

Report on the IEC Young Professionals 2014 workshop – Tokyo, Japan (9-12 November 2014)

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Thank you for the opportunity to represent New Zealand at the Young Professionals (YP) 2014 workshop which was held in conjunction with the 78th IEC General Meeting in Tokyo, Japan.

Workshop Overview

The IEC YP programme was developed to enable the IEC and its National Committees to reach out to the younger generation of experts, managers and leaders, encouraging their long term participation in standardisation and conformity assessment activities, which in turn ensures the continuity of high quality leaders and experts in IEC. The workshop was held to educate the selected YP on how IEC works. The workshop approach combined the method of lectures by experienced IEC experts and previous YP, interactive forum with IEC leaders, group activities, break-out sessions and practical sessions where the YP observed a Technical Committee meeting and either a Conformance Assessment Board (CAB) or a Standardisation Management Board (SMB) meeting.

Prior to the workshop, the New Zealand's IEC National Committee (NC) has kindly arranged for a meeting on the 14th October 2014 in Wellington for the YP to meet each other as well as the NC. The briefing by the NC on the IEC's role and structure in New Zealand was very interesting and informative. Before departing for Tokyo, the YP coordinator also made it compulsory for all YP to attend an online training course to ensure that all YP are familiar with IEC. The course was evaluated by nine questions and all YP must score at least 7 out of 9 correct to complete it.

The IEC YP 2014 workshop was attended by a record number of 67 participants from 33 countries. New Zealand was represented by Daniel Chen and me. During the workshop duration, I attended all the scheduled workshop events including the social events during breakfast and dinner. The schedule was packed with activities and involved a steep learning curve where many activities ended with the YP presenting their understanding of the respective session. My schedule during the event is given below:

Date and Time	Venue	Agenda
Sunday 9 November 2014	Imperial Hotel	Welcoming reception
Monday 10 November 2014	Tokyo International Forum	0830-1015 Plenary opening Welcome message Looking forward with the IEC Message from the 2013 Young Professional Leaders What to expect at a technical meeting Q&A session on IEC operations 1045-1230 Standardisation: a necessary evil or a strategic advantage Breakout session- Part 1

		<p>Morning wrap up</p> <p>1230-1330 Lunch with the SMB/CAB members</p> <p>1330-1515 CAB observation</p> <p>1545-1730 IEC YPs Getting Ahead Breakout session - Part 2 Day one wrap up</p> <p>Evening General Meeting opening ceremony</p>
Tuesday 11 November 2014	<p>Imperial Hotel</p> <p>Tokyo International Forum</p> <p>Cruise Cruise The Ginza</p> <p>Imperial Hotel</p>	<p>0400-0700 Finalise presentation slides for Group 3</p> <p>0730-0830 Breakfast with National Committee</p> <p>0900-1015 Special session on the SMB Impact of Conformity Assessment on world trade</p> <p>1030-1230 Observe TC14 (Transformers)</p> <p>1230-1330 Lunch</p> <p>1330-1730 Special session on the CAB Breakout session - Part 3 YP presentation to the IEC top officers Day two wrap up</p> <p>1900-1945 Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) dinner</p> <p>2000-2200 Young Professionals' dinner</p>
Wednesday 12 November 2014	<p>Imperial Hotel</p> <p>Tokyo International Forum</p>	<p>0730-0830 Breakfast with TC 14 Chairman</p> <p>0900-1030 Interactive session on Smart Energy with Richard Schomberg</p> <p>1045-1230 Open space session</p> <p>1300-1730 Industry visit to Sumitomo Electric</p> <p>2000-2200</p>

The workshop commenced at 7.30pm on Sunday night with a welcoming reception at the Imperial Hotel to allow participants to get to know each other before the workshop courses began on the next day. It was a useful session because it helped in preparing the YP for group activities which started on the next day.

The workshop was officially launched by Dr Junji Nomura and Frans Vreeswijk, the President and General Secretary of IEC. The first day of the workshop covered further details on IEC history, structure, objectives, long term strategy and activities. The importance of IEC and the YP programme quickly became apparent even on the first day itself. Participation in international standard developments is important to a country because it can determine the outreach of the national products. The YP programme is also important because it was obvious that most of the General Meeting attendants are of the older generation and their knowledge and experience need to be transitioned to the next generation.

The observation of the CAB session was interesting. I enjoyed watching the interaction between countries and how some countries tried to influence the meeting's outcomes.

The breakfast meeting with the National Committee was between Peter Berry, Daniel and me. We discussed about the possibility of setting up a national YP programme. We also got introduced to the Australian NC.

