

Establishment of EMC Research in Japan and its Future Prospects

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SUMMARY Systematic research on electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) in Japan started in 1977 by the establishment of a technical committee on “environmental electromagnetic engineering” named EMCJ, which was founded both in the Institute of Electronics and Communication Engineers or the present IEICE (Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers) and in the Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan or the IEEJ. The research activities have been continued as the basic field of interdisciplinary study to harmonize even in the electromagnetic (EM) environment where radio waves provide intolerable EM disturbances to electronic equipment and to that environment itself. The subjects and their outcomes which the EMCJ has dealt with during about 40 years from the EMCJ establishment include the evaluation of EM environment, EMC of electric and electronic equipment, and EMC of biological effects involving bioelectromagnetics and so on. In this paper, the establishment history and structure of the EMCJ are reviewed along with the change in activities, and topics of the technical reports presented at EMCJ meetings from 2006 to 2016 are surveyed. In addition, internationalization and its related campaign are presented in conjunction with the EMCJ research activities, and the status quo of the EMCJ under the IEICE is also discussed along with the prospects.

key words: *electromagnetic compatibility, technical committee on environmental electromagnetic engineering, establishment, research activities, prospects*

1. Introduction

“Environmental electromagnetic engineering” is defined as an academic discipline dealing with extensive electromagnetic (EM) issues on electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) in EM environments. It was named in 1976 by Risaburo Sato, Professor of Tohoku University at that time [1]–[5]. As this academic research organization, a technical committee on environmental electromagnetic engineering, which is called “EMCJ,” was established in 1976 under the umbrella of the Institute of Electronics and Communication Engineer of Japan or the present IEICE (Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers) and the Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan (IEEJ). The first technical meeting organized by the EMCJ was held in May 1977. The IEICE will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2017, and the EMCJ will be 40 years old.

To mark these occasions, the establishment history and construction of the EMCJ/IEICE are reviewed in this paper. In addition, research activities that the EMCJ has performed

so far are surveyed over the past 10 years from 2006 to 2016, and the current status and the prospects for the EMCJ activities under the IEICE are discussed along with internationalization and related campaign.

2. EMCJ

2.1 EMC and EMCJ Establishment

Basically, the EMC, which derived from radio frequency interference (RFI) in the USA in the 1960’s [1], describes the ability of a device, equipment, or system to function satisfactorily in its EM environment without introducing intolerable EM disturbances to anything in that environment [6], [7]. In the USA, the establishment of the “professional group on RFI” was approved by the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE), which is the origin of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), and the first meeting (the present IEEE EMC Society) was held in October 1957 [8].

In Japan, on the other hand, as a research organization of EMC, a technical committee on environmental electromagnetic engineering or EMCJ was proposed by Risaburo Sato (1st EMCJ past chair) to the Institute of Electronics and Communication Engineers (nominative) and the IEEJ (associative), and was approved in December 1976 by both of the Board of Directors meetings [9], [10]. The first meeting organized by the EMCJ was held in May, 1977. Accordingly, Japan was 20 years later than the USA as an EMC academic organization. In 2017, therefore, the IEEE EMC society and the EMCJ will celebrate their 60th and 40th anniversary*, respectively.

Figure 1 is a photo of Risaburo Sato, which appeared on a cover sheet of the IEEE EMC Society Newsletter, Issue No. 229, Spring 2011 [11]. He was considered “The Father of EMC in Japan.”

Since there was no awareness of EMC in Japan in the 1970’s, there was much energetic discussion about the nature of EMC before the establishment of EMCJ [1]. The situation is shown in Fig. 2. The elephant in the figure symbolizes the whole image of EMC because the Japanese words for elephant and image have the same pronunciation. In those days, it was difficult to grasp the whole image of EMC, and EMC was understood with the part such as a trunk, an ear, a

*The IEEE EMC Society and the EMCJ celebrated their 50th and 30th anniversary at the Symposium in Honolulu, Hawaii on July, 2007 and at the EMCJ Technical Meeting in Sendai on October, 2007, respectively.

Manuscript received September 20, 2016.

Manuscript revised December 26, 2016.

Manuscript publicized March 27, 2017.

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DOI: 10.1587/transcom.2016PFI0001



Fig. 1 Emeritus Professor Risaburo Sato, Tohoku University and Tohoku Gakuin University, passed away in Sendai at the age of 89 early in the morning of April 12, 2011.

