

= A Serial Introduction Part 2 = Winners of ITU-AJ Encouragement Awards 2025

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.

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Fields of activity: Global Standardization on Digital Identities
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Building a Safer Digital World: Standardization Efforts Toward Digital Identities

I am deeply honored to receive the prestigious Japan ITU Association Encouragement Award. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Japan ITU Association and all those involved in related standardization organizations for their continued support.

Several key international standardization bodies play a vital role in the digital-identity domain, including the ITU, FIDO Alliance, Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), ISO, OpenID Foundation (OIDF), and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). These organizations work closely together, and I have primarily contributed through FIDO and OIDF.

As critical online transactions increase, so does the demand for robust mechanisms that perform both identity verification (“Is the person who she or he claims to be?”) and authentication (“Is the person the same as in the previous sessions?”). Recent large-scale phishing attacks targeting Japanese financial institutions have made it clear that traditional ID/password-based

authentication—even when combined with SMS-based two-factor authentication—is no longer sufficient to protect users.

“Passkeys,” standardized by the FIDO Alliance and W3C, have emerged as the only practical phishing-resistant authentication method. I have been active in promoting their adoption and improvement, both through a book I co-authored, “Everything About Passkeys,” and through public speaking engagements.

At the same time, identity verification is evolving through standards like ISO 18013-5 (mdoc), also known in Japan as “card-alternative electromagnetic records.” These enable simpler and more secure identity verification. As a board member of OIDF and a participant in an expert panel for Japan’s Digital Agency, I have worked to enhance global interoperability in this space.

With the support of colleagues worldwide, I remain committed to ensuring that people everywhere can enjoy safer and more secure digital services.

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Successful Formulation of Roaming Guidelines and International Standards for LTE-based IoT Devices

I am honored to receive the ITU-AJ Encouragement Award. It has renewed my sense of responsibility and motivation to make future contributions. I extend my sincere thanks to colleagues in GSMA, 3GPP, and other forums under ITU for their cooperation in developing roaming guidelines and international standards for LTE-based IoT devices.

The GSMA Networks Group (GSMA NG), to which I have been involved since 2015, is resolving issues with network interconnection and roaming by establishing guidelines. At the time I became involved, IoT devices were gaining attention, and I recognized that LTE-based IoT devices had unique communication characteristics compared with traditional mobile phones. I proposed the need for technical guidelines tailored to these devices, especially for roaming scenarios.

In 2017, we launched a dedicated task force with broad support from mobile operators, and I was honored to serve as chairperson. The initial phase was challenging as the deployment of LTE-based IoT devices was still in the early stages. We published a

white paper summarizing the features and applications of LTE-M and NB-IoT technologies defined by 3GPP. This required collaboration with device vendors and mobile operators to gather technical details and diverse requirements.

In the second phase, we released the “NG.117 MIoT Roaming Guidelines” in 2018, which defined architecture and configuration values for LTE-M and NB-IoT roaming. I continued as editor until 2019, ensuring the guidelines’ relevance and accuracy. These guidelines have also been leveraged to develop subsequent testing guidelines for LTE-based IoT devices roaming.

Discussions in the task force also revealed the need for new specifications to support IoT roaming. As the final addition of my work as chairperson, I proposed and helped formulate additional specifications within 3GPP SA2/CT4.

Looking ahead, I aim to contribute to the international standardization of 6G networks by leveraging my experience in LTE and 5G standardization and national agency liaison.

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ITU-R Activities

I am extremely grateful to receive the Japan ITU Association Encouragement Award. I am deeply thankful not only to those at the Association but also all those who have offered guidance and support over the years.

From 2022, I participated in the ITU-R’s WP6A and SG6 as a part of the Japan delegation, and I contributed toward international implementation of Japan’s frequency standards as well as the standardization of broadcasting technologies.

Among the many activities at ITU-R, the one that left a particularly lasting impression was the SG6 workshop on “Broadcasting in Times of Crisis.” It was here that I got to give a presentation on emergency broadcast systems and share Japan’s long history of technological and operational knowledge with the international community. The presentation on disaster-prone Japan drew a lot of interest from multiple countries and lead to a fruitful exchange of opinions. In addition, it was an extremely meaningful experience to help deepen international understanding of the important role that broadcasting plays during disasters.

Furthermore, I joined discussions as a representative of Japan in a WRC-23 study group on the topic of reviewing the use of the UHF band in Region 1. This was a particularly difficult topic to reach consensus on among those at WRC-23, so the whole situation was tough, with discussion not proceeding smoothly, the final stage including days off, and sessions continuing from 9 AM to 11 PM. As there were many positions and interests among the various countries, negotiations did not go smoothly. However, by being calm and persistent, Japan was able to get results protecting its broadcasting.

While I have currently stepped away from international work, the knowledge and perspectives I gained during my time with the ITU-R are being put to good use in my domestic work. I graciously ask for your continued support and encouragement as I continue to refine my skills as an engineer to work toward the effective use of radio waves and the further development of the broadcasting field.