
MESSAGE

IEICE Transactions on Communications: Editor's Message

At IEICE the fiscal year starts in June and members of the editorial committee of the IEICE Transactions on Communications change at the same time. It is my great pleasure to announce that I am stepping into the position of the Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of the transactions for the coming two years.

The followings are the current facts of the transactions. The number of paper submissions to the regular section in 2013 was 635 and it is slightly increasing every year. In 2012 the acceptance ratio was 30%. The ratio of the submissions from the countries outside Japan was more than 70%. It shows that the IEICE Trans. Comm. holds a prominent position in the international academic community of the field.

As stated above, the IEICE Trans. Comm. has sustained a strong performance. However, since the international circumstances around us have changed very rapidly, we have to adapt ourselves to the varying demands of readers and authors.

In the editorial board of the transactions the "change" has been a frequent topic of discussions. In 2010 former EiC Prof. Hiroyuki Morikawa launched a strategic working group that developed a long list of recommendations for new plans. The discontinuance of the Letter category was one of the key points of the plans included in the recommendations. It was put into action in 2012 by the next EiC Prof. Miki Yamamoto. Shortening of the review period is another important issue highlighted in the recommendations. The succeeding EiC Prof. Takeo Ohgane demonstrated his excellent leadership in decreasing the review period. The steady outcome of our actions has already appeared.

Furthermore, Prof. Ohgane initiated a monumental discussion of another new trial. The details must wait till the end of the discussion, which is on-going in the new working group formed at Prof. Ohgane's direction to consider a new plan. I was assigned as a facilitator of the group. The action plan was presented to the editorial committee in March 2014 after a thorough discussion within the group.

As EiC I will have many various tasks. However, I believe that one of the most important is a further modification, enhancement and realization of the new plan. I am confident it will have a positive effect on the *impact factor* of the transactions. In 2015, January and March issues of the transactions will feature a new type of special section: "Position Papers Exploring Innovative Intelligence and Technologies in Communications". This is a touchstone of the new plan.

I deeply thank our former editorial board members, EiC Prof. Ohgane and the three Editors, Prof. Shoji Kasahara, Prof. Keizo Cho and Prof. Hiraku Okada, for their strong leadership to guide the editorial committee in the right direction. Prof. Cho and Prof. Okada remain on the board and Prof. Masaki Bandai joins as a new Editor. As EiC I will do my best together with the three Editors and all Associate Editors of the editorial committee. In a final note, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the contribution by all readers, authors and reviewers of the IEICE Trans. Comm. I also hope we will have your continuous support in the future.

Hisato Iwai, Editor-in-Chief

Hisato Iwai (*Member*) received the B.E., M.E., and Ph.D. degrees from Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan in 1987, 1989 and 2001, respectively. In 1989, he joined KDD R&D Laboratories, where he was engaged in research on antennas and propagations in radio communication systems. From 1996 to 1997, he was a visiting scholar at University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Also, he was with Telcordia Technologies, NJ, U.S.A., as a visiting researcher from 1999 to 2001. From 2004 to 2005, he was a research head at ATR Adaptive Communication Research Laboratories. He is currently a professor at Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan. His current research interests include propagation models in various radio communication systems, radio transmission system, applied radio systems and so on. He received the Young Researchers' Award of IEICE in 1994 and the Best Paper Award from IEICE 2008. He has served as Associate Editor and Editor of the IEICE Transactions on Communications for more than 10 years. He is a member of IEEE.