The breakout session refers to the session where YP are split into 4 groups and were each given three questions to answer. The answers have to be presented immediately after the third breakout session. I was in Group 3 and we were assigned to answer the following questions:

1. How can the IEC attract the best experts and leaders to enable it to fulfill its vision and mission and respond to market needs?
2. Develop a plan for YPs to overcome the obstacles of getting more involved. Please analyze for different types of YPs:
 - a) starting to get involved
 - b) medium involvement
 - c) very involved
3. How can dialogue between Standards developers and Conformity Assessment System participants improve the certification process, including market access and technology considerations?

The YP presentation was attended by Dr Nomura, James Matthews, Dr Shu, Frans Vreeswijk and Ulrich Spindler. They enjoyed and commended the presentations.

The observation of TC14 was insightful. I got exposed to a new type of transformer for underwater subsea applications. There was a presentation by China on a new power electronic technology that can be used to protect transformers from direct current faults. It was wonderful to note that the presentation mentioned that the technology has already been used by Transpower in New Zealand, confirming my understanding that New Zealand is often an early adopter of technology. Besides learning the technical details, it was interesting to observe how countries interact with one another. The chairman, Paul Jarman from the National Grid United Kingdom, was impressive in the way he handled the discussions.

In the evening, I attended two dinners. One was the PASC dinner where the representatives from Canada, Korea and Mexico were introduced to all attendants. The next dinner was the YP dinner where I sat at the same table as the CAB's secretary, David Hanlon, and got acquainted with him. The dinner finished with the submission of YP 2014 Leaders election form.

The last day started with breakfast with the TC14 chairman. I enjoyed having the opportunity to interact with Paul Jarman who not only spoke to us about how TC works but also on career development. I learnt that standards on transformers are developed by various technical committees depending on their components.

The interactive session I chose to attend was conducted by Dr Richard Schomberg, who was the TC8 chairman. He divided us into three groups and gave us a group assignment on how to organise multiple technical committees to develop multi-disciplined standards for smart energy. After we presented our solutions, Dr Schomberg shared with us the solution he proposed to IEC and updated us with the approval status.

The open space session involved the YP answering five questions:

1. How can Standards or participation in the standardization process be used as a competitive advantage for companies?
2. What can the IEC do to ensure timely standards for fast moving industries?
3. How can all the different national standards be unified under IEC as one global standard?
4. Do you think standardization could be a break for innovation?
5. How standardization can contribute to the growth of global and country specific economics and industries?

Selected YP then presented the solutions to the group.

At the end of the open space session, the YP leaders' election result was announced. Three leaders have been chosen to lead the YP2014. I was pleasantly surprised that I have been bestowed the honour to lead the YP. The other leaders are Craig Carlson from South Africa and Leo Ohtsuka from Japan.

Industrial visits have been kindly arranged by the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). I chose to attend the visit to Sumitomo Electric. There I visited a demonstration of a reduction flow batteries that were used with concentrated solar photovoltaics. The specialists there explained how the technology worked and described its advantages and disadvantages. They also gave us a group assignment on using standardisation as a commercialisation strategy. The workshop ended with a dinner, kindly sponsored by METI.

Recommendations

Based from what I learnt during the IEC YP workshop, I would like to propose the following:

1. Set up a YP programme in New Zealand
 - Establish and gather members
 - Officially launch it during the next major IEC event in New Zealand such as the IECeX event later this year
 - Organise events to coincide with the IECeX event so that YP can observe some of the sessions in progress
 - Establish a mentoring programme

- Explore the possibilities of collaborating with the Australian YP
2. Increase New Zealand's participation in IEC
New Zealand is a highly innovative country and it should be reflected in its role in IEC. New Zealand is always an early technology developer and adopter and its lead role in IEC can open up our products to global commercialisation. An area that I am particularly interested in is in the area of Smart Grid and transformers.

I am happy to elaborate on my suggestions with the National Committee and I look forward to participate in carrying out the suggestions if given the opportunities.

One of the issues of concern was that there was a mention that IEC is making the Common Interface Model and IEC61850 mandatory. I would like to understand the implication of this decision to New Zealand and its industries.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Electricity Engineers' Association (EEA) for awarding me the opportunity to represent New Zealand for the IEC YP workshop 2014. I am truly grateful for the privilege. I learnt so much during the workshop and enjoyed the experience in Japan.

I would like to thank the New Zealand's IEC National Committee for the undivided support. I would be happy to help out with any future activities.

Thank you and congratulations to Robert McLaren, Katherine Fraga and the leaders of the IEC YP 2013 for their excellent organization of the YP workshop. Their efforts were much appreciated by the YP. It was also evident that the IEC Senior Management also appreciated and strongly supported the programme and workshop.

I would also like thank the Japanese National Committee of IEC and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry for their excellent organization and hospitality in the IEC events in Japan. They have done well in showcasing their technology, culture and infrastructure. The experience of staying in the historic Imperial Hotel is one to be cherished forever.

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Young Professional New Zealand 2014

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