
EDITORIAL

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We present Electrical Insulation News in Asia (EINA), No. 5, in which the latest activities of some technical committees of IEEJ including a Dielectrics and Electrical Insulation (DEI) committee and investigation committees of the DEI committee and several international meetings of technical exchange between Asian countries, and others are reported.

After the DEI committee of IEEJ had investigated scientific and industrial activities related to DEI in Asia for two years, a cooperative committee on EINA was established at 1994, and EINAs have been published and presented to researchers in Asia annually. I think activities of the DEI and cooperative committees for the purpose of promoting an international exchange between Asian countries are more progressive than those of the other committees of IEEJ. The international exchange of technical information related to DEI has been going well by holding international conferences of technical exchange in Asia as described in EINAs. On the other hand, the number of foreign students studying in Japan, which is an important prop for international cultural exchange between Japan and Asia, had shown a tendency to increase steadily year after year. However, it turned to decrease after it showed a maximum of 53,787 at 1996, because the number of the students studying abroad at their own expense accounted for the majority of the students was decreased especially. The main reasons are considered to be the change of needs for studying abroad caused by better preparation or improvement of the institutions of higher education in Asia and the latest severe business depression in Japan and Asia. Considering about 90% of the foreign students studying in Japan come from Asia at present, the international cultural exchange of the students between Asia and Japan including our University should be reviewed in the future.



Today, Japanese business is suffering from a serious slump, and we have no idea when our business recovery will come. Since we have built up a world leading business situation based on the manufacturing ability of many industrial products including high technologies, we should promote to develop new technologies and products in those strong fields and make way for our business recovery. As to DEI technology, it can be considered that we have high research level in the world and our technologies are perfectly matched to those of USA and Europe. To continue contributing to technology development in Asia, the advancement of all engineer's creativity and applicability to the field of DEI will be more desirable. Close cooperation between industries and universities in Japan and between Asian countries is more important for that purpose.

EINA is dispatched from Japan at present. I think it would be preferable if Asian researchers partake in the edition of EINA or the essence of outstanding Japanese and Asian technologies related to DEI is introduced in EINA. I hope EINA will act as a superior medium of communication between Asian countries.

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