

IEC Young Professionals Workshop Report

San Francisco, US – 31 October to 4 November 2022

Prepared for the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Standards New Zealand, the Electricity Engineer's Association and the IEC National Committee of New Zealand

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MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



STANDARDS
NEW ZEALAND
TE MANA TAUTIKANGA O AOTEAROA



Electricity Engineers'
Association



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Appendix A – Workshop Schedule

1 Introduction

The IEC's Young Professionals (YP) Workshop is their answer to the challenge faced by many technical organisations: how to engage and inspire the next generation of experts.

The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) YP Programme for 2022 included 85 delegates from 43 different countries around the world. For the first time in its history, the IEC General Assembly offered an opportunity for Young Professionals to share their ideas with the IEC community. In a session entitled *Future perspectives from the IEC Young Professionals*, three YPs presented the feedback generated on topics related to IEC activities using a variety of media, including videos and websites.

We (Cameron and Tom) are grateful to have had the opportunity to represent New Zealand at the IEC's 2022 Young Professionals Workshop. Thanks to the IEC National Committee of New Zealand (NCNZ), MBIE, Standards New Zealand (SNZ), the EEA (Electricity Engineers' Association) and our employers, Mitton ElectroNet and Beca, for their support.

Tom is an industrial electrical and controls engineer at Beca who specialises in hazardous area (explosive atmosphere) classification and design. Cameron is an electrical engineer at Mitton ElectroNet where he leads a team of substation design engineers.

The purpose of our report is to

- document what we did;
- share our experiences and learnings;
- plan what we'll do in the future as IEC YPs; and
- make recommendations to MBIE, SNZ, EEA, NCNZ and our employers.

2 Workshop Summary

A summary of the workshop schedule is given below, a full schedule is included in Appendix A.

Date	Time	Activity
Sunday 30 October	19:30 – 21:30	Welcome gathering
Monday 31 October	08:00 - 17:00	YP Workshop activities
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch with SMB and CAB members
	18:30 - 21:00	Opening Ceremony & Welcome Reception
Tuesday 1 November	07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast with NCNZ
	09:00 - 17:00	TC/SC meeting observation Standard in a day bootcamp
Wednesday 2 November	09:00 - 17:00	Conformity Assessment bootcamp
Thursday 3 November	AM	Industry visit to University of California, Berkeley
	08:00 - 17:00	YP Workshop activities
	19:30 - 22:00	YP Dinner
Friday 4 November	08:00 - 17:00	YP Workshop activities
	19:00 – 22:00	Farewell party

3 Highlights & Takeaways

3.1 Cameron

3.1.1 Highlights

- **University of California, Berkeley** – the YP Programme included a visit to UC Berkeley campus, where the YP group visited the Engineering Faculty. There were tours of two laboratories; structural engineering and robotics. The structural engineering department at UC Berkeley works collaboratively with the civil engineering department at the University of Canterbury. This partnership has been developed due to the natural environment of both regions – both being situated on highly active seismic areas. One area of particular interest is the development of vegetation control for power utilities. The department is developing mapping and scanning technology utilising LIDAR and laser to inform utilities of vegetation that is growing within power line exclusion zones. The technology can provide information on the locations and volume of vegetation that needs to be removed. This project is hoping to be able to use data captured by other services, such as self-driving cars, which are continuously gathering this information.

The visit provided valuable insights into research and development that is happening abroad and is particularly relevant to our industries in New Zealand.

