Committee advisory board member. Other professors that commented include Prof. Po-tai Cheng of National Tsing Hua University, who is an IAS executive board member-at-large, and Prof. Toshihisa Shimizu of Tokyo Metropolitan University, an IEEJ organizing committee chair of IPEC 2018.

After the IPEC 2018 welcome reception, the evening meeting took place in an izakaya, a traditional Japanese pub. The attendees formed new friendships with professors and students alike and enjoyed traditional Japanese meals and drinks like sake (Figure 2).

The Students and Young Engineers Meeting was a great success (Figure 3). We appreciate all the attendees, the IPEC 2018 Steering Committee, PELS, and IAS for their strong support and cooperation. We especially want to thank the event’s steering committee members, Dr. Yoshiya Ohnuma, Prof. Takaharu Takeshita, Prof. Yasuyuki Nishida, Prof. Noriyuki Kimura (IPEC 2018 Steering Committee), Dr. Péter Magyar (IAS), Hayato Higa, Hiroyasu Kobayashi, Kazuma Suzuki, Kei Nishikawa, Keita Furukawa, Kenichi Kondo, Kenichiro Saito, Prof. Kimihiro Nanamori, Koroku Nishizawa, Nagisa Takaoka, Ryota Inoue, Shohei Komeda, Dr. Shota Kimura, Shunsuke Takuma, Takuya Shijo, and Prof. Tomoyuki Mannen (PPEJ). We hope that the event was an unforgettable experience for all students, young engineers, and professors. We look forward to seeing the attendees again at future conferences.

by Johan Enslin, Somasundaram Essakiappan, and Madhav Manjrekar

IEEE 9th International Symposium on Power Electronics for Distributed Generation Systems

It was our honor to welcome 178 attendees to the IEEE 9th International Symposium on Power Electronics for Distributed Generation Systems (PEDG) in Charlotte, North Carolina, 25–29 June. Dubbed the New Energy Capital of North America, Charlotte was the perfect host for the 2018 PEDG symposium because of the area’s dominant power industry and research horsepower throughout North Carolina in the areas of clean technology and power generation, transmission, and distribution. PEDG brought together power electronic professionals, focused on power electronics for distributed power, and discussed the role of power electronics on distributed power systems (Figure 1). This year, the majority of papers and presentations were geared toward energy storage and microgrids. Each year, the PEDG symposium is made possible by the tireless efforts of the volunteer organizing committee and the sponsorship of the IEEE Power
Electronics Society (PELS). The staff and faculty of the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) at the University of North Carolina (UNC) Charlotte hosted this year’s event, and their dedication and expertise helped make it a success.

This year’s symposium program highlighted the role that power electronics technology plays in the power systems society by enabling clean and sustainable energy distributed resources. Key papers stressed the importance of grid-interconnection requirements and stability concerns, hardware-in-the-loop (HIL) simulations, and wide-bandgap power electronic devices. There were also some unique features of this year’s event, such as a technical program that included seven handpicked tutorials that were attended by roughly 80 attendees, a well-received industry panel session, three invited sessions, 20 regular paper sessions in three parallel tracks, a poster session, and daily keynote speeches.

The welcome and keynote address was presented by Sam Holeman, vice president of transmission system planning and operations for Duke Energy, and Dr. Georgios Demetriades, group research manager with ABB, delivered the keynote address Tuesday morning. On Wednesday, Tom Key from the Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. (EPRI) and Taku Takaku, a senior field applications engineer at Fuji Electric Co., Ltd., from Fuji, Japan, gave the daily keynote presentations, and on Thursday, Peter Lürkens from Germany’s RWTH Aachen University and Om Nayak from Nayak Corporation, who discussed the topic “Real-Time Digital Simulator,” were the daily keynote presenters. There were also 12 invited speakers from industry and academia, including Randy Collins from Clemson University, South Carolina, who gave an entertaining final awards lunch talk on the history of the sag generator.

The technical program at PEDG 2018 contained 158 abstracts, of which approximately 60% were from countries other than the United States, the host country. This shows the expanding international interest in and scope of PEDG. There was a great deal of diversity of technical topics as well, with a near-equal distribution among the symposium tracks: power electronics for sustainable sources, energy storage systems, and distributed generation interacting with power transmission and distribution systems. Overall, 97 papers were presented at the symposium as oral presentations and posters and will be published by the symposium’s technical committee.

The symposium also provided ample opportunities for networking and social interactions throughout the PEDG program, including during the technical tour to the EPIC Center at UNC Charlotte on Monday evening, the banquet at the NASCAR Hall of Fame on Tuesday evening, and an interactive poster, career development, which was a young professionals’ social event on Wednesday evening. These events were well attended, and the participants had a chance to race each other in the NASCAR simulator on Tuesday evening.

This year’s exhibit was well supported by PEDG sponsors and smoothly integrated with the program, social events, breaks, and lunches. The interactive exhibit booths that included demonstrations on HIL modeling and analysis were especially instructive.

Our deepest gratitude goes to the local organizing and steering committees for their dedicated efforts in making PEDG 2018 a success. Special thanks also go to all the authors, panelists, reviewers, session chairs, and attendees. As we all know, these conferences would be financially impossible without our dedicated sponsors. In this regard, we thank the following supporters for making this symposium possible: Duke Energy, ABB, Fuji Electric, EPRI, Nayak/RTDS Technologies, UNC Charlotte EPIC, Clemson University, the FREEDM Center, Framaton, Plexim, Typhoon HIL, Inc., PowerAmerica, E4-Carolinias, IEEE Charlotte Section, and Atom Power. Finally, we would like to thank IEEE PELS as the symposium sponsor.

Of the 195 registrants, there were roughly 120 from academia and 75 from industry; we hope they all had an enjoyable visit and a fruitful symposium. At the awards luncheon, Jinjun Liu gave the participants a glimpse of the exciting location for PEDG 2019—Xi’an, China. We hope to see everyone there in June 2019.