

All Sections Meeting

Date/Time: March 30, 2026, 15:00-16:55 JST.

Venue: Online (Zoom)

Attendees:

- IEICE President: Prof. Tomohiko Uyematsu.
- IEICE International Committee: Prof. Jun-ichi Takada (Chair), Prof. Toshiaki Fujii (Vice Chair), Dr. Tomoko Adachi (Secretary), Yuji Nomura, Koji Kamakura, Kazutoshi Kato.
- International Sections: Dr. Javed Syed Gaggatur (India), Prof. Muhammad Hamka Ibrahim (Indonesia), Dr. Foo Yee Loo (Malaysia), Prof. Nisha Kumari Devaraj (Malaysia), Prof. Jie Zhu (Shanghai).
- IEICE Office: Satoshi Shiraishi (Secretary General), Wataru Takita (Deputy Secretary General), Takagi, Uchiyama, Sakurada (Staff)

Agenda

#	Time (JST)	Item	PIC
0	15:00-15:05	Opening Remarks	Prof. UEMATSU, President
1	15:05-15:15	Current Situation of Overseas Section	Dr. ADACHI, secretary
2	15:15-15:35	Strategic Shift Proposal	Prof. TAKADA, chair
3	15:35-16:00 16:00-16:10 16:10-16:35	Discussion of Issues (1 st half) Break Discussion of Issues (2 nd half)	Facilitator: Dr. ADACHI, secretary
4	16:35-16:50	Consensus and Action Plans	Prof. FUJII, vice chair
5	16:50-16:55	Closing Remarks	Prof. TAKADA, chair

Open Remarks

Prof. UEMATSU, president of IEICE

Current Situation of Overseas Section

Dr. ADACHI, secretary of International Affairs Committee

From what we heard through 1on1 Mtg with the sections

Section	Date	Key Topic 1	Key Topic 2
India	April 21	Membership loss due to unpaid dues (19)	Limited outreach to emerging fields (AI, blockchain, quantum)
Vietnam	July 25	Low membership (7); reduced Japan ties post-COVID	Membership growth via academic exchange and promotion
Indonesia	Oct. 9	Low membership (8) and awareness	Payment difficulties (credit cards, high transfer fees)
Malaysia	Oct. 9	Low membership (7); weak student engagement	Student recruitment challenged by IEEE competition
Europe	Oct. 31	Students constrained by time and cost	Strong competition from IEEE
Singapore	Nov. 27	Low local membership (5)	Insufficient Distinguished Lecturer travel budget
Shanghai	Dec. 16	Low student motivation due to IEICE journals' low ranking in China (Zone 4)	Insufficient Distinguished Lecturer travel budget for high-cost cities
Bangkok	Dec. 25	Local membership below requirement (8)	Low motivation to join IEICE due to poor journal ranking (Q3/Q4) in Asian evaluation systems

Consolidated List of Common Issues Across Sections

1. Chronic Low Membership / Membership Decline

- ▶ Affected Sections: Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Bangkok (+ India: loss due to unpaid dues)
- ▶ Representative Issues:
 - ▶ Membership below required threshold
 - ▶ Membership loss due to unpaid dues
 - ▶ Difficulty sustaining local membership base
- ▶ Implication: Structural sustainability issue for multiple international sections.

2. Low Student Engagement and Retention

- ▶ Affected Sections: Malaysia, Europe, Shanghai
- ▶ Representative Issues:
 - ▶ Weak student engagement
 - ▶ Students constrained by time and cost
 - ▶ Low motivation among students to join or remain in IEICE
- ▶ Implication: Student pipeline is fragile, especially under competitive or resource-constrained environments.

Consolidated List of Common Issues Across Sections (cont'd)

3. Negative Impact of Journal Ranking on Membership Motivation

- ▶ Affected Sections: Shanghai, Bangkok (implicitly linked to Europe, Malaysia via IEEE competition)
- ▶ Representative Issues:
 - ▶ IEICE journals ranked low (Zone 4 in China, Q3/Q4 in Asia)
 - ▶ Journals below evaluation thresholds for academic promotion
 - ▶ Reduced motivation to submit papers and join IEICE
- ▶ Implication: A region-wide structural issue in Asia, directly affecting student and researcher behavior.

4. Strong Competition from IEEE

- ▶ Affected Sections: Malaysia, Europe (indirectly Bangkok, Shanghai via journal rankings)
- ▶ Representative Issues:
 - ▶ IEEE's stronger journal portfolio
 - ▶ IEEE's dominance in student recruitment
 - ▶ Perceived higher academic and career value
- ▶ Implication: IEICE positioning and value proposition are challenged globally, not locally.

