

= A Serial Introduction Part 2 = Winners of ITU-AJ Encouragement Awards 2023

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.

Akihiro Shoji

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Fields of activity: IT human resource development



Developing globally qualified IT human resources in Bangladesh

I am very honored to receive an ITU-AJ Encouragement Award and am very thankful to the association and everyone who has provided guidance and support.

I have been working in Bangladesh, in South Asia since 2008, for Information Technology (IT) human resource development. In order to establish a standard for human resource development in the country, I have been involved in advocating and supporting introduction of a national IT examination from Japan, the Information Technology Engineer Examination (ITEE) in 2013, and in supporting its subsequent dissemination and utilization.

Bangladesh was part of India until 1947 and initially became independent as East Pakistan. Later, an independent country emerged as Bangladesh in 1971. The country has yet achieved recognition and neither the IT human resources nor the IT industry can claim to be able to compete fairly in the global market. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been supporting development of its capabilities and promoting

Bangladesh internationally, including its IT human resources and IT industry. As a member of JICA, I have been particularly focusing on human resource development.

From September 2023, I will be involved in a new JICA project that is starting in Bangladesh, providing technical support to mid-level and above engineers in the Bangladesh IT industry, helping the country's IT companies advance from small and medium-sized companies to global companies that can compete on a par with the global market.

The global market is fiercely competitive, but I will continue to support the country to act effectively in the world and systematically develop its human resources based on the technology and knowledge that Japan has already acquired. I hope that awareness of the keywords "Bangladesh IT human resources and IT industry" will increase, and I look forward to working on further Japan-Bangladesh collaboration initiatives in the future.

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Fields of activity: 3GPP TSG SA WG6



Standardisation to accelerate application enablement

It is a great honour to receive the ITU-AJ Encouragement Award. I am grateful to ITU-AJ and all who have supported my work, especially 3GPP SA6 delegates and my colleagues at NTT DOCOMO.

I joined 3GPP SA6 in October 2020. SA6 has been responsible for specifying solutions for mission critical communications since its inception in 2014. During Release 15, it expanded its scope to specify application frameworks and enablers such as CAPIF (Common API Framework) and SEAL (Service Enabler Architecture Layer), which provide functions available to applications outside 3GPP.

In SA6, I worked as a rapporteur for SNAAPP (Release 18), which aims to enhance the authorisation mechanisms for API invocation. There were many issues to discuss in creating a specification, but thanks to all the support from SA6 delegates and my colleagues, we successfully completed our SNAAPP work in the SA6#55 meeting, which was held in Berlin, Germany in May 2023. I hope that this technology will enable end users to

flexibly control permissions for API invocations that might affect their service experience or privacy, which will make such API invocations more secure and convenient.

I also actively contributed to EDGEAPP, which aims to specify application enablers to support edge computing. In Release 18, we enhanced EDGEAPP features in different aspects, including roaming (where device stays in a different network operator's service area) and federation (where multiple edge computing service providers are involved to serve consumers).

SA6 started Release 19 study and work in August 2023. NTT DOCOMO is proposing a new Release 19 work item, SNAAPP_EXT, to provide external application developers with useful information regarding API development. SA6 has also discussed many other topics to be handled during Release 19, including enhancements to EDGEAPP. I am looking forward to seeing outcomes of our standardisation activities in the market shortly, and I hope that these technologies will contribute to progress in the telecommunications industry.

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Fields of activity: Next G Alliance



Activities in Next G Alliance for the future 6G Standardization

I am honored to receive this encouragement award from the ITU-AJ and grateful to the association and those who have provided guidance and support.

Since March 2022, I have attended the meetings of the Next G Alliance (NGA), which was launched by the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) in late 2020. The NGA aims to advance North American wireless technology leadership over the next decade through private sector-led efforts in association with government stakeholders. It currently focuses on developing the 6G Roadmap and various white papers.

In an NGA white paper, we were able to propose a topic that is being discussed in Japan: "Orchestration in Disaggregated Architecture"; and include the content in terms of "end to end", "openness", and "management functions". The white paper is

available on the NGA website and could be used as a reference for future 6G standardization.

I also presented lessons learned through activities in the NGA at a public seminar in Japan, organized by the Telecommunication Technology Committee (TTC). We were able to hold a lively Q&A session at this presentation, and we realized that the NGA activities attract a lot of interest.

Currently, I continue to attend NGA meetings considering specific requirements in response to the recommendation, "Framework and overall objectives of the future development of IMT for 2030 and beyond". I will do my best to contribute to 6G standardization through the NGA and other Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) in Japan.