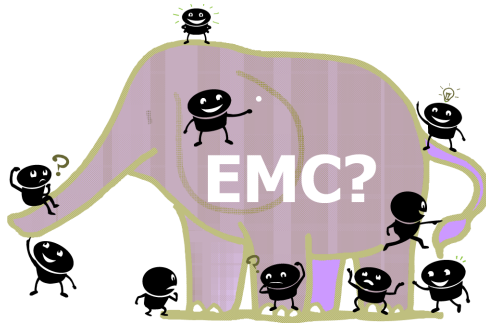


Fig. 2 What is “EMCb”?

foot or a tail of the elephant.

Figure 3 shows the collaboration and contribution to the EMCJ establishment of researchers and engineers in academia, research laboratories and industries, who had expertise in various specialized fields around the 1975’s. As a result, the concept of EMC, which is one technical term in the USA, was expanded to the interdisciplinary learning field. It was called “environmental electromagnetic engineering” in Japan. The prospectus[†] [12] of the EMCJ is shown in Fig. A·1 in the Appendix. “Environmental electromagnetic engineering” was then widely defined as the basic learning field of interdisciplinary study in a large variety of fields involving engineering, science, medicine, economics and sociology, to serve as a contribution to the effective utilization of EM energy and to the harmonization of EM environment by grasping and predicting the change in the EM ambient environment surrounding the earth and the celestial bodies as well as the state of electric and electronic equipment together with a control method for harmonizing the environment from the proliferation of EM energy utilization.

EMCJ is a technical committee on environmental electromagnetic engineering from the aspect of EMC; however, environmental electromagnetic engineering is sometimes regarded as a synonym for EMC in Japan despite the fact that EMC has no meaning of environment. In addition, technical meetings that the EMCJ holds are also called technical meetings on EMC. This shows that the concept of EMC is still confusing even today in Japan.

[†]The Japanese original was translated into English by the author.

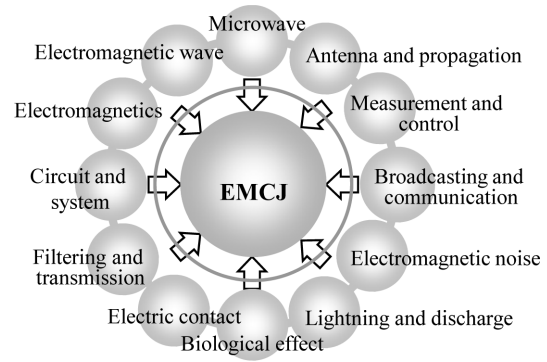


Fig. 3 Collaboration and contribution to EMCJ establishment from researchers and engineers, who worked in various specialized fields.

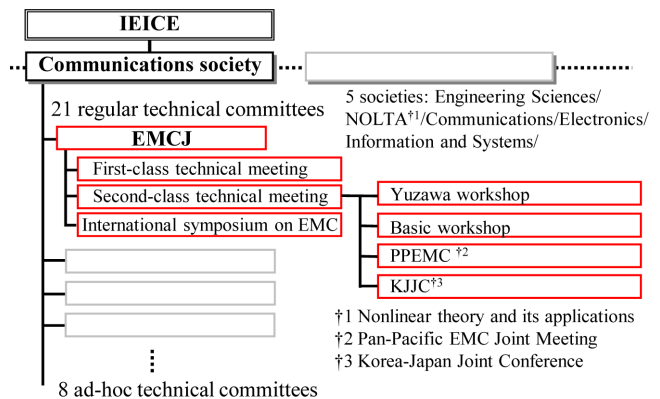


Fig. 4 Organization and structure of EMCJ affiliated with the communications society of IEICE.

2.2 Organization Form and Activity System

At present, EMCJ is affiliated with the IEICE. Figure 4 shows its organization form and activity system. In 2016, the IEICE consists of 5 societies, including the “communications society” to which the EMCJ belongs. The communications society has 21 technical committees and 8 ad-hoc committees. The EMCJ plans and holds technical meetings monthly in principle. According to EMC topics, joint meetings have been convened in cooperation with the following other technical committees under the “electronics society” of the IEICE: Electromechanical Devices (EMD), Electromagnetic Theory (EMT), Microwaves (MW) and so on. The EMCJ has also planned international symposiums on EMC to be held every 5 years in Japan. In the technical meetings that the EMCJ holds, there are first class and second class. A first-class meeting is held every month at each of the venues all over Japan except for August and February, but there have also been technical joint meetings in Korea and Thailand outside Japan. In 2016, the joint meeting was held in Taipei. The second-class meeting, which is held almost every year, includes workshops and joint meetings across Asia.