Consolidated List of Common Issues Across Sections (cont'd)

5. Insufficient Outreach / Visibility of IEICE Activities

- ▶ Affected Sections: India, Indonesia, Vietnam
- ▶ Representative Issues:
 - ▶ Limited outreach to emerging fields (AI, blockchain, quantum)
 - ▶ Low awareness of IEICE activities
 - ▶ Reduced interaction with Japan post-COVID
- ▶ Implication: Outreach mechanisms and modern technical alignment need strengthening.

6. Financial and Operational Constraints

- ▶ Affected Sections: Indonesia, Singapore, Shanghai
- ▶ Representative Issues:
 - ▶ Payment difficulties (credit cards, high transfer fees)
 - ▶ Insufficient Distinguished Lecturer travel budget
 - ▶ High costs in major cities
- ▶ Implication: Existing systems do not reflect current cost levels and payment environments.

High-Level Synthesis

- ▶ Two dominant root causes recur across regions:
 - ▶ Academic value perception (journal ranking, IEEE competition)
 - ▶ Membership sustainability (numbers, students, costs)
- ▶ Asia-specific structural issue:
Journal ranking systems directly suppress IEICE membership growth (Shanghai, Bangkok).
- ▶ Global issue:
Student engagement and competition with IEEE (Europe, Malaysia).

Strategic Shift Proposal

Prof. TAKADA, chair of the International Affairs Committee

Discussion of Issues

Facilitator: Dr. ADACHI, secretary of the International Affairs Committee

1st half (25min)

1. What do you think about the overseas establishment conditions and the term of office for representatives? Do you think there is room to change them?
2. How do you think we can strengthen the network between international students in Japan and our international sections? What kinds of initiatives do you think could be considered?

Reference to item 1: What is said in International Section Representative Program

- ▶ 3) International Section Representative
 - ▶ The International Affairs Committee will appoint as local section representatives those whom it deems to be in a leadership position in the respective area in terms of both scholarly accomplishment and personality. His or her term of office is two years. Reappointment is permitted for only one term (i.e., altogether two terms or four years).
 - ▶ The appointments will be based on nominations by members of the Institute. International Section Representatives must be the members of the IEICE.
 - ▶ *Persons who are not currently members may apply for membership at the following URL:
<http://www.ieice.org/eng/member/OM-appli.html>
- ▶ 7) Conditions for establishment of International Section
 - ▶ There must be more than 20 members of IEICE in the local area when they apply for the establishment of an International Section. The International Section will be established after the approval of the International Affairs Committee.
 - ▶ If there is no activity for three consecutive years, the International Affairs Committee will recommend the International Section Representative to close the Section, and will suspend remittance of office expenses stipulated in Item 5).
 - ▶ cf. Item 5 is on other support expenses (except for event).

Current Status of International Sections

International Section	# of Members	Pending Expulsion
Beijing	82	20
Shanghai	68	16
Taipei	47	1
India	29	2
Europe	24	1
Korea (Communications)	20	0
Korea (Information)	17	2
Vietnam	13	0
Bangkok	9	0
Indonesia	9	0
Singapore	7	1
Malaysia	6	1
Total	331	44

Contact lost w/ chair

Reference to item 2: What is said in International Section Representative Program

▶ 1) Background

- ▶ The globalization of the academic activities in the field of Information, Communication, Electronics Engineering, Computer Engineering and these of border study has led to an increase in the number of students from Asian countries studying in Japan, which in turn has given rise to a growing membership of Asian students in the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers; IEICE. When these students return to their home countries, however, the lack of sufficient follow-up support by the IEICE has often led to the withdrawal of their membership. The Institute has received requests from these current student members that they would like to continue to receive IEICE journals.
- ▶ In order to strengthen IEICE's support for the students who have returned to their home countries in major areas in Asia, the Board of Directors of the IEICE decided in the fall of 2001 to start an International Section Representative Program. As the first step, representatives of IEICE have been appointed from four local areas in Asia. Here, a "local" area means, for example, a city where the representative is active, including its vicinity. The IEICE hopes that these local area representatives will act as bridges between the Institute and the members in their respective areas through the following activities:
 - ▶ Planning and implementation of "lecture meeting, workshop or similar event" (hereinafter called "the Event")
 - ▶ Publicizing IEICE's activities on the occasions of the Event
 - ▶ Attending an annual "International Section Representatives Meeting" in Japan

2nd half (25min)

3. Are there any concrete and feasible ideas (i.e., ones that do not require much funding) for engaging early-career researchers in section activities?
 - ▶ For example, an online workshop might be one possible initiative, but how effective do you think it would be? What ideas do you have to make it truly effective?

16:35 JST Hard Stop

Consensus and Action Plans

Prof. FUJII, vice chair of the International Affairs Committee

Closing Remarks

Prof. TAKADA, chair of the International Affairs Committee