

= A Serial Introduction Part 4 = 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.

Takashi Matsui

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Fields of activity: ITU-T SG15, IEC TC86



Collaboration Between ITU-T and IEC: Paving the Way for New Recommendations on optical fiber for space-division multiplexing

I would like to express sincere appreciation upon receiving this ITU-AJ Encouragement Award. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all those involved in ITU-T SG15 activities.

I have participated in standardization activities with IEC TC86 (Fiber Optics) since 2009, engaged mainly in the standardization of existing optical fiber and test methods, and with IEC SC86A (Optical Fiber Cables), in standardization of high-density optical cables. Since 2022, I have participated in ITU-T SG15, engaged in discussions toward revision of existing optical fiber recommendations and standardization of Space Division Multiplexing (SDM) optical fiber, which is attracting attention as a next-generation optical fiber.

ITU-T SG15 and IEC TC86 promote discussions in cooperation with each other. At ITU-T SG15, a technical report on SDM optical fiber technology was published in 2022, and a supplement document, G Suppl. 87, which summarizes the mandatory parameters and frameworks

for establishing standards for SDM optical fiber and cooperation with other standardization organizations, was agreed upon and published in 2025. This supplement describes that the first Recommendation specifies a weakly coupled multi-core fiber (WC-MCF), and specifically targets WC-MCF, which has a standard cladding diameter (125 μm) and is optically compatible with existing G. 65x single-mode fibers.

Based on this supplementary document, Japan proposed development of new Recommendations for WC-MCF and establishment of related test methods, which were approved in March 2025. At the same time, IEC TC86 also agreed to start standardization discussions related to WC-MCF, and discussions are proceeding in close cooperation through a liaison. We will continue to contribute to standardization activities for optical fiber cable technology, including the new standardization of MCF technology, while serving as a bridge between ITU-T and IEC.

Yukinobu Miyatake

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Fields of activity: Support for education in developing countries



Expanding access to educational opportunities in Nepal through e-learning and robotics programming

I am deeply honored to receive this Encouragement Award from the ITU Association Japan. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Association, and everyone who has worked with me.

With its slogan, "Bridging Worlds, Creating Futures," the KDDI Foundation aims to share the benefits of ICT globally. Below, I introduce our educational support activities in Nepal, which I have been involved in since the early stages of my work at the Foundation.

One major challenge I encountered in Nepal was the significant gap in educational opportunities. Even within compulsory education, some children were unable to attend school due to family circumstances. Education often relied heavily on individual teachers' skills, children with visual or hearing impairments faced delays in learning, and ICT

infrastructure remained insufficient. These conditions highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive educational support.

Under such circumstances, cooperating with the Mayor of Lalitpur, local education authorities, and the NGO OLE Nepal, we launched an e-learning platform and a robotics programming initiative in public basic and secondary schools. These initiatives helped parents of economically disadvantaged families to better understand the importance of education, leading to improved school attendance. They also enabled students to study independently outside regular class hours, thereby expanding learning opportunities.

In parallel, we developed digital learning materials, including Nepali-language e-books and Nepali sign-language content, and implemented

them in special needs schools for children with visual or hearing impairments. Although geographically limited, our support has expanded to girls' schools and schools in remote areas. To address challenges such as limited ICT skills among teachers and curriculum revisions by the government, we collaborated with OLE Nepal to update e-learning materials and provide local educators with training.

As a result, students' motivation improved, and STEAM-oriented

education was initiated at girls' schools. Since 2023, we have organized an annual robotics competition in Lalitpur, and enthusiastic student participation has reaffirmed the significance of our efforts.

Going forward, we seek to deepen collaboration with local stakeholders to establish a sustainable, locally driven education support model. We will continue working toward this ideal.

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Fields of activity: O-RAN WG2, WG10 standardization



Standardization Activities for Resolving Policy Conflicts concerning Wireless Base Stations

I am truly grateful to receive the prestigious Japan ITU Association Encouragement Award. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone at the Japan ITU Association and all those who participated in the activities aimed at resolving the A1 policy conflicts in the O-RAN WG2.

The O-RAN has a mechanism for conveying RAN control policies, called "A1 Policies," from SMO/Non-RT RIC to Near-RT RICs. However, it has not sufficiently discussed or studied situations in which multiple A1 Policies are implemented simultaneously and, consequently, might contradict or conflict with each other. This A1 Policy conflict has raised concerns that if such contradictions are not resolved at higher-layer entities (e.g., SMO and Non-RT RIC), complex conflict handlings will be required at lower-layer entities (e.g., O-CU, O-DU, and O-RU), and the complexity of development of lower-layer entities could be increased in a way that makes openness and multi-vendor interoperability of the

open fronthaul interface more difficult. Recognizing the importance of resolving A1 Policy conflicts at higher layers, as a rapporteur for the Work Item (WI) of WG2, I have decided to promote the study of resolving these technical issues.

The technical report describes methods for detecting overlapping scopes of A1 Policies, determining the presence of conflict and/or inconsistency scenarios within those overlapping scopes, and arbitrating conflicts between A1 Policies. It also proposes some examples of practical algorithms for detecting such conflicts and necessary procedures from the viewpoint of service-based architecture.

From now on, I will promote activities to reflect the contents of this technical report in the O-RAN standard specification, and I would like to utilize my experience to contribute to the realization of "real open" wireless base stations.

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Fields of activity: 3GPP TSG RAN WG1



Specification of 3GPP standards for creation of 5G industry and collaborative solutions

I am deeply honored to receive the prestigious Japan ITU Association Encouragement Award. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone at the Japan ITU Association and to all those involved who provided tremendous support in my standardization activities leading up to this award.

Since 2017, I have been participating in 3GPP, in which I have been focusing on development of physical control channels for 5G as well as standard specifications—which are the key to industrial creation and solution co-creation—for V2X/terminal-to-terminal communication and NTN (non-terrestrial networks). As for V2X communication, I approached discussions with "achieving high reliability" as my key focus; however, coordinating with various companies that prioritized other aspects, such as simplifying terminal operation, was not easy. Nevertheless, I continued to make proposals with conviction, and through

persistent dialogue, I was able to build agreement and incorporate many high-reliability features into the specifications.

As for NTNs, I played a key role in coordinating discussions regarding ensuring uplink connectivity. Amid the conflicting interests of numerous companies, leading the discussions while gaining trust as an impartial facilitator and reaching a consensus was an invaluable, irreplaceable experience. I am proud to say that by deeply understanding the intentions of each company, assessing the validity of their arguments, and taking firm action when necessary, I was able to contribute to improving quality of NTNs. After approximately 10 years of discussions on 5G, the standardization of 6G is finally about to begin in earnest. I intend to continue working wholeheartedly on standardization activities to promote the development of the industry and realize a world full of dreams.