- **Team Project & Presentation** – the cohort of YPs were assigned one of five project groups to develop a presentation on a topic. The topic assigned to my group was *How can the IEC Advisory Committee on Energy Efficiency (ACEE) contribute to further enhancing and deploying IEC publications on energy efficiency, in line with the UN Sustainable Goals*. The first challenge of the project was to decipher the problem statement. The topic embodies many different aspects, and to clearly define the problem statement was a difficult task. A team of engineers and leaders naturally want to jump to the answer, so it was important to keep the team focussed on the problem defined. All project groups were challenged to develop their presentations in an innovative method. Our team chose to make a five-minute video to demonstrate the problem, the pain points and the call to action. The key theme developed in the video, is that sustainability is created by diversity of thought at strategic levels and bringing the perspectives of YPs into this is an important aspect.
- **Networking** – the whole week was full of opportunities to connect with professionals from all over the world. A few of the interesting connections that I made:
 - Jonathan Colby (USA – Chair TC114). Jonathan was involved with the YP programme during the week, including being host for the visit to UC Berkeley (he is a former student). I had a deeper conversation with Jonathan to understand more about TC114, the committee on tidal energy. My final year project at university researched methods for interconnecting tidal generators. The discovery of our overlapping experience and interests has sparked into further communication on potential involvement in TC114.
 - Pitso Sekhoto (South Africa - YP 2022). Pitso is an engineer at Eskom in South Africa. We both work in the power industry, so struck up a conversation about our work. We soon discovered that we had a further connection – one of my colleagues in New Zealand is an old close classmate of Pitso's from University in South Africa. The world of electricity and standards surely is small!
 - Marie-Elisabeth d'Ornano (France – IEC CAB member). I was lucky enough to have lunch with Marie-Elisabeth during the SMB/CAB lunch activity. It was super interesting to learn about how big of an industry there is for conformity assessment. Marie-Elisabeth is responsible for a number of certification bodies in France and Europe.

3.1.2 Takeaways

- Sustainability of the organisation is a key strategic driver for the IEC. This is evident from the investment in the YP Programme, the dedication to aligning with the UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and the diversity of thought that is common across Boards and Technical Committees.



- Standards development takes time. There are many stakeholders involved in the process to ensure that their positions are protected during the development of the standard. This was evident during the mock exercises within the YP workshop – standard in a day and conformity assessment bootcamps

3.2 Tom

3.2.1 Highlights

- **Networking** – From informal hallway conversations to organised group activities, there were many opportunities to make new professional connections and friends. The workshop gave us opportunities to meet people across, and at different levels of the IEC. Here’s a small selection of the interesting people I met:
 - Mark Amos (Australia – IECEx Secretariat & Business Manager) – I had the pleasure of sitting next to Mark at the YP dinner. We discovered a shared passion for the outdoors, we’re both keen trampers and mountain climbers. I use IECEx conformity assessment certificates frequently in my work, and it was great to make a new connection in this field.
 - Kazuhiko Tsutsumi (Japan – IEC Vice-President) – I met Dr Tsutsumi at the welcome gathering, and he was surprised when I introduced myself in Japanese (I lived and worked in Japan for 2 years as an English teacher).
 - Aida Al Yaaqoubi (United Arab Emirates – Satellite Communications Engineer) – It was interesting to hear about Aida’s work for an industry which is so different to mine. Her company provides satellite communication services for the military, commercial organisations and private individuals.
- **“Standard in a day” & “Conformity Assessment” (CA) bootcamps** – Each “bootcamp” was a simulation of these two key IEC activities. The standardisation bootcamp demonstrated to us some of the real challenges faced in the development of standards, such as: conflicting commercial interests, protecting domestic markets vs facilitating international trade, balancing quality and cost, and maintaining a level playing field for established companies and start-ups. The CA bootcamp was a great introduction to an area where I have less experience. The IEC’s CA schemes give customers the confidence they need to trust that products and services certified to IEC standards are safe, efficient and reliable. They are key to reducing technical barriers to international trade.
- **Technical committee meeting observation** – I chose to observe TC 31/WG 22 (responsible for maintenance of IEC 60079-0 *Explosive atmospheres - Part 0: Equipment - General requirements*) because my work as a consultant is focussed on hazardous area (explosive atmosphere) classification and design. It was great to meet some of the committee members and observe their technical discussions; to see the process of consensus building in action. One of the main topics discussed was on electrostatic requirements for equipment which was interesting for me because I am currently lead drafter for a project to publish IEC TS 60079-32-1 (*Electrostatic hazards, guidance*) as a modified adoption in Australia.

3.2.2 Takeaways

- **We are more similar than we are different** – No matter who you meet, or where they are from, there is always common ground. You just need to find it. Finding common ground is essential to the consensus building process which is an integral part of the IEC’s work.
- **We face significant social, economic and climate challenges** – These can be solved together, and The IEC’s work underpins all 17 of the UN’s SDGs.
- **New Zealand’s participation in the IEC is important and valuable** – New Zealand is a technologically advanced first-world nation, and our participation in the IEC should reflect this. We benefit from the technical developments of other IEC members, and can equally contribute to areas where we lead.