Research activities on EMC are performed through an oral presentation and technical discussion at first-class meetings by the general solicitation of technical reports without

Taki (17th EMCJ past chair), Tokyo Metropolitan University. The next 8th symposium is planned for Sapporo, Hokkaido in 2019 by Hideaki Sone (the present EMCJ chair), Tohoku University as organizing chair.

3. Research Activities

Figure 5 shows the annual change in the number of technical reports presented at the technical meetings held by the EMCJ for about 40 years from 1977 to 2016. Open circles on the figure are the total number of all technical reports every year, and closed circles are the cumulative total number. It was found from Fig. 5 that there were 65 technical reports a year in 1977, and later around 100 reports a year [18], [19], although the yearly number slightly decreased since 2003. Until September of 2016, the cumulative total number reached 4341.

Table 2 shows topics of technical reports presented at technical meetings on environmental electromagnetic engineering for the past 10 years from 1996 to 2006, which were categorized from a total number of 1489 by Ryuji Koga (13th EMCJ past chair) [18]. He also classified a change in the number of technical reports chronologically, and pointed out a high number in 2006 in the order of biological effect, PCB (including radiated emissions), measurement, materials, discharge and EM field analysis.

Figure 6 shows annual changes in the cumulative num-

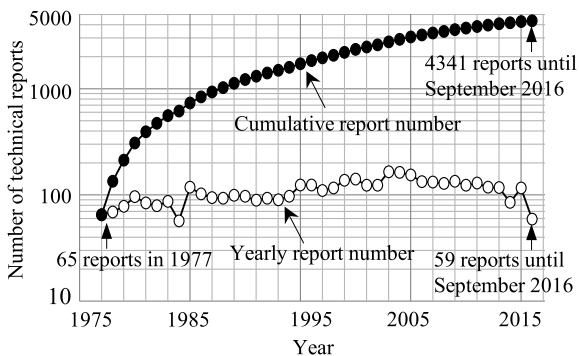


Fig. 5 Yearly change in number of technical reports presented at technical meetings on environmental electromagnetic engineering during 1977–2016.

ber and total number of technical reports presented over the past 10 years (cumulative total number: 1274) from 2006 to 2016 according to Koga’s categorized topics. A circular graph in the following figure shows the cumulative number of 7 types of technical reports including miscellaneous topics in 2016. These figures indicate that the report number was larger in the order of biological effect (including bio-electromagnetics), PCB, discharge, measurement, analysis (involving EM field analysis) and materials, which is the same as the top two largest numbers in topics of the Koga survey result in 2007. This chapter is unable to cover all the research on these topics due to the limited space. Therefore, the top two topics of “biological effects” and “PCB” are reviewed here, in terms of their contents and trends.

The greatest concern of research on “biological effects” is to develop anatomically-based human body models for

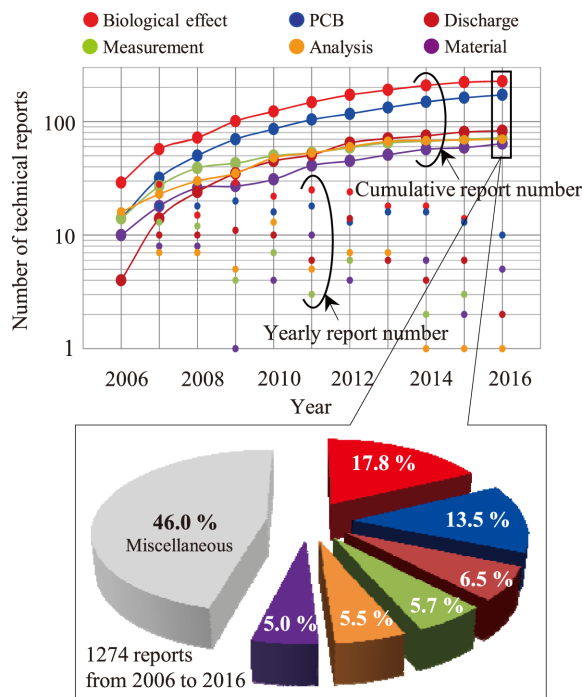


Fig. 6 Yearly change in number of technical reports according to six topics that appeared from 2006–2016.

