

Workshop Participants



Hiroshi Asano, Gifu University, Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry

Prof. Asano received the B.Eng., M.Eng. and D.Eng. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tokyo. He is presently a professor at Gifu University, Research Advisor, the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI) and Tokyo Institute of Technology, Cross-ministerial Strategic Innovation Promotion Program "Smart Energy Management Systems," Research Fellow, Waseda University, and Board member, Chubu Electric Power Grid Company, Incorporated. He served on Japanese government energy policy committees including the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Green Innovation Strategy. His research interests include systems analysis of demand response, smart grid, and distributed energy resources integration and power markets. Dr. Asano has been a member of CIGRE, IEEE, and IAEE, and IEEJ, and is the past president of JSER.



Chien-fei Chen, Clemson University

Dr. Chien-fei Chen is professor of sociology at the department of sociology, anthropology, and criminal justice, Clemson University. Chen's research centers on environmental sociology, energy justice and policy, and renewable energy technology adoption and community engagement. Her goals are to conduct interdisciplinary research in integrating social-technological aspects of building efficiency and sustainability, E.V. and solar adoption, power grid resilience, and energy justice for underserved communities, providing practical knowledge to academics, communities, utilities, and policymakers. Dr. Chen is involved with several international and interdisciplinary networks. She has research awards from NSF and Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, including two large scale NSF projects: "Advancing Human-Centered Sociotechnical Research to Enable Independent Mobility in People with Physical Disabilities," and "Strengthening American Infrastructure: Community-centered decision making Framework for Microgrid Deployment to Enhance Energy Justice and Power System Resilience." Dr. Chen received a 2019-2020 Fulbright U.S. and U.K. Global Scholar Awards for her energy justice work.



Brad Day, University of Tennessee

Brad Day is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Innovation Initiatives and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Integrity and Assurance at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He joined the university in November 2021 and his primary responsibilities lie in the development of new, cross-disciplinary, research activities which capture the strengths, and opportunities of faculty at UT. In this role, he focuses on convergence research activities to eliminate traditionally siloed, disciplinary-focused, research and innovation in health, medicine, energy, and the environment. Prior to joining UT, Brad was a Foundation Professor at Michigan State University where his re-search focused on the molecular-genetic regulation of plant immune signaling. His past professional experiences include 1 year as a Program Director at the National Science Foundation. Prior to 2006, he was a NIH-funded postdoctoral scholar at UC-Berkeley (2002-2005) and an NSF-postdoc at the National Institute of Agroenvironmental Resources in Tsukuba, Japan (1999-2021). He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Eric Dobson, Community Equity Partners

Dr. Eric Dobson is the Managing Partner of Community Equity Partners, a venture capital investment company. He has led investments in 52 companies totaling over \$20M. He is the founder of the Sheltowee CleanTech Fund I, LLC, a clean technology focused investment fund. And, he is the founder and Managing Partner of the Sheltowee Ventures Fund II, LP, a medical innovation venture capital. He is the Managing Partner of the Community Equity Partners Fund III, LLC, which plans to raise and invest \$30M in the next 10 years. He has a key role in deal sourcing, due diligence, private placement, and syndication. With 30 years' experience in research, entrepreneurship, and venture capital financing, he has an extensive background in technology innovation, licensing, and commercialization. Dr. Dobson is a Lecturer at the University of Tennessee in the Tickle School of Engineering where he teaches entrepreneurship. Dr. Dobson earned his B.A. from the University of Tennessee in 1991, and his M.S. (1993) and Ph.D. (1998) in Geography, Geographic Information Systems, and Satellite Image Analysis from the University of South Carolina.



Ryoichi Hara, Hokkaido University

Ryoichi Hara received his Ph.D. from Hokkaido University in 2003. He served as an assistant professor at Yokohama National University from April 2003 to March 2006. Since then, he has been an associate professor at the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, Hokkaido University. His primary research focus is on electric power system engineering, particularly on the harmonization of bulk power systems and renewable energy resources. Additionally, he has been a member of the steering committee for the International Microgrid Symposiums since 2009.



Yoshihiro Hirata, Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.

Yoshihiro Hirata is the Deputy General Manager of Nissan-Sumiden Energy System R&D Center, Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd. and in charge of R&D strategic planning. He'd received B.M. and M.E. from the University of Tokyo and Ph.D. from Tohoku University. He engaged in the application of Synchrotron Radiation from 1988 to 2009, and received the 34th Ichimura Industrial Prize and the 51st Okochi Technology Prize. Since 2010, he has been in charge of strategic planning for smart energy solutions, BESS, VPP, VGI, etc. He initiated the redox flow battery project in San Diego supported by NEDO, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization.



