= A Serial Introduction Part 4 = Winners of ITU-AJ Encouragement Awards 2018

In May every year, The ITU Association of Japan (ITU-AJ) proudly presents ITU-AJ Encouragement Awards to people who have made outstanding contributions in the field of international standardization and have helped in the ongoing development of ICT.
These Awards are also an embodiment of our sincere desire to encourage further contributions from these individuals in the future.
If you happen to run into these winners at another meeting in the future, please say hello to them.
But first, as part of the introductory series of Award Winners, allow us to introduce some of those remarkable winners.

Hiroki Harada
NTT DOCOMO, INC.
Hiroki.harada.sv@nttdocomo.com https://www.nttdocomo.co.jp/english/
Fields of activity: 3GPP LTE-Advanced and 5G standardization

3GPP Standardization Activity on LTE-Advanced and Aspects of the 5G Physical Layer

I am extremely honored to receive the ITU-AJ Encouragement Award, and would like to thank the ITU Association of Japan and all those who supported my nomination and selection.

I have been contributing to 3GPP RAN WG1 work developing the physical layer specification for radio access technologies since 2012. In particular, I have worked on LTE-Advanced enhancements for small cell deployment, Licensed-Assisted Access (LAA) to unlicensed spectrum using LTE-Advanced, initial access/mobility technologies in 5G New Radio and others. Actually, these technologies attracted worldwide attention and high expectations when 3GPP standardization work began on them, and I was able to contribute to early development of 3GPP specifications for those technologies by leading technical discussions in 3GPP.

Since, with the spread of smart phones and tablets, there was a worldwide desire for an enhanced mobile broadband service with high-speed and large capacity, there was a need to study on how to efficiently increase the density of mobile network deployment in high traffic areas. NTT DOCOMO has been proposing a concept of next generation mobile network for 5G, in which small cells using higher frequencies are integrated into the mobile network based on macro cells, so that both high speed and large capacity can be achieved, together with stable connectivity and wide coverage. My first important mission in 3GPP work was to propose an efficient cell discovery mechanism for such a next generation network. However, most companies were initially skeptical of the proposal. I think that for standardization, it is important to first clarify the common targets among stakeholders, and then it is necessary to have both consistency and flexibility to achieve a consensus among the large number of stakeholders with their different interests. Hence, I had many extensive discussions with other companies, and also provided computer simulation results showing quantitative effects of the proposals, thanks to internal discussion and cooperation. Finally, after about one and a half years of work, the proposed mechanism was ready to be introduced as a 3GPP specification. Through this experience, I was able to contribute to early development of 3GPP 5G specifications by leading initial access and mobility related discussions with excellent engineers from global vendors and operators involved in 3GPP standardization.

I am fully committed to further evolution of mobile communication technologies and services based on 5G, which will make our lives more convenient and fulfilling.

Mami Miyazaki
Nippon Telegraph and Telephone East Corporation
mami.miyazaki@east.ntt.co.jp http://www.ntt-east.co.jp/en/
Fields of activity: Global business development

Technical Assistance in Deployment of Indonesia's Optical Access Network (FTTH)

It is a great honor to receive the ITU-AJ Encouragement Award, and I extend my thanks to the Selection Committee and to all those who supported and encouraged me along the way.

About the time NTT East broke the 10 million FTTH subscriber mark in 2013, Indonesia committed to full-scale deployment of FTTH services. They recruited several thousand telecom engineers and contractors, and moved quickly to extend fiber to the home. A number of efficiency, quality, and safety issues emerged as the rollout continued, and NTT East stepped forward with an offer of technical assistance to share the company's experience and expertise.

NTT East was willing to share its knowhow, but there seemed to be some reluctance at the local level in Indonesia to accept our suggestions, and the technology transfer project languished.

Eventually we were able to build trust and get the project back on track by not pushing NTT East's own specifications and methods but by proposing specific improvements based on understanding and respect for local conditions and ways of doing things as well as by sharing detailed information on why certain methods were chosen. We also kept in mind how things went when FTTH was first deployed in Japan and how things developed. By responding with sincerity and earning the trust of local engineers, I was astounded by the speed and momentum as the rollout continued.

Responsibility for this project in a very different environment promoting FTTH services in Indonesia has certainly contributed to my own personal growth. Incorporating favorable attributes of both Indonesia and Japan will clearly be advantageous for both countries.

Melody International Ltd.

Melody International Ltd.
support@melody.international https://melody.international
Fields of activity: ITU SME / ITU-D e-Health

Safe and Secure Delivery for Mothers All Over the World

Under the slogan "safe and secure delivery for mothers all over the world", we have developed the world's first cloud platform connecting doctors and expectant mothers based on IOT-loaded fetal monitors. We are currently introducing the technology to hospitals in Japan and abroad.

Working in partnership with Chiang Mai and Kagawa Universities we have already deployed this service in Chiang Mai, Thailand (JICA project). The service has helped detect high-risk pregnancies at an early stage and enabled many expectant mothers in rural and mountainous areas that lack obstetric care to be transferred to medical facilities. In recognition of this contribution, Chiang Mai University was awarded a Best Public Service Award 2017 by the Office of the Prime Minister of Thailand. A decision has now been made to roll out these services to all public hospitals in Chiang Mai Province, with plans in place to build a referral network linking 25 hospitals.

In cooperation with a local NGO, services have also commenced in rural areas in Myanmar.

We are looking to further expand our services in regions of Asia and Africa that suffer from high mortality rates among mothers and babies due to a lack of specialist medical care. We want to contribute to WHO Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 3.1 and 3.2 and help bring down the global maternity mortality rate.

Please contact us if you have a project that could benefit from our services. We are eager to engage with projects that address SDG 3: good health and well-being for all people.

Toru Yamada

NEC Corporation
t-yamada@ap.jp.nec.com http://www.nec.com
Fields of activity: ITU-T SG20, ASTAP

IoT and Smart City Standardization in ITU-T SG20

I am honored to receive the ITU-AJ Encouragement Award, and would express my appreciation to the ITU-AJ and all who helped me along the way.

ITU-T Study Group 20 (SG20) was established in 2015 to study standardization in IoT and smart cities areas. I have been closely involved in SG20 since its establishment, participating in meetings as an editor for several Work Items, and offering regular suggestions and proposals.

Smart city projects are typically promoted by central or local governments, so we have a good number of members from ministries in charge of smart city projects in different countries in ITU-T SG20. The ability to discuss smart cities with the very people charged with implementing them in their respective countries is a special feature of ITU-T SG20. By participating in SG20, I hope to elevate Japan's presence through contributing to IoT and smart city standards, while also contributing to market expansion in a smart city field. Recently in April 2019, I was appointed to a Vice-Chairman of ITU-T SG20. In this capacity, I will do my best with your kind advice.