

Brief report on events and activities in history of computing in Japan

Akihiko Yamada, 26 February 2014

1. Upcoming 2014 IPSJ National Convention and Information Technology Heritage Certification Ceremony. 2014 IPSJ (Information Processing Society of Japan) National Convention and Information Technology Heritage Certification Ceremony will be held from March 11 to 13 at Tokyo Denki University in downtown Tokyo. The 2014 CS President Dejan Milojicic will keynote on March 11.

<https://www.gakkai-web.net/gakkai/ipsj/76program/html/event/k-1.html>

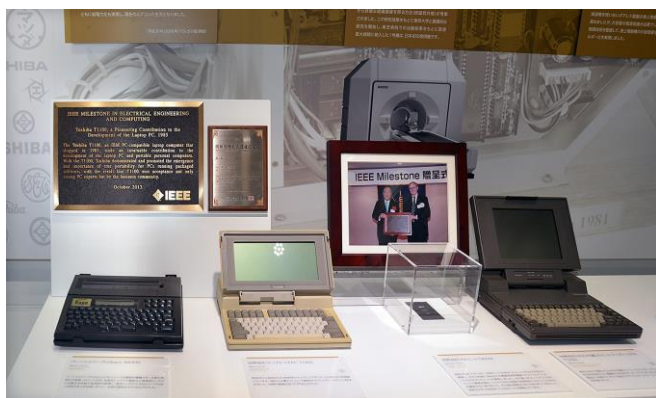
In the session of “Computer Pioneers’ Poetry and Truth”, two lectures will be delivered: “History and issues of computer network and the internet” by Iwao Toda and “The first Japanese hacker” by Eiiti Wada. The 2014 Information Technology Heritage Certification press release will be issued on March 4.

2. Renewed Toshiba Science Museum

The Toshiba Science Museum was opened in 1961 in commemoration of the 85th anniversary of Toshiba's foundation as a company. It was renewed and reopened to the public on January 31 in Lazona Kawasaki Toshiba Building in Kawasaki, Kanagawa, Japan.

There are three kinds of exhibits: “History”, “Future” and “Science”. The history exhibit has two rooms: “Founder’s room” and “The Firsts of Their Kind”. In the latter, IEEE Milestones, T-1100 laptop PC and JW-10 word processor, are exhibited. T-1100 is one of the earliest laptop PC. JW-10 is the first Japanese word processor developed by Toshiba in 1978. KT-Pilot, the first Japanese microprogrammed computer developed by Kyoto University and Toshiba in 1961, is also exhibited there. This machine is registered as one of the Essential Historical Materials for Science and Technology by National Museum of Nature and Science (NMNS), Japan. Future exhibit has six zones; energy use, cities, buildings, homes, health cares and information.

The renewed museum would be a good place to learn history of technology as well as future for both old and young. It is located next to JR(Japan Railways) Kawasaki Station and is easy to visit. The museum web page is available at <http://toshiba-mirai-kagakukan.jp/en/>.



IEEE Milestone Plaque and T-1100 Laptop PC (middle)



KT-Pilot and NMNS Plaque (blue one)