Ichiro Hongo, Daikin Industries, LTD.

Ichiro Hongo has been an adviser at the Technology and Innovation Center of Daikin Industries since 2023. Before joining Daikin, Ichiro worked for Toshiba, Toshiba Carrier and Toshiba Carrier North America, Inc., for HVAC R&D activities as general manager, director, and president. Also, he was a Chairman of the Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Association, 2014-2016, steering committee member of EPEE (The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment) (2014-2016 and 2019-2023 and Executive Director of Japan Society of Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (2003-2007). Ichiro has a B.S. and master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Tokyo.



Hideo Ishii, Waseda University

Hideo Ishii joined Tokyo Electric Power Company, TEPCO in 1988. He was a visiting scientist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1989 to 1991. He received Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo in 1996. From 2010, he has been engaged in some major smart grid related National projects in Japan as an organizer. He is now a Professor with Advanced Collaborative Research Organization for Smart Society, ACROSS at Waseda University. His current activity is in the Electric Energy System, especially regarding Demand Response, DR and integration of distributed energy resources, DER including renewable energy. He has been leading DR standards in Japan. Since August 2020, he has been a Chair of IEC TC 8 SC 8C. Since December 2023, he has been a visiting researcher at National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, AIST.



Nobuhiko Itaya, Mitsubishi Electric

Nobuhiko Itaya has been involved in the development of power system management systems since joining Mitsubishi Electric Corporation in 1987. In recent years, he has been working on issues such as reducing the cost of power system equipment and improving power quality in power systems with a high proportion of renewable energy.



Mingzhou Jin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Mingzhou Jin is a John D. Tickle Professor and the department head of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, UT. He directs the Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment, ISSE for UTK and is the PI for the Center for Freight Transportation for Efficient & Resilient Supply Chain, FERSC, a DOT/UTC tier-1 center. His research interests include sustainability, climate change, building environment, operations research, additive and smart manufacturing, clean energy and energy efficiency, supply chain, logistics, transportation, and data analytics. His research has been well sponsored with more than \$20 million in grants and contracts from a broad spectrum of federal, and local government agencies and corporations. He is a fellow of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers, IISE and was IISE Regional Vice President from 2018 to 2020. Currently, he is the Editor-in-Chief for Cleaner and Circular Bioeconomy, the Editor-in-Chief for the Engineering Economist, and the executive editor of the Journal of Cleaner Production.



Akihisa Kaneko, Waseda University

Akihisa Kaneko received B.E., M.E., and Ph.D. degrees in engineering from Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, in 2016, 2018, and 2021, respectively. He is currently an Assistant Professor with the Advanced Collaborative Research Organization for Smart Society, ACROSS, Waseda University. His current research interests include the operation and control of distribution and transmission systems with renewable energy sources.



Tomoko Kawakami, Waseda University

Tomoko Kawakami is a Professor of Marketing and Social Innovation at Waseda Business School in Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Kawakami was a visiting scholar and an affiliate professor at Foster School of Business, University of Washington, U.S.A., the Otto Mønsted professor at Copenhagen Business School, Denmark, a visiting scholar of Blue Ocean Strategy Institute, INSEAD, France, and a visiting scholar at Shidler College of Business, University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is an editorial review board member of the Journal of Product Innovation Management and Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Marketing and Distribution. She was selected as one of the top 100 Research Active Scholars in Asia. Her work appears in the Journal of Product Innovation Management, Industrial Marketing Management, and Creativity and Innovation Management among others. She was the associate dean of Waseda Business School and serves as an outside board for two Japanese companies. She is teaching business creation courses at the Power Energy Professional, PEP training program and Waseda Center for a Carbon Neutral Society at Waseda University. Her research interests include various topics such as sustainable brand strategy, responsible innovation, and diffusion of innovations.



Makiko Naemura, Hitachi Industrial Equipment systems Co., Ltd.

Makiko Naemura is director of connected products business at Hitachi Industrial Equipment System, the core company of Hitachi Group's industrial sector, in this position she promotes sustainable growth and recurring revenue in the industrial sector. From 1999 to 2002, she had a position in Santa Clara CA, in the R&D department of Hitachi America Ltd., where she was involved in the research and development of Location Based Services, and took courses in marketing and entrepreneurship at Stanford University. After returning to Japan, she was involved in the development of M2M and IoT devices, launched a business for lifecycle management of products by making them connected. She also served as the chairman of the Smart Manufacturing Special Committee of the Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association, JEMA and is the secretary of IVI and the chief of the Generative AI Advanced Research Subcommittee.



