

AES Japan Section 70th Anniversary Party

Written by: Kazuma Hoshi

Discussions arose from the desire to recreate the "Shiba Sakurada Kaikan," where individuals had gathered 70 years ago. The mystery was solved mainly by Kazutsugu Uchimura with the help of Shinji Koyano, and the location was accurately identified (details below). Aside from the preface, let me give you with an overview.



Picture 1: Members gathered at the party venue.

Event Overview: The 70th anniversary party was held at the Sunflower Hall of the Tokyo Prince Hotel (Shiba Koen, Minato-ku, Tokyo) on Sunday, October 15, 2023, with a standing buffet. There were exactly 100 participants, categorized as follows: Members: 62, Student Members: 23, Section Sustaining Members: 13, Guests: 2. The program was as follows:

Opening remarks (Yohichiro Mikami)

Welcome by the Chairman (Kazuma Hoshi)

Guest Congratulations

-Japan Audio Society (Executive Director: Shinichi Suenaga)

-Acoustical Society of Japan (President: Yoichi Haneda)

-AES Headquarters (President Bruce C. Olson/video playback)

Awards and recognition

-AES Japan Award 2023 (Kimio Hamasaki, Junichi Yoshio, and Hiroaki Suzuki)

-AES Japan Special Award 2023 (Akira Asakura)

Toast (Shinji Koyano)

College Introduction by AES Japan Student Section

-Tokyo University of the Arts

-Tokyo University of Technology

-Senzoku Gakuen College of Music

-Nagoya University of the Arts

-Chiba Institute of Technology

-Institute of Sound Arts

Future-oriented talk (Kazutsugu Uchimura, Erisa Sato, Tsubasa Ikeda)

Closing remarks (Kazuhiro Kawahara, Toru Kamekawa)

Historical Exhibition: The AES Japan Section 70-Year Table was prominently displayed at the entrance of the party venue. All the activities of the past 70 years were meticulously recorded and summarized in this chronology. The many photos vividly brought us back to the past. Many participants paused in front of this timeline to reminisce and share stories from the past. Ritsuko Tsuchikura gave tremendous effort to edit the timeline.



Picture 2: The historical exhibition.

Congratulation remarks: Shinichi Suenaga, Executive Director of the Japan Audio Society, and Yoichi Haneda, President of the Acoustical Society of Japan, extended to our section. It was emphasized that

the Japan Audio Society and AES Japan Section share common roots and are like twin siblings, with the Acoustical Society of Japan acting as their elder brother. We were able to recognize the significance of these three organizations working together to pass on knowledge to the next generation. Additionally, a congratulatory message from Bruce C. Olson, President of AES Headquarters, was broadcast via video. It was noted that this year marks the 75th anniversary of AES Headquarters, and the AES Japan Section was established just five years after the founding of the headquarters, indicating appreciation for its longstanding contribution to AES development.



Picture 3: Representatives of the three acoustical organizations. Left: Society of Japan President Yoichi Haneda, Middle left: Section Chair Kazuma Hoshi (center left), Section Auditor Shinji Koyano (center right), Japan Audio Society Executive Director Shinichi Suenaga (right).

Awards and Recognition: The AES Japan Section Award 2023 was presented to Kimio Hamasaki, Junichi Yoshio, and Hiroaki Suzuki, while a special award was presented to the deceased Akira Asakura. Hamasaki was recognized for his contributions to the advancement of recording technology, while Yoshio and Suzuki were acknowledged for their roles in the development of audio standards. Asakura was honored for his significant and longstanding contributions to the AES Japan Section since its inception 70 years ago. Hamasaki and Yoshio provided the comments, and Yoshio introduced Asakura's involvement with the AES while a representative read Suzuki's acceptance speech on his behalf.



Picture 4: Award recipients with the Section Chair. Hiroaki Suzuki (left, accepted by Chikako Shigetomi), Section Chair Kazuma Hoshi (center left), Junichi Yoshio (center right), Kimio Hamasaki (right).

Future-oriented Talk: Kazutsugu Uchimura, Erisa Sato, and Tsubasa Ikeda presented the history of the AES Japan Section and the AES Japan Student Section and their relationship to the AES. Uchimura spoke about the truth behind the establishment of the AES Japan Section, emphasizing that Shiba Sakurada was near "Uchisaiwaicho" and that NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) was located there at that time. He also mentioned that the Shiba Sakurada Kaikan was approximately specified the building from the 1950s pictures, and that the first Japanese AES member was Masaru Ibuka, one of the founders of SONY. The three then discussed how they were taking advantage of the AES and their expectations of the organization. Sato was the third chair of the AES Japan Student Section, and Ikeda is the current chair; they shared insights from a student's perspective. They emphasized that one of the AES's greatest appeals is the opportunity to interact with people worldwide, both at AES Japan Section events and at AES international conventions.



Picture 5: Speakers at the talk session

(Left: Kazushi Uchimura, Center: Erisa Sato, Right: Tsubasa Ikeda).



Picture 6: The inaugural meeting for establishment in 1952 at Shiba Sakurada Kaikan.

College Introduction by AES Japan Student Section: the students belonging to the AES Japan Student Section introduced their educational environments and what they typically learn in their own college. Many attendees were surprised to learn that many universities now have three-dimensional sound recording and production environments. It is reasonable to assume that these students, growing up in such environments, will soon make significant contributions to the industry.



Picture 7: College introduction from AES Japan Student Section.

Closing Remarks: Closing remarks were given by Kazuhiko Kawahara, the current Regional Vice President of AES Headquarters, and Toru Kamekawa, who has served as Regional Vice President and Governor, among other positions. Kamekawa suggested strategies to ensure that the AES Japan Section continues to attract new members in the future.

Souvenirs: As a commemorative item for the 70th anniversary, tote bags with the 70th anniversary logo were distributed to all attendees. These bags, neither too small nor too large, are just the right size for everyday use. When you have any questions about the logo, you should answer about the attractiveness of the AES Japan Section!



Picture 8: Commemorative tote bag (two-tone color version).

Conclusion: In planning the 70th anniversary celebration, I decided on the core idea of "let's get together again" after the COVID-19 pandemic. Some may have thought that simply saying "get together again" was not enough. However, reflecting on our history while welcoming younger members and having conversations is the first step for future activities. Whether it's the 75th anniversary in five years or the 80th anniversary ten years later from now, I hope to have the opportunity to talk with everyone again at that time. I ask for your continued participation in the various events organized by the AES Japan Section.



Photo 9: The attendees!!