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IEC YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NEWSLETTER



GO AHEAD, GET AHEAD



Nanda Kishore Pamidi: Success story from India

Nanda Kishore Pamidi – IEC YP 2012 from India, participates in IEC SC 23E WGs 1 and 2 and member of a task force in IEC SC 17

I started my career as an Edison engineer at GE (General Electrics) working in multiple departments on a rotational basis in Design and Test labs. My first work was on miniature circuit breakers, but later I moved into appliances.

After about two and a half years at GE, I joined UL (Underwriters Laboratories) India (a certification agency) to build a green field lab according to IEC (IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components) requirements, which would later become a CBTL (Certification Body Testing Laboratory) in PROT (Installation protective equipment) and POW (Low voltage, high power switching equipment) areas.

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Japan's IEC YP programme: YPJ

Hiroaki Fujioka, IEC 2012 YP from Japan and YPJ in 2013

In 2011, one year after the launch of the IEC Young Professionals programme, the JNC (Japanese National Committee) started to plan its national programme to reach out to the young and upcoming engineers and managers in Japan. After a year of preparation, the first term of YPJ, the Young Professional Japan Programme, was launched in June 2012. We have now had a total of over 60 Japanese experts join in four terms of this fruitful programme. Though most of our members are from electrotechnical manufacturers, YPJ also includes some members from certification bodies, testing laboratories and public institutes. About half of them are from the R&D divisions in their organizations.

The YPJ consists of two parts. One is 10 to 12 lecture-style lessons. The other is three or four lessons as part of site visits. Each lesson is half-day long and held once a week for about four months. There is no charge.

The lecture-style sessions include the basic presentations lectures given by a former IEC SMB (Standardization Management Board) member as a principal lecturer, for a total seven lessons per term. Topics cover SDOs (Standard Development Organizations), processes of standardization, WTO/GP (World Trade Organization/Government Procurement) and WTO/TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade),

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Building IEC awareness across the company



Andaç Pamuk, IEC 2011 and 2013 YP from Turkey, joined IEC TC 108 meeting in Tokyo

I am Head of the Product Safety and Certification Department in Vestel, a giant electronics consumer, household and lighting appliances manufacturer, where I have been working since 2007. My department, Vestel Product Safety and Certification, is responsible for testing all products according to related IEC Standards, and then certifying them under the IECEE conformity assessment scheme. In 2010, as I was following the work within the standards world, I decided that I would take one step further and jump into standardization work.

The first thing I did was to investigate the ways of joining the standardization process. Applying and being accepted for the IEC Young Professionals programme in 2011 happened just after I envisioned a career in standardization. It was a good opportunity for me to see the IEC world from inside the organization. This experience helped me make many friends from different sectors and cultures – we are all standing on common ground, the IEC. I have also met many IEC officers and technical experts with whom I've had useful conversations. I still have friends, officers and experts that I continue to communicate with. Sometimes we just ask each other if we feel good today, and sometimes we ask one another's opinions on technical issues. All the remarkable experiences I had during the IEC YP workshop made me more motivated to be involved in standardization work.

After the IEC YP workshop, I had some meetings with my managers. As a YP who now knew the IEC better than before, I explained the importance of standardization together with conformity assessment and convinced them to become involved in standardization work. Then I joined MTC 38, a Turkish Mirror Committee related to my expertise and I organized some internal training sessions among the experts in my department to help them better understand the IEC. I also encouraged them to join the Turkish mirror committees and IEC technical committees. I was also responsible for an interview in the IEC *e-tech* magazine with our CTO (Chief Technical Officer) about how my company is involved in, and will continue to be with IEC Standards and Conformity Assessment schemes. This interview is published in the January/February 2014 IEC *e-tech* Magazine and you can access it here: [link](#).

Now I have applied to participate in the IEC TC 108 meeting, which I believe will be the start of my company's involvement in IEC standardization work. I expect that not only me, but also all other experts from my company who are willing to join Technical Committees, will soon take positions in standardization activities. You can find a video of Andaç at the following [link](#).

IEC YP increases involvement in Norway



Jon-Steinar Hanstad, IEC 2013 YP from Norway, member of the Norwegian mirror Committee of IEC TC 64

I started using standards as a trained electrician, and continued to do so for the rest of my education. Now working at NELFO, the trade organization for electrical contractors in Norway, I use standards on a daily basis. At NELFO I look after the technical side of a computer programme called FEBDOK.

FEBDOK has been developed over the last 20 years – it is used as a calculation tool for our members. The programme calculates voltage drop, short circuit currents, UPS systems, generators. It has an extensive database of several thousand breakers, cables and busbars. The software is based on a lot of different IEC Standards, such as IEC 60909 and IEC 60364. The fact that IEC 60364 applies to many countries gives us the opportunity to sell our software across the Norwegian border.

Besides working with FEBDOK, I am involved in electrical safety projects, EV (Electric Vehicle) charging, and standardization. In our organization, we aim to help our members the best we can, meaning we always have to be up-to-date on the standards for our industry. My involvement in standardization work grew after the IEC General Meeting in New Delhi, where I participated as an IEC Young Professional. I am now a member of the national mirror committee of TC 64. TC 64 works with electrical low voltage installations, which covers a huge area of our industry.

The IEC workshop opened my eyes to the impact that the IEC Standards have. We surround ourselves with standardized items every day, and they contribute to the world being a safer and more eco-friendly place to live. At the IEC Young Professionals workshop, not only did I learn a lot about the standardization process, but I appreciated meeting a lot of interesting people and broadening my network.

You can find a video of Jon-Steinar at the following [link](#).