Table 2 Categorized topics of technical reports presented at technical meetings on environmental electromagnetic engineering [18].

Printed circuit board (PCB)	Power and ground	Material	Measurement	Biological effect	SAR (Specific absorption rate)
	Transmission line		Meta-material		Nonthermal effect
	Signal integrity		Absorption body		Medical applications
Cable	Common mode	Discharge	Electrostatic discharge	Countermeasure	Measure case
	Radiation		Lightning		Measure parts
	Immunity		Contact		Grounding
Equipment	Immunity	Electromagnetic field	Analysis	Communication system EMC	Airplanes/Railroad/Shipping
	Balance /imbalance conversion		Radiation prediction		Power line communication (PLC)
	Immunity		Noise source model		Intelligent transport systems (ITS)
Large-Scale Integration (LSI)	Driving source model	Electromagnetic environment	Radiowave environment	Miscellaneous	Electronic toll collection system (ETC)
	Immunity		Universe/ionosphere		Wireless local area network (LAN)
	Immunity		Site		Bluetooth
		Measurement	Antenna	Standard/regulation	CISPR/IEC/ARIB/VCCI
			Probe		Ultra wide band (UWB)
			Noise source estimation		Power electronics
			Immunity		

human safety assessment of radio-frequency (RF) electromagnetic fields, and thereby conduct dosimetry[†] evaluation about whether or not RF exposure levels conform to the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guideline [20] or the Japan protection policy for the human body from effects of radio waves use [21]. Over the past decade, anatomically-based numerical models of children [22], infants [23], [24], pregnant women [25]–[28], and fetuses [29] have been developed, and finite-difference time-domain (FDTD) calculations of whole body average SARs have been vigorously conducted. Furthermore, a large-scale computational technique of temperature elevation [30] was developed by using bio-heat conduction equations combined with Maxwell's equations. Core temperature in deep tissues of adults and children [31], [32] for far field exposure was calculated. The specific absorption rates (SARs) and temperature elevation inside a small animal such as a rat [33]–[36] and a rabbit [37]–[39] were numerically evaluated for biological exposure testing.

On the other hand, attempts were made to estimate the whole-body average SAR in human for plane wave exposure from the human-body surface area [40], spatially averaged squares of induced currents [41] and an external-cylindrical field scanning technique [42]. A reverberation chamber [43]–[45] was used to estimate the whole-body SAR [46], [47]. From the measurement and simulation of the whole body average SAR of human volunteers [48] in the reverberation chamber, the validity of the FDTD computation results on computational human models having a limited number of tissue types and organs was shown [49]. In addition, concern about the influence on human body for electromagnetic field exposure of ELF [50]–[52] and intermediate frequency band [53] has been raised, and induced currents inside human models exposed to the magnetic near-field of electromagnetic induction heating cookers [54], [55] and alternating electric shavers [56] were analyzed. In 2010 the ICNIRP guideline in the low-frequency range from 1 Hz to 100 kHz [57] was revised, which attracted attention to contact currents [58] as an indirect effect of electromagnetic field exposure, and the threshold levels of electric shock were measured for human volunteers.

In recent years, much attention has been paid to a technique of wireless power transfer (WPT) in the intermediate frequency band, and the human dosimetry evaluation [59]–[63] in the vicinity of the WPT system has been attempted.

Regarding the research on “PCB”, it is well known that the radiated electromagnetic waves (emission noise) from a PCB are generated by common-mode (CM) currents flowing on signal traces on the PCB or wires/cables connected to the PCB. The greatest concern, therefore, is simply to predict the CM currents, and how to suppress them. Over the past decade various analytical methods [64]–[69] and equiv-

alent circuit models [70], [71] for accurately calculating the CM currents have been developed. Furthermore, in order to analyze the emission noise from a PCB equipped with an integrated circuit (IC)/large-scale integration (LSI), it is necessary to simulate the high-frequency currents of the IC/LSI power supply system. From this point of view, to calculate the high-frequency currents caused by switching of the complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) transistor, a model consisting of a linear equivalent circuit and internal current source, which is named LECCS [72]–[76], has been proposed, and its usefulness was shown experimentally.

