

# Investigating R&D Committee on Oral History Activities

Technical Committee on History of Electrical Engineering

## 1. Objective

In 1993, the Technical Committee on the History of Electrical Engineering and Technology successively set up an expert committee for investigating and promoting oral history activities targeting experts in various fields of electrical engineering and honorary members of the Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan. However, it is necessary to discuss the interview methods utilized during the Coronavirus pandemic or “After Coronavirus,” as well as modes of output with a limited budget. Therefore, the " Investigating R&D Committee on Oral History Activities" will conduct research and other activities with the following objectives:

- 1) Discussion of oral history activity procedures
- 2) Survey of speech-to-text software applications
- 3) Preparation of an activity procedure manual
- 4) Conduct test interviews

## 2. Background and internal and external research activities

- (1) Oral history in science and engineering involves interviewing people involved in research and development, and recording what is not described in research papers, such as the interaction of the minds of the people involved, their interpersonal relationships, and the behind-the-scenes stories about research and development. These interviews and recordings then serve as primary historical documents for research on the history of technology.
- (2) In recent years, it has been recognized that oral history is a powerful method for research on the history of technology, and interviews have been conducted at many institutions in Japan and abroad.
- (3) In Japan, besides the Technical Committee on the History of Electrical Engineering and Technology, many other academic societies and associations are involved in this project, including the Japan Research Industries and Industrial Technology Association, the Society of Automotive Engineers of Japan, the Institute of Image Information and Television Engineers, the Japan Society of Applied Physics, the Society of Instrument and Control Engineers, the Institute of Electronics, the Information Processing Society of Japan, the Illuminating Engineering Institute of Japan, and the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers.  
(Note) The societies listed after the Institute of Image Information and Television Engineers are members of the Committee for the Promotion of Oral History Research, which was established under the auspices of this society. This committee will be dissolved at the end of the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research.
- (4) Overseas, interviews have been conducted at various levels, such as educational institutions, professional organizations, companies, and individuals. The IEEE History Center is particularly famous for its surveys, and its survey records are stored at institutes such as the Smithsonian Institution, the IEEE History Center, and the Charles Babbage Institute. Recently, the website "The Engineering and Technology History Wiki (ETHW)" has also been launched and is being effectively used for research on the history of technology.

### 3. Investigative matters

We shall investigate and decide on the following:

- 1) Discussion of oral history activity procedures
- 2) Survey of speech-to-text software applications
- 3) Preparation of an activity procedure manual
- 4) Consideration of methods for managing other source materials (recording media, archival documents, etc.)
- 5) Conduct test interviews

### 4. Expected effects

- 1) Oral history activity procedures will be developed to enable ongoing activities.
- 2) We will be able to obtain valuable historical materials for the study of the history of electrical technology.
- 3) We will provide guidance on R&D and positively influence the attitudes of young R&D personnel.

### 5. Term of investigation

April 2022 to March 2025 (3 years)

### 6. Committee members

Position	Name	Affiliation	Member/Non-member category of IEEJ
Chairperson	Itaru Nakamura	National Institute of Technology, Kagoshima College	Member
Member	Takahisa Amemiya	Nihon University	Non-member
	Hiroshi Ichihara	Dokkyo University	Non-member
"	Tatsuki Okamoto	Kanto Gakuin University	Member
"	Toshiyuki Kanoh	NEC Corporation	Member
"	Shinichi Sakaida	Japan Broadcasting Corporation	Member
"	Yukiyasu Shirasaka	Hitachi, Ltd.	Member
"	Reiko Takahashi	Toshiba Energy Systems & Solutions Corporation	Member
"	Hideomi Nakamura	The Institute for the History of Science and Technology in Tokyo	Member
"	Masahiro Maejima	The National Museum of Nature and Science	Member
"	Eiju Matsumoto	Society of Historical Metrology, Japan	Member
"	Tadao Minagawa	Mitsubishi Electric Corporation	Member
"	Toru Murakami	East Japan Railway Company	Member
"	Jyunichi Yamaguchi	Kagawa University	Member
Secretary	Satoshi Marushima	Toshiba Energy Systems & Solutions Corporation	Member

### 7. Activity schedule

Committee meetings: 4 times/year

### 8. Reporting format

The findings of this committee will be reported in a symposium at a national conference.

(Reason)

By disseminating the findings at a national conference symposium, a wide range of engineers and researchers will be

exposed to the oral history activities that have been conducted by the Technical Committee on the History of Electrical Engineering and Technology for more than 20 years. Moreover, they will gain a deeper understanding of the benefits of these activities. This will enhance the presence of the IEEJ. Furthermore, we anticipate that this mode of information dissemination will lead to an increase in the number of members who join the society to browse the historical records of these activities, which will contribute to society.