http://www.ieice.org/eng/global\\_plaza/index.html](http://www.ieice.org/eng/global_plaza/index.html).

(3) IEICE Magazine (English Page)

This is published two months later after the Mail Magazine.

We are looking forward to your constructive opinions or proposals to enhance IEICE's global academic activities and membership services. If you have any questions, please contact Prof. Kenzo Takahashi, Chief/IEICE-TFIPP, at [global@ieice.org](mailto:global@ieice.org).