Chen-ching Liu, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Professor Liu is American Electric Power Research Professor and Director Emeritus at Virginia Tech's Power and Energy Center. Prior, he was faculty at University of Washington, Iowa State University, University College Dublin (Ireland), and Washington State University. Professor Liu received an IEEE Third Millennium Medal in 2000 and the Power and Energy Society Outstanding Power Engineering Educator Award in 2004. He chaired IEEE Power and Energy Society Fellow Committee, Technical Committee on Power System Analysis, Computing and Economics, and Outstanding Power Engineering Educator Award Committee. Professor Liu is the U.S. representative on the CIGRE Study Committee D2, Information Systems, Telecommunications and Cybersecurity. He received the Dale Douglass Award for Technical Achievement, U.S. National Committee, CIGRE, in 2024 and recognized with a Doctor Honoris Causa by Polytechnic University of Bucharest, Romania, 2013, and K. T. Li Chair Professorship Award from National Cheng-Kung University, Taiwan, in 2023. Dr. Liu was a visiting professor at The University of Tokyo and Waseda University as a TEPCO Chair. He is an IEEE Life Fellow member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering.



Alan Meier, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Davis

Alan Meier is a Senior Scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at the University of California, Davis. He earned his Ph.D. in Energy & Resources from UC Berkeley after completing degrees in chemistry and economics. He spent four years as a senior advisor at the International Energy Agency and one year as a research fellow at Waseda University (Tokyo). Meier's research focuses on understanding how energy is transformed into useful services and the opportunities to use energy more efficiently. His research on standby power use in appliances led him to propose an international plan to reduce standby in all devices to less than 1 watt, which was internationally adopted (and now surpassed). Meier is an expert on the energy use of consumer electronics, energy test procedures for appliances, and policies to promote energy efficiency. He was the author of the IEA publication *Saving Electricity in a Hurry* and has advised governments on strategies to deal with temporary electricity shortages. Recently, he developed methods to use Internet-connected devices to track power outages. Now he is studying how to design appliances to adjust their load according to the price of electricity and other grid signals.



Erin Rose, MSSW, LLM Human Rights

Erin Rose is co-founder and VP of Social Equity at Three3. As a social scientist, Ms. Rose designs and conducts research studies using systems change theory and mixed methods to advance transformative outcomes across sectors. She is the lead author and project manager of a series of energy burden studies for the U.S. Department of Energy, as well as a series of non-energy impact (NEI) studies for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Ms. Rose also collaborates with community members and groups to design and implement participatory research. Over the years, she has worked on a number of community-driven research and evaluation projects assessing health equity, food, housing, energy insecurity, and community resilience. As part of her work, Ms. Rose has co-created equity and justice-oriented frameworks that serve to guide the design and implementation of demonstration projects and research. Ms. Rose has a Master of Science in Social Work degree from UT, Knoxville with a concentration in evidence-informed practice and policy, and a Master of Laws in International Human Rights (LLM) from the University of Edinburgh; she completed her legal dissertation on metrics and indicators associated with the Human Right to Adequate Housing.



Katsuya Sakai, Osaka University

Katsuya Sakai is a Specially Appointed Lecturer at Osaka University, Japan. He received his Doctor of Engineering in Civil Engineering from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 2015. After working as a postdoctoral fellow at Kobe University, he joined National Taiwan University as an Assistant Professor in 2017 and moved to his current position in 2021. His research focuses on infrastructure planning, traffic assignment, congestion management theory, and electric vehicle systems.



Yoshiyuki Shimoda, Osaka University

Dr. Shimoda is Professor, Urban Energy System Laboratory, Division of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University. Since June 2022, he is Director-General of Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth. He received his B.E., M.E., and D.E. Degrees in Environmental Engineering from Osaka University, Osaka, Japan, in 1985, 1987, 1990, respectively. In 2001, he was a visiting scholar at Energy and Environmental Technology Division of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He has been engaged in research on urban energy system modeling, energy demand forecasting, and global warming mitigation measures in the building sector. In 2014-2017, he joined IEA-EBC Annex 63 Implementation of Energy Strategies in Communities. He is Chair, Global Environment Committee of the Central Environment Council, Japan and sub-program director of Smart Energy Management System, Cross-ministerial Strategic Innovation Promotion Program, Cabinet Office, Japan. He currently is a member of Science Council of Japan and president of Japan Society of Energy and Resources. In 2010, he was awarded Best Paper from Japan Society of Energy and Resources. In 2020, he was awarded Research Paper Division of Architectural Institute of Japan prize for A Series of Studies on Urban Energy Systems. In 2023, he was named a fellow of the International Building Performance Simulation Association.