4 Photos

A selection of photos from the General Meeting and YP Workshop is given below. The full library of photos can be accessed at gmphotos.iec.ch with the password: IECGM.



Photos above: Cameron (left) and Tom (right) networking at the welcome gathering



Photos above: Visit to University of California, Berkeley engineering campus



Photos above: Elected YP Leaders including Cameron, IEC YP 2022 cohort

5 YP Workshop Discussion

The purpose of this section is to provide discussion and insight to the YP workshop, provide context for the New Zealand setting and identify the benefits of NZ continuing to participate in IEC activities.

5.1 YP Breakout Projects

The YP workshop includes a section for teams to work on a project in line with the IEC strategy and present findings back to the whole YP cohort. This year, for the first time ever, the YP workshop had an agenda slot in the General Assembly to present findings to the IEC executive and national committee representatives.

The cohort of YPs were assembled into five project teams to work on strategic initiatives:

- 1) Identifying Emerging Technologies and Markets: How to?
- 2) How to improve IEC National YP Programmes?
- 3) How to raise awareness of standardisation and conformity assessment to companies
- 4) Diversity in the IEC
- 5) IEC Advisory Committee on Energy Efficiency

NOTE: The presentations can be viewed at this link <https://www.iec.ch/yyps/ypps-presentations-general-meeting>

Cameron was part of the project team that focussed on the Advisory Committee for Energy Efficiency. The problem statement for the project: How can the IEC Advisory Committee on Energy Efficiency (ACEE) contribute to further enhancing and deploying IEC publications on energy efficiency, in line with the UN Sustainable Goals? The team focussed on how energy efficiency initiatives can be deployed in standards and maintenance by Technical Committees. Solutions included adding energy efficiency representatives onto committees when developing guidelines and standards. These representatives would be responsible for challenging the energy efficiency and sustainability perspectives.

Tom was part of the team that focussed on getting support from employers. Most of the technical work by IEC committees is contributed by volunteers who work on their own time, and that of their employers. This time investment by employers is sometimes viewed as a burden, however, there are significant benefits for employees and employers to being involved in standardization. For example, networking opportunities, improved technical competence and understanding of upcoming changes. The presentation gave practical advice to YPs on how to convince their employers to invest in standardization involvement.

The presentations to the General Assembly were well received and promoted a lot of discussion from the audience. It is evident that the involvement and participation of YPs is valued highly by the IEC. It is evident that the YP programme is achieving its purpose of creating a way for the IEC and its National Committees to reach out to the younger generation of experts, managers and leaders and to encourage their long-term participation in standardization and conformity assessment activities. This helps guarantee continuity in the availability of high-quality experts, enabling the IEC to maintain its focus on responding to market needs on a long-term basis. Participants also help shape the future of the IEC by sharing their ideas about how the IEC should evolve to respond to the needs of future generations.

5.2 YP Programme Leaders

Each year the YP Programme elects three leaders to represent their cohort, lead projects and to serve as ambassadors of the IEC YP Programme within the IEC community.

Cameron was elected as a YP Leader by his peers in the 2022 YP Programme cohort. He will be developing a project to focus on a framework for YPs to participate in IEC boards, committees and strategic direction. In addition, he will have the opportunity to contribute to the projects of his fellow Leaders, share feedback and

ideas about the improvement of the IEC YP Programme and develop an article for the IEC's blog or e-tech magazine.

Cameron's participation is great exposure for New Zealand's participation in the IEC community.

5.3 Standards in the New Zealand Context (an example)

Standards connect industry, government and consumers on a daily basis. They provide a benchmark of good practice and regulatory compliance. Standards New Zealand has the responsibility to create standards applicable to the New Zealand context by adopting international standards or creating them in the New Zealand context.

As an example, New Zealand's Government has set ambitious goals to respond to climate change with the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 providing a framework to implement climate change policies. These policies which give the direction of *what* we want to do will, in turn, need to be supported by technical standards which provide the knowledge of *how* to achieve these targets. New Zealand's investment in participation in the IEC, and therefore technical standards with high public-good factor, is an investment in achieving our own climate change goals. This is one of many examples where technical standards can support the goals set by government.

