

= A Serial Introduction Part 3 = 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.

Masamune Nakakita

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Fields of activity: New Business Development in South-East Asia



Providing value-added services and implementing smart city in collaboration with partners in Vietnam

I am very thankful to have received this prestigious Encouragement Award from the ITU Association of Japan. I would like to express sincere thanks to all at ITU-AJ and the many others who have offered their guidance and cooperation in these activities.

During the four years from 2017 to 2021, I worked to provide value-added services at OCG Technology JSC in Hanoi, Vietnam, which is a joint venture between the NTT East Group and the VNPT Group, a national telecommunications provider in Vietnam. After returning to Japan, I worked on new business development in South-East Asia, and mainly on smart-city development projects in the Binh Duong province of Southern Vietnam.

To expand the service platform business that VNPT is providing to the Vietnamese market, I particularly coordinated among various Japan and Vietnam partners in areas where Japan

has experience, such as cloud gaming and mind-training content, from localization to preparation for implementation.

I later lead a smart-education solution project for elementary schools in Vietnam, involving tablets, electronic blackboards and a cloud-based classroom support system, from trial to launching a commercial service.

In the most recent two years, I have been studying ways to implement a smart city plan quickly in Southern Vietnam. For example, we are planning a population flow control system that uses camera video and AI analysis to shed light on the behavior of residents, linked to transit and other services. Implementing this will require high-speed connectivity such as Local 5G, conforming to O-RAN, and also applications provided on that platform. I look forward to continuing this work and collaborating more closely with everyone at the ITU active in these various fields.

Yuki Matsumura

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Fields of activity: 3GPP RAN1



Contributions to 3GPP RAN1 standardization

I am very honored to have received this prestigious encouragement award from the ITU Association of Japan. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all at ITU-AJ and everyone else involved. Since I joined NTT DOCOMO in 2014, I have been working on 3GPP standardization. For the first three years, I worked on simulation of standard techniques. Since 2017, I have attended 3GPP RAN1 meetings.

One interesting practice in 3GPP RAN1 is to continue discussion until none of the companies raises any concerns regarding the proposal. Any delegate in any company attending the RAN1 meeting has a right to speak their views or raise concerns regarding the proposals, which I think is a fair practice that can help avoid overlooking potential issues. On the other hand, sometimes it takes a long time to reconcile companies' views

on an argument. In the last stage of Rel. 15 (i.e., the first release of the 5G standard specification) in 2017, the discussion sometimes started in the early morning and ended at midnight. In addition to the official meeting, there were several offline discussions to exchange companies' views in detail. It was very hard work, but I felt a sense of accomplishment when I first read the finalized standard specification for Rel. 15.

Since 2022, I have taken the role of moderator for the topic of Multi-Input-Multi Output (MIMO) in RAN1 for Rel. 18. Although it is not easy to coordinate different views from different companies, I feel it is very interesting when we converge after extensive discussion and reach agreements. I will take this award as encouragement and continue my effort to contribute to 3GPP standardization activities.