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MESSAGE

IEICE Transactions on Communications: Editor's Message

The IEICE Transactions on Communications has 36 years of history since the first issue of our parent journal called the IEICE Transactions. Contributions from outside Japan have grown rapidly in the last decade, and thus, the total number of submitted papers and letters has consistently reached about 1,200 per year. (Nearly 50% are Letters.) However, our impact factor has remained flat for many years regardless of these numerous submissions. Although the impact factor is just one measure of a journal's importance, it actually acts as a useful indicator for authors in selecting a journal. This has been the major motivation for "change" and "challenge". Prof. Hiroyuki Morikawa, who is the former Editor-in-Chief (EiC), launched a strategic working group, and then the next EiC, Prof. Miki Yamamoto, started several new activities under his strong leadership according to the given suggestions. The discontinuance of the Letter category is a visible example.

The main benefit obtained from only accepting papers is the reduced load on Associate Editors. Thus, they are expected to focus more attention on managing the time lines for reviews while maintaining the high quality of the decision process. I am convinced that timeliness will improve the significance of the journal and this will appeal to our authors and readers. It should be possible to accomplish shorter review/decision/publication times than those of other major journals with the cooperation of all Associate Editors, hopefully in the near future. Note that potential submissions of Letters have not entirely been forgotten. The Communication Society of IEICE has established a new online "Letter" journal, i.e., the IEICE Communications Express (ComEX). Authors who submit Letters to ComEX will definitely enjoy its benefits of prompt publication.

In closing, I would like to thank Prof. Miki Yamamoto, our former EiC, and Prof. Hideyuki Uehara, our former Editor, for their dedicated efforts to face new challenges. It is my great honor and pleasure to serve as the new EiC of the IEICE Transactions on Communications and work with the two current Editors, Prof. Hisato Iwai and Prof. Shigeo Shioda, a new Editor, Prof. Shoji Kasahara, and a panel of Associate Editors*. I believe my major role is to keep going in the direction indicated by former editorial teams. We will do our best to make our journal more attractive to authors and readers all over the world. On behalf of the Editorial Committee, I would like to thank the authors, readers, and reviewers for their great contributions in the past. I hope we will continue to receive more submissions of excellent work and continued support.

*The full list of Editorial Committee members is available online.
http://www.ieice.org/cs/pub/editorial_committee_e.html

Takeo Ohgane, Editor-in-Chief



Takeo Ohgane *(Member)* received his B.E., M.E., and Ph.D. in Electronics Engineering from Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, in 1984, 1986, and 1994. From 1986 to 1992, he was with the Communications Research Laboratory of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. From 1992 to 1995, he was assigned to the ATR Optical and Radio Communications Research Laboratory. Since 1995, he has been with Hokkaido University, where he is an Associate Professor. From 2005–2006, he was at the Centre for Communications Research at the University of Bristol in the UK as a Visiting Fellow. His interests are in signal processing in wireless networks. He has served as Associate Editor and Editor of the IEICE Transactions on Communications and the Chair of Technical Committee on Radio Communication Systems, IEICE. He is also serving as Secretary/Treasurer of IEEE Sapporo Section. He received the Young Researchers' Award of IEICE in 1990, the IEEE AP-S Tokyo Chapter Young Engineer Award in 1993, the Best Paper Award from IEICE in 2007, and the TELECOM System Technology Award from The Telecommunications Advancement Foundation of Japan in 2008. He is a member of IEEE.

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