Young professionals, in particular, have an increased interest in climate change and zero carbon goals. It is apparent that involvement of Young Professionals in Standards New Zealand is beneficial for the country as a whole. The New Zealand Government, MBIE and Standards New Zealand need to support a New Zealand Young Professionals programme to foster the involvement of future leaders to assist in achieving our goals.

Employers should also support involvement in standardisation to gain international knowledge, share New Zealand's technology leading research and work towards net zero carbon.

6 What We're Going To Do Next

6.1 Cameron

I was honoured to be elected by my fellow YP peers as one of three leaders to represent our 2022 cohort for the upcoming year. As part of this assignment, I am launching a project to enable more participation and perspective from YPs in the governance of the IEC organisation. As IEC is a member organisation with governance rules in place, this is going to be *easier said than done*. However, I believe the organisation has the strategic direction to see the benefits and a framework can be developed and implemented.

Tom and I are motivated to increase the involvement of younger engineers in standardisation in New Zealand. Some ideas that we are planning:

- Create and strengthen an "alumni" network of previous IEC YP programme attendees
- Hold a workshop with IEC NC and YPs to increase outreach and engagement to secure our future experts and leaders in standardisation
- Utilise the outputs of the YP programme to increase awareness for the next generation of engineers
 - A YP Leader in 2021 created a guest lecture package for professionals to provide awareness to university students
 - A YP Leader in 2022 is creating a package of materials to further enhance the engagement with YPs via social media and frameworks for creating YP programmes at the national level

6.2 Tom

I have been an active member, representing Engineering New Zealand, of joint Australia / New Zealand standards committees EL-014 (Equipment for explosive atmospheres) and MS-011 (Classification of hazardous areas due to explosive atmospheres) for the last 3 years. This has given me a great opportunity to meet international experts in this field, and to contribute to the development of standards in New Zealand. Following from the IEC YP Workshop, I want to continue to be a leader in standardisation for New Zealand – to do this I will:

- Continue as an active member of EL-014 and MS-011
- Become an active member in IEC TC 31 (Equipment for explosive atmospheres), and in time hold a leadership role within this committee
- Help to raise awareness of standardisation in universities in NZ
- Become a member of the NCNZ

7 Our Recommendations

From our experiences in industry and the workshop, we make the following recommendations, recognising that action from is needed from all parties to achieve our common goals.

7.1 MBIE & SNZ

- Development of a strategy to create pathways for young professionals in NZ to become involved in standardisation, which could include
 - Partnering with Standards Australia's NEXTgen program
 - Partnering with NZ universities to raise awareness of standardisation
- Continue to provide travel funding for NZ YPs to attend the IEC workshop
- Create a travel policy to support funding for members of joint Australia – New Zealand and IEC standards committees to attend meetings in person
- Review the current funding model for NZ participation in trans-Tasman standards projects – without adequate funding to participate in these projects more standards will become de-jointed, potentially reducing trans-Tasman regulatory harmonisation
- Continue MBIE's 2021 project to update references to standards in the electricity and gas safety regulations

7.2 Recommendations to EEA

The IEC provides a large body of standards in use in New Zealand's electricity sector. The IEC has a strong direction and vision to achieve net zero carbon and the UN SDGs. The connection between EEA and IEC NZ is inherent and important for public good to ensure a safe and reliable electricity system. Our net zero carbon strategies are important, and the IEC's strategy aligns and is looking to provide solutions. It is important that the EEA continues to support attendance at the IEC for the nominated Young Engineer of the Year to continue this relationship.

7.3 Recommendations to NCNZ

- Support the creation a YP alumni group (to be championed by Cameron and Tom)
- Include YPs in governance and committees
- Consider how to link industry, government and IEC
- Implement succession planning for NCNZ members
- Raise awareness of the NCNZ's activities, potentially through social media platforms, and create a website
- Support to Cameron to continue IEC journey and raise the profile across NZ



7.4 Recommendations to Mitton ElectroNet & Beca

- Continue to support our participation in standardisation activities
- Consider future involvement and engagement of other expert employees

8 Thank You

Without the support of MBIE, SNZ, EEA, NCNZ, Mitton ElectroNet and Beca our participation in this workshop would not have been possible. We thank each of these organisations again for the support to give us the time and travel funding to do this.

