

= A Serial Introduction Part 3 = Winners of ITU-AJ Encouragement Awards 2022

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.

Takashi Harada

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Fields of activity: ITU-T SG20, Infrastructure monitoring



Activities for standardization of infrastructure monitoring

I am very honored to receive this prestigious ITU-AJ Encouragement Award. I am most grateful to ITU-AJ and all who have given me guidance and encouragement.

Activities on ITU-T SG20 in this field started in 2019. At the beginning of the proposal, there was no discussion about infrastructure monitoring in international standardization. First, we introduced a practical demonstration of infrastructure monitoring in Japan as use cases for smart cities. This was very well received by the participants as it was a new perspective, and it was accepted as a use case for smart cities. The following year, we began working on a recommendation for a reference model and requirements for a civil engineering infrastructure health monitoring system. After about two years of discussion, the recommendation Y.4214 was established in February 2022.

During studies for the recommendation, there were comments

that careful discussion was necessary, since maintenance and management of civil engineering infrastructure is related to regulations in each country. I feel that this result was only possible thanks to the great cooperation and support of Mr. Toru Yamada (NEC; SG20 Vice-chairman), the Japan delegation from MIC and Japanese companies, and Mr. Marco Carugi (Huawei, China; SG20 Q2 rapporteur).

For Japan, which has a large amount of civil engineering infrastructure and a shrinking workforce, it will be increasingly important and urgent how digital technology is applied to the inspection and the maintenance of civil engineering infrastructure in the future, to promote efficiency and labor saving. I will do my best to promote standardization activities in this field and disseminate the results of our activities.

Kazuhiro Hoya

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Fields of activity: ITU-R WP6B, WP6C, W3C, CTA WAVE project



Standardizing for programme production and exchange

I am pleased to receive this encouragement award from the ITU-AJ and am very thankful to the association and everyone who has provided guidance and support. I will continue working on development in the telecommunications and content industries.

Japan is a world leader in implementation of ultra-high-definition television broadcasting and has wide-ranging knowledge involving peripheral areas such as programme production and exchange. In this case, we have brought information regarding identification of required bit rates for programme production using the HEVC codec into amendment of certain ITU-R recommendations, namely BT.1203 and

BT.2073, which are documents related to specifying bitrates for certain purposes in production. The information was obtained through the drafting of the ARIB standard, “Common media file format for UHDTV program exchange”, which brought about a new approach using subjective evaluation to specify these parameters for high-quality, high-bit-rate video materials and packages. I hope that this work will contribute to penetration of ultra-high-definition video in domains beyond broadcasting. For this contribution, I received much support from everyone working on standardization at ARIB, for which I am also very thankful.

Takanori Maegawa

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Fields of activity: ICT promotion in Vietnam and emerging nations.



Contributions to improving education environments and developing the ICT market in Vietnam

1. Contributions to improving education environments in Vietnam

The government in Vietnam is promoting reform of education using ICT, with requirements such as “Digitizing school lessons,” “Support for home study from schools using telecommunications,” and “Using telecommunications to eliminate regional education disparity between urban and regional areas.” For this, we provided an ICT education support system platform and content, which contributed to improving education environments in Vietnam.

2. Establishing a base for software development in Vietnam

Contributions promoting bridge-building and business development between Vietnam and Japan, improving skills of IT technologists and developing the ICT market in Vietnam.

Specifically, I used the deep understanding of local commercial culture gained while residing in Vietnam. I trained local IT technologists regarding commercial culture, work flows, quality control methods, etc. used in Japan. Through development trial projects using low-code, I established standard development schemes (organization, documentation forms, communication methods, etc.).

I hope to continue to contribute to developing the ICT market in Vietnam in the future.

[Message to readers]

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are interested in software development or ITO business.

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Fields of activity: APT Capacity Building Programme



APT technical training forced to change by the COVID-19 pandemic

First, I would like to say how thankful I am on receiving an ITU-AJ Encouragement Award. I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone at ITU-AJ and to all concerned for their valuable guidance and cooperation in my past activities.

From 2017 to 2022, from among the various international cooperation projects that serve as a pillar of KDDI Foundation activities, I was mainly engaged in ICT technical training commissioned by the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and held in Japan. During this time, the training mode underwent a great change from group training to online training due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In group training conducted up to FY2019, trainees would come to Japan, and after spending about two weeks attending classroom lectures and making inspection tours of related institutions, they would take back the results of their training to

their respective organizations.

However, from FY2020 on, trainees could not come to Japan, and as a result, training switched to an online format in which trainees were asked to view video recordings of lectures on an e-learning system. Additionally, in training conducted in FY2021, some lectures were conducted live.

This year, with the easing of entry restrictions, the KDDI Foundation has been commissioned by APT to conduct hybrid training that combines group training consisting of hands-on seminars and inspection tours in Japan with at-home online training. This presents a new challenge to the KDDI Foundation, but preparations are proceeding based on its past experience in implementing programs. It is our hope that this form of training that combines the good features of both group training and online training will be highly evaluated by trainees and APT.