As for the reduction methods of the emission noise, it is often used to implement bypass capacitors [77]–[79] and CM mode choke coils [80]. A design method [81] has been proposed to reduce the CM current by balancing the inductance and the capacitance of the wiring on the PCB. An electromagnetic band gap (EBG) structure [82] was used to suppress the power noise in electronic equipment. A noise suppression sheet [83] with an EBG pattern formed in the power/ground layer has also been proposed. Also, in order to elucidate the electromagnetic shielding effectiveness of an enclosure, leakage electromagnetic waves from the aperture were measured using a case model [84]–[86] incorporating a PCB as an emission noise source. The result showed that the shielding effect was significantly affected by the PCB arrangement location.

Regarding vehicle-mounted PCBs, analyses were made in order to predict the emission noise from the power supply system [87] caused by the voltage fluctuation of the mounted IC or conduction noise currents [88] generated by direct current motors, and their measurements and validations were also conducted. In addition, since the conduction noise currents flowing out from a PCB to wire harnesses act as a source of disturbance on the onboard FM radios, ground patterns with slits [89]–[93] which suppress the conduction noise currents were found through computer simulation and measurement.

The above-described technical topics feature prominently in the EMCJ technical meetings, which can also often be seen in the international EMC symposiums held in Japan [94] and even in Europe [95]. It should be noted that the number of technical reports on each topic every year decreased after a peak in 2011. This is because new EMC problems such as EMC tests of power electronics, wireless power transmission (WPT), medical equipment and in-vehicle electronic equipment have increased with the proliferation and diversification of EM energy use.

4. Status-Quo and Prospects

The EMCJ under the IEICE, launched in 1977, is already 39 years old. It is no exaggeration to say that the history represents the EMC research activities themselves in Japan. In those days, there was no publicity of EMC at all when the EMCJ was started. Thanks to the various activities of the EMCJ, which were done through concentration and collaboration by many researchers and experts from their existing

[†]Dosimetry: Measurement or determination by calculation of internal electric field strength or induced current density or specific absorption or specific absorption rate (SAR) in humans or animals exposed to electromagnetic fields.

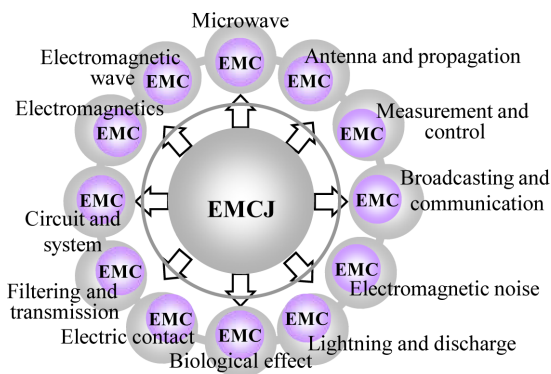


Fig. 7 EMC groups born in other technical fields owing to EMCJ activities.

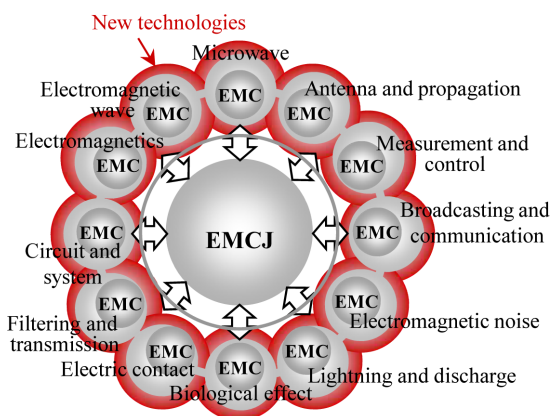


Fig. 8 Expansion and development of EMCJ activities in collaboration with different EMC groups in other technical fields incorporated with newly emerging technologies.

technical fields, a vast number of study results were published worldwide, which improved the awareness of EMC remarkably in Japan. Hence EMC came to be also discussed in many other specialized fields. This situation is shown in Fig. 7. However, the EMC issues, which should be discussed in the EMCJ basically, were first studied separately by different EMC groups, which were newly born in other technical areas owing to the EMCJ activities. This may have led to the mild decrease in the yearly number of technical reports since 2003 as shown in Fig. 5. As a result, the EMCJ activities, which depend largely upon the general solicitation of technical reports, shrank and began to show the aspect of hollowing. As indicated in Fig. 3, a new learning field draws attention at first, and grows dramatically for a while because many researchers gather to join the field; for study, but the growth tapers off. Such a trend is often seen in new learning fields.