There are many professionals in NZ who are passionate about their industry and want to help make them better through participation in standardisation activities. Together we can continue and grow this important work.

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Appendix A – Workshop Schedule

**IEC Young Professionals Workshop, 31 October – 4 November 2022, San Francisco, United States of America
Hilton San Francisco Union Square**

Workshop Agenda

Sunday 30 October

19:30 – 21:30	YP Welcome gathering Welcome message by Philippe Metzger, IEC Secretary-General and CEO	Grand Ballroom Salon A
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Monday 31 October

08:00 – 09:00	Welcome remarks and introduction to the IEC Strategic Plan Yinbiao Shu, IEC President Jo Cops, IEC President-Elect and Treasurer	Continental Parlor 1 - 2
09:00 – 10:00	Ask me Anything! (panel session) Stina Wallström, Public Affairs Manager, IKEA Range and Supply – President, IEC National Committee of Sweden Jonathan A. Colby, President & Founder, Streamwise Development, LLC Peter Leong Weng Kwai, President, Singapore National Committee of IEC, Member of IEC Business Advisory Committee and Managing Partner, ITP Global LLP Atsushi (JACK) Miyoshi, Convenor of SyC/AAL/WG7, Head of Staff to Dr Tsutsumi, the MSB Chair and IEC Vice President Katharine Fraga, IEC Director of Membership, Affiliates and Capacity Building (moderator)	Continental Parlor 1 - 2
10:00 – 11:00	Session with the 2021 IEC YP Leaders Lea Emmel, Risk Manager, Program Dräger ONE, Medical Division, Drägerwerk AG & Co. KGaA Mohammed Hasan, Health Physicist, Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) Colin Sheldon, Senior Specialist Lead, Strategy, AI & Transformation, Deloitte Consulting Pty Ltd	Continental Parlor 1 – 2

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Workshop Agenda

11:30 – 12:30	<p>Introduction to the breakout sessions</p> <p>Diversity in the International Electrotechnical Commission Introduction by Megan A. Hayes, Senior Technical Director, Technical and Industry Affairs for the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) and Chair of the IEC Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC)</p> <p>How can the IEC Advisory Committee on Energy Efficiency (ACEE) contribute to further enhancing and deploying IEC publications on energy efficiency in line with the UN Sustainable Goals Introduction by a member of the ACEE</p> <p>Identifying Emerging Technologies and Markets: How to? Introduction by Peter J. Lanctot, IEC Regional Manager, Secretary - Market Strategy Board - Strategic Group 11 (Hot Topic Radar) - SEG 12 (BioDigital Convergence) – SEG 14 (Quantum Technologies)</p> <p>How to improve IEC National YP Programmes? What efforts the NCs should put forward to ensure that the next generation of experts is equally represented. Introduction by Amanda-Jane Gainford - National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) and Annette Frederiksen - Robert Bosch GmbH / Next Generation DKE</p> <p>How to raise awareness of standardization and conformity assessment to companies – how to convince your employer. Introduction by Clare Hobern, Senior Manager, International Engagement, Standards Australia – Manager, IEC National Committee of Australia</p>	Continental Parlor 1 – 2 Continental Parlor 3, 7, 8, 9
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch with the SMB/CAB members	Continental Ballroom 5
13:30 – 14:30	SMB/CAB meetings observation	SMB - Continental ballroom 4 CAB - Continental ballroom 6
14:30 – 15:30	Breakout session	Continental Parlor 1 – 2

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		Continental Parlor 3, 7, 8, 9
16:00 – 17:30	Interactive session – YPs empowering the future with 5G and emerging technologies Mike Wood – Distinguished Professional – Telstra, Chairman IEC TC106	Continental Parlor 1 – 2
18:30 – 21:00	GM Opening Ceremony and Welcome reception (optional)	Grand Ballroom Salon A & B