Japan's IEC YP programme: YPJ

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the art of negotiation, business case studies and discussions after the lectures, sometimes in English. The remaining lectures are given by current SMB, CAB (Conformity Assessment Board) and MSB (Market Strategy Board) members, and TC/SC (Technical Committee/Subcommittee) chairs, secretaries and experts.

The site visits are to three or four technical sites of enterprises and industrial associations related to standardization and conformity assessment. Some of us also have participated in Japanese TC/SC mirror committees and some members have joined IEC TC/SC WG meetings and plenaries as registered experts or observers.

After completing the programme, the JNC has also provided follow-up training sessions for all the YPJ graduates every three months. If you are thinking of setting up an IEC YP programme in your country, here are four recommendations that we believe will help to make it successful.

Firstly, you could ask a person who has a lot of experience in IEC activities, such as a SMB member, a TC/SC Chairman/Secretary or a WG Convener, to be the principal lecturer. This is important because standardization work contains a wide variety of roles such as developing standards, attending international meetings, lobbying, negotiation and other social interaction.

Secondly, we find it effective to have an intensive program. This approach helps participants to boost their abilities and gives them the basic skills needed for the standardization work in a short time frame.

Thirdly, it is better to limit the number of participants per session so that they can actively exchange opinions with each other and lecturers.

Finally and more importantly, if you can help young professionals to have support and understanding from their companies/organizations so that they can join as many lessons as possible it makes for a more successful programme. At the YPJ for example, as one of the requirements for the enrolment, JNC has requested that supervisors submit a recommendation letter that assures

such support including a plan to engage young professionals in standardization work in the near future. Thanks to that, the young professionals' attendance rate at YPJ is more than 90%. I highly encourage you to organize an IEC YP programme in your country and personally wish you all the best with it!

Now, I would like to share my views based on the experience during the IEC YP programme in 2012, the programme literally broadened my world. I was impressed by a lot of experienced young professionals from other countries, and able to relativize my performance. That experience made me come to think of my business with a wider and more global vision. Now I strongly feel the importance of experiences in the international standardization field.

Both the IEC YP and YPJ gave us a chance to make connections with other young professionals who have strong passions. In my personal opinion, it can still be difficult for young generations to be recognized by their companies and to show the value of their standardization work to their companies because even though the benefits are tangible, it may take some time for this work to contribute to their business profits. However, interacting with other young professionals can inspire and encourage them to be involved in standardization actively. One of the things I highly appreciated of being able to attend both the IEC YP programme and YPJ was the blend of business-oriented courses with general courses on IEC and standardization.

YPJ is planned and organized by collaboration of the government, METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) and the industries, IEC APC* (Activity Promotion Committee). Thus the contents of the programme is really close to business/industries. For example, we share the stories of experiences of standardization, including both success and failure. These help us to understand how standardization is actually going on, and what is really needed in the field.

The IEC YP programme provides the YPs with some "international" experiences such as observing actual IEC meetings, having an official dinner with experienced members and so on. I believe the IEC YP programme is a great opportunity for us to challenge what we have learned in YPJ.

*IEC APC was established as a committee to promote standardization among its members, like the industrial association in Japan, more than ten years ago.



Success story from India

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In 2010, I joined Schneider in the verification and validation field, ensuring the products released by Schneider adhere to respective standards.

I moved to new position last year as Manager of Labs in Schneider India R&D. As a manager, I'm responsible for ensuring the products are tested according to the standards (most of them IEC) and ensure the quality of the products developed in research and development.

On a day-to-day basis, our labs test products ranging from circuit breakers, low-voltage (LV) panels, busways, switches and sockets, wiring accessories, network connectivity products, communication devices, all according to IEC and other International standards.

I received an opportunity from our National Committee to study the harmonization of the national and IEC standard for residual breakers. I utilized my experience to the fullest extent and ultimately proposed moving forward for harmonization.

After that, our NC nominated me for the 2012 IEC Young Professionals programme in Oslo, Norway. That experience gave me a great exposure to the structure of the IEC and its working culture.

Considering my contribution to multiple areas of LV breaker and surge protection device standards, I became member of India National Committee BIS ET07. Later, I was nominated for membership in WGs (Working groups) 1 and 2 of IEC SC 23E, which works on standards for circuit breakers for household and human protection.

IEC SC 23E works on standards intended for circuit breakers and residual current devices of rated currents not exceeding 125A and rated voltages not exceeding 440V for protection against over-current and/or electric shock in domestic and similar installations. WGs 1 and 2 are highly diversified, global experts who have a forward looking vision while improving the standards.

They also take into account the constraints the broader international community has, while upgrading or formulating standards. I would describe them as "young-at-heart experts".

Since I use IEC standards for testing in my labs on daily basis, I took my membership as an opportunity to discuss the intent and to understand the sometimes grey areas of standards.

My first meeting in WGs 1 and 2 was in Moscow in May 2013.

There, I had a specific agenda of bringing forward India's viewpoint in the WG meeting. My IEC YP workshops (especially the mock WG discussion and participation in one real WG meeting) helped me to understand the operational dynamics of IEC work, which I used to the maximum possible extent.

For example, I remember how much a coffee break meeting helps in IEC YP workshops!). Because of my YP experience, I was able to hit the road running and convince my fellow WG experts and was able to bring change to the IEC 60898-1 standard.

Now I'm also a member of a task force that is working to introduce aluminium conductors for LV switchgear testing in SC 17 committee.

In my daily work I see the IEC as a career opportunity for my team, and I push them to contribute to various sections in the IEC, including standards and CTL (Committee of Testing Laboratories) decisions and make it part of their career.

I would like to thank my mentor, Gajendra Babu, who helped me by providing opportunities whenever he could and my employer, Schneider Electric, for providing great support that encourages my participation in IEC work.

Something to share?

If you have news or a success story to share with other Young Professionals, please send it to Robert McLaren.

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