Figure 8 shows the future state of EMCJ activities in the author's view. The mission of the EMCJ is to construct fundamental technologies to provide the world with highly reliable systems [5]. Accordingly, the EMCJ simply continues to contribute to the essential outcomes of EMC in collaboration with different EMC groups in other technical areas incorporated with newly emerging technologies such as information and communications technology (ICT), the

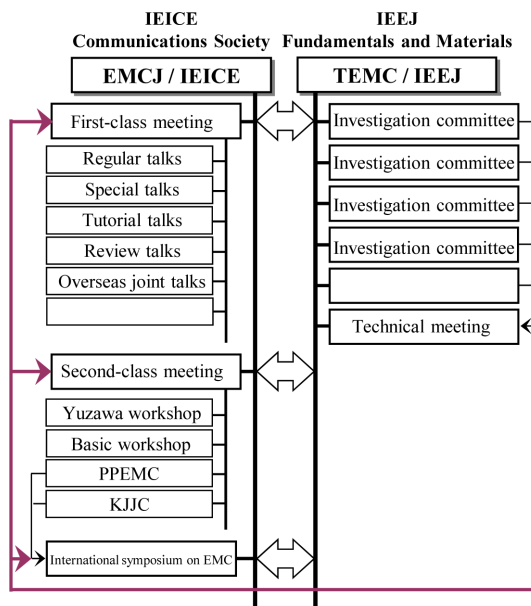


Fig. 9 Future activity forms of EMCJ/IEICE in positive collaboration with TEMC/IEEJ.

Internet of things (IoT), virtual reality (VR), artificial intelligence (AI) and the like. To achieve this effectively, the author proposes that the EMCJ should aggressively collaborate with the TEMC, which has the same purpose but different forms of activities that do not rely on the public call for technical reports. This view is shown in Fig. 9, which is based on the experience of the author who served as chairperson of both of the EMCJ and the TEMC. As described in 2.2, the main research activities of the EMCJ under the IEICE are based on the public solicitation of technical reports and presentations with open discussion, whereas the TEMC of the IEEJ has an individual style of research activities entirely different from the EMCJ; that is to say, the TEMC establishes investigation committees on specific EMC subjects according to the need, and publishes the results as technical investigation reports through closed discussion, although it also holds technical meetings with oral presentations and open discussion on technical reports, which are normally submitted from the investigation committees. Both research policies are just heterogeneous. Such collaboration activities with the TEMC of the IEEJ, which has an activity policy and research territory quite different from the EMCJ, may indeed lead to technological breakthroughs in further complicated EMC issues, and therefore will be indispensable to the EMCJ and the TEMC for further growth and development. As shown in Fig. 9, both committees should more often exchange technical information according to the EMC issues. The first-class meeting of the EMCJ should further be held in collaboration with the TEMC for the purpose of aiming at normalization of English and Japanese of manuscripts or presentations. Second-class meetings including PPEMC and KJJC should also be held in closer cooperation with the TEMC and the EMC colleagues in these Asian areas. EMC standards such as CISPR/IEC, ARIB and VCCI should be provided as a theme by the basic

workshop for the training of young people in this field. These activities described above may enhance the originality and quality of an international symposium on EMC from the aspect of environmental electromagnetic engineering that the EMCJ organizes every 5 years in Japan.

5. Conclusion

In 2017, the IEICE and the EMCJ will celebrate their 100th and 40th anniversary, respectively. By taking this as an opportunity, the establishment process and activity forms of the EMCJ under the IEICE have been reviewed, and the features of EMC studies in Japan have been demonstrated from the survey of technical reports presented over the past 10 years. A private idea has also been provided to show the way of the future EMCJ which should be developed from now on.

As regards an international symposium on EMC, the EMCJ/IEICE is holding one every 5 years, while international conferences and symposia in Europe, USA and Asia except Japan are being held every year. There is also a process by which the state of the symposium in Japan has often been eagerly discussed so far, although the EMCJ has particularly collaborated with the APEMC that holds an international symposium every year. Concerning our own international symposium, however, the author thinks that by deviating from the annual framework, holding one every 5 years in Japan should be kept in order to send research results of EMC pursued from an environmental electromagnetic engineering perspective worldwide.