Tuesday 1 November

07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast with your National Committee	Grand Ballroom A
09:00 – 10:30	TC/SCs meeting observation	<i>Check info note for exact location</i>
11:00 – 17:00	IEC Academy Bootcamp – Standard in a day Pierre Sebellin, IEC Senior Technical Officer Ian Gardner, Head of IEC Academy and Capacity Building	Continental Parlor 1 – 2

Wednesday 2 November

08:30 – 14:30	Conformity Assessment (CA) Bootcamp Markus Ahvenus, Director, Product Certification, SGS Flmko Ltd Pierre Selva, Director for Conformity Assessment & Market Surveillance, Schneider Electric David Hanlon, IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) Secretary Wolfram Zeitz, IECEE & IECRE Executive Secretary Marie-Elisabeth d'Ornano, Global Certification Director, LCIE Bureau Veritas Mark Amos, Business Manager, IECEX Secretariat Trond Sollie, Senior Corporate Advisor, Nemko Group Heribert Schorn, Technical Director Test Laboratory Bonn, Institute for International Product Safety GmbH Steven Margis, IECEE Chair, Director, Conformity Assessment Programs, UL Solutions	Continental Parlor 1 – 2
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14:30 – 15:30	<p>Parallel Session I</p> <p>Exploring the standardization needs arising from the BioDigital Convergence François Coallier, Professor, Department of Software and IT Engineering, École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS)</p> <p>Sustainable Development Goals: the IEC approach Mariana García Cortés – Regulatory Intelligence Specialist, Mabe S.A. de C.V</p> <p>IEC Smart Energy challenge Richard Schomberg, Chair, SyC Smart Energy and IEC Special Envoy for Smart Electrification</p> <p>IEC Systems Committee on Communication Technology and Architecture (SyC COMM) Patrick Wetterwald, IEC SyC COMM Vice Chair and Yun Chao Hu, IEC SyC COMM Chair</p> <p>IEC YP Workshop: A Foundation for Leadership Jonathan A. Colby, President & Founder, Streamwise Development, LLC</p>	<p>Continental Parlor 1 – 2</p> <p>Continental Parlor 3, 7, 8, 9</p>
16:00 – 17:30	Breakout session	<p>Continental Parlor 1 – 2</p> <p>Continental Parlor 3, 7, 8, 9</p>

Thursday 3 November

Morning	YP Workshop site visit	University of California, Berkeley
14:00 – 15:30	<p>MSB Seminar</p> <p>Harnessing the power of international standards for a fully digital world: An industrial perspective</p>	
16:00 – 17:30	Breakout session	<p>Continental Parlor 1 – 2</p> <p>Continental Parlor 3, 7, 8, 9</p>
19:30 – 22:00	YP dinner	Imperial A

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Friday 4 November

08:30 – 10:30	Breakout session – final preparation	Continental Parlor 1 – 2 Continental Parlor 3, 7, 8, 9
11:00 – 13:00	General Assembly Statutory session – feedback from breakout sessions	Continental Ballroom 4-5-6
13:00 – 14:00	General Assembly Lunch	Imperial A
14:30 – 15:30	<p>Parallel Session II</p> <p>Exploring the standardization needs arising from the BioDigital Convergence François Coallier, Professor, Department of Software and IT Engineering, École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS)</p> <p>Sustainable Development Goals: the IEC approach Mariana García Cortés – Regulatory Intelligence Specialist, Mabe S.A. de C.V</p> <p>IEC Smart Energy challenge Richard Schomberg, Chair, SyC Smart Energy and IEC Special Envoy for Smart Electrification</p> <p>IEC Systems Committee on Communication Technology and Architecture (SyC COMM) Patrick Wetterwald, IEC SyC COMM Vice Chair and Yun Chao Hu, IEC SyC COMM Chair</p> <p>TC 124 Wearable electronic devices and technologies Shuji Hirakawa, Ph.D., IEEE Life Fellow, IEC/TC 124 Chair Japanese Standards Association Group Executive Advisor on Technical Affairs</p>	Continental Parlor 1 – 2 Continental Parlor 3, 7, 8, 9
16:00 – 17:30	2022 IEC YP Leaders elections	Continental Parlor 1 – 2
19:00 – 21:00	GM Farewell party (optional)	Grand Ballroom Salon A