Benoit Tani, Schneider Electric

Dr. Benoit TANI holds a PhD from the National Center for Scientific Research, CNRS in micro and nanotechnologies, focusing on advanced telecommunications. His 12 years at Schneider Electric span R&D roles in France and China, with extensive international experience, including short term missions to Japan. He currently leads Digital Buildings R&D at Schneider Electric in China, driving innovation in Digital & sustainable buildings. When not working, he enjoys exploring the rich cul-ture of Asia with his family.



Kenji Tateiwa, Agile Energy X, Inc.

Kenji Tateiwa is CEO of Agile Energy X, Inc., an in-house venture of TEPCO Power Grid. Kenji re-ceived his bachelor's and master's degrees in nuclear engineering from Kyoto University and has an MBA from Stanford University. Since joining Tokyo Electric Power Company in 1996, he has worked in the nuclear division, designing next-generation nuclear reactor and spearheading an international nuclear new-build project in Texas. After coping with the Fukushima Nuclear Acci-dent in 2011, Kenji proposed an "Antifragile" strategy aimed at revitalizing TEPCO. The Antifragile strategy, including a concept to utilize Bitcoin mining as a flexible power demand that could har-ness "wasted" renewable energy and could optimize the power grid system, culminated in his founding of Agile Energy X in 2022.



Naoki Toda, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc.

Naoki Toda is the Chief Economist of TEPCO Research Institute, TRI. He joined the Tokyo Electric Power Company, TEPCO in 1985, after graduating from the University of Tokyo's Faculty of Engi-neering. He has been involved for a long time in the electricity market design in Japan. He was awarded Specialist S grade in TEPCO, for his knowledge of the Power System Economics gained in the course of his career. His research focuses on the electricity market design. In particular, he focuses on modification of the market design in response to the significant change of the environ-ment surrounding the electricity supply industry from the start of the market reform.



Kevin Tomsovic, Clemson University

Dr. Tomsovic is executive director of Clemson University Restoration Institute (CURI), Duke Energy Endowed Chair in Smart Grid Technology and professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He is an IEEE Fellow and new member of the National Academy of Engineering. He received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering at Michigan Technological University and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from University of Washington. Dr. Tomsovic's areas of interest include intelligent systems and optimization methodologies applied to various power system problems, including distribution system design, electricity market analysis, equipment diagnostics and maintenance, operation of dispersed energy resources, production scheduling, and stabilization control.



Michael Walton, General Manager, Energy Transition Finance

Michael Walton is an energy transition thought-leader with 20 years of experience in sustainable development, clean tech mentoring, and strategic consulting. He is the managing partner at Energy Transition Finance, adept in helping clients build a strong financial, environmental, and community-benefit strategy as well as guiding them through complex federal funding processes, particularly with the U.S. Department of Energy. His clientele has included prestigious organizations such as Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Mitsubishi Power Americas, US DOE Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy, US Government Services Agency, Generation Investment Management, US Green Building Council, Cummins, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Recognized for his sustainability leadership, Michael has received accolades from the Mayor of Washington DC, the Governor of Tennessee, and was selected for the Harvard Business School Young American Leaders Program.



Yohei Yamaguchi, Osaka University

Yohei Yamaguchi is an Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, where he has been in his current position since April 2015. His research interests include the development of modeling methods for energy demand of building stock and the application of the developed models to climate change mitigation analysis. His research deals with 1 stochastic modeling of people's daily activities, 2 analysis of people's activities and habits, 3 modeling and management of energy demand of community/building stock, and 4 climate change mitigation analysis.



Takamitsu Yasukouchi, Panasonic

Takamitsu Yasukouchi is general manager of Panasonic's liaison department, which promotes energy and environment businesses in Japan. He interfaces with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, METI, the Ministry of the Environment, Tokyo Metropolis and all corresponding research establishments and universities to promote battery storage systems, solar cells, and sustainable energy management for microgrid communities. Yasukouchi has been involved in developing the first Japanese microgrid community with METI and promoting nationwide LED migration with government politicians, ministries and municipalities. He also serves as the smart grid committee leader of the Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association, JEMA and speaks at various seminars on energy and environmental topics.



Shinya Yoshizawa, Osaka University

Shinya Yoshizawa is an Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University. He received his PhD in Engineering from Waseda University in 2016 and has been working in his current position since February 2024. His research interests focus on the development of a sector coupling model between distribution and transportation networks, the integration of distributed energy resources, DER, and the operation and control of active distribution systems.