Besides, it should be noted that there are no examples in foreign countries where a new learning field of “environmental electromagnetic engineering” was founded in Japan by expanding a concept of EMC. Due to such concept expansion, however, confusion has also occurred in the understanding of EMC in Japan, since environmental electromagnetic engineering is still misunderstood to be identical with EMC, despite the fundamental learning field which pursues EMC of all technologies emerging in EM environments. In EMCJ and TEMC, therefore, technical terminologies on EMC and their related terms should be rearranged to be unified for the next generation of EMC researchers, though this had already been pointed out 40 years ago in [1] as one of the future subjects for EMC.

In 2017, the EMCJ will celebrate its 40th anniversary, and is expected to further develop in future.

Acknowledgments

The author thanks all of the present EMCJ staff of Hideaki Sone, EMCJ chair, Osami Wada, EMCJ vice-chair, EMCJ secretaries, EMCJ expert members and EMCJ advisors, who have provided an opportunity to write this paper.

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Appendix

Figure A·1 shows the prospectus of EMCJ, in its original

Prospectus

Recent electronic technologies, which have developed remarkably, provide immeasurable benefits for our lives; however, the increase in the number and kinds of electronic equipment results in the problem of unnecessary electromagnetic (EM) energy, and influence among various equipment. Such unnecessary EM energy not only causes EM disturbances to radio and television but also many measurement systems and automated control systems, damaging them and causing their malfunction. This is likely to lead to serious accidents and endanger human life. In addition, as electromagnetics becomes more involved with human society these days, its influence on humans is becoming a problem. Issues of this kind have deep relations not only with electrical engineering but also other fields of engineering, science, mathematics, sociology, economics, medicine and so on. Consequently, such issues should now be studied as a part of environmental problems by concentrating more of all connected technologies of art and science toward humans. It has been pointed out by many knowledgeable people that academic meetings on such problems are significantly important; unfortunately, however, such activities in Japan still seem inadequate. In foreign countries, on the other hand, such academic activities have really been moving ahead in recent years; each of specialized technical fields is cooperating and is promoting this interdisciplinary study overall. In Japan, which has a high distribution of electronic equipment and depends on the export of industrial goods for its economy, study of this kind should have been conducted well ahead of that in other nations. Given the above-mentioned situation, therefore, establishment of a technical committee on environmental electromagnetics from the aspect of EMC has been demanded by the Institute of Electronics and Communication Engineers (the present IEICE). Now, "environmental electromagnetic engineering" as an academic field can be defined as follows: "environmental electromagnetic engineering is the basic learning field of interdisciplinary study in various fields like engineering, science, medicine, economics and sociology, to serve as a contribution to the effective utilization of EM energy and to the harmonization of EM environment by grasping and predicting the change in the EM ambient environment surrounding the earth and the celestial bodies as well as the state of electric and electronic equipment together with the control method for harmonizing the environment from the proliferation of EM energy utilization." In particular, the IEICE technical committee on environmental electromagnetic engineering named "EMCJ" is expected to widely contribute to a solution of various problems from the aspect of electronic communication technologies.

EMCJ deals with the following fields:

- (1) EM theory in environmental electromagnetic engineering
- (2) Electric circuit theory in environmental electromagnetic engineering
- (3) Logic model of environmental electromagnetic engineering
- (4) Characteristics and their measurement of the origins of EM waves (man-made and urban EM noise, etc.)
- (5) Technologies involving environmental electromagnetic engineering (EM shielding technology, EM noise filter, bonding and unwanted reflection prevention technology, etc.)
- (6) Prediction of EM environment
- (7) Exclusion characteristics of unnecessary EM fields
- (8) Effective utilization of EM frequency spectra
- (9) Society system (electric power, transportation, broadcast, communications information, medical treatment and education, etc.)
- (10) Effects of EM environment on biological effects and ecology

Relations with other technical committees

The following technical committees have a particularly deep relation with the EMCJ:

- Integrated circuit and system theory (electric circuit, logic model and EM noise filter in environmental electromagnetic engineering)
- Microwave (EM theory in environmental electromagnetic engineering, prevention of unnecessary emission and reflection)
- Medical electronics and bioengineering (medical system in environmental electromagnetic engineering and relation between EM fields and biological effects)
- Antenna and propagation (EM noise radiation, unnecessary reflection and measurement of EM environment)

version of December 20, 1977.



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Fig. A·1 Prospectus of technical committee on environmental electromagnetic engineering (its original version on December 20, 1977) [12].