

On the Occasion of ICRQE2021

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ICRQE (International Conference on Robust Quality Engineering) is the only conference on Robust Quality Engineering held in English in Asia. It has been held twice in Malaysia and twice in India since 2013.

We are pleased to announce that the 5th ICRQE will be held in Japan, hosted by RQES (Robust Quality Engineering Society). I would like to briefly introduce the history and activities of RQES, as I am sure that some of the participants from overseas may not be familiar with RQES.

History of RQES

In Japan, Quality Engineering Forum was established in 1993 by a group of volunteers who sympathized with the thoughts and ideas of Dr. Genichi Taguchi, the founder of Robust Quality Engineering, and who wanted to exchange research results on Robust Quality Engineering and establish it as an academic discipline.

The Forum was designated as an academic research organization by the Science Council of Japan(SCJ) in 1996 and changed its name to Robust Quality Engineering Society (RQES) in 1998. It became a general incorporated association in 2016 and remains so today. RQES will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2022.

- May,1993: “Quality Engineering Forum” was established.
- 1996: designated as one of cooperative academic research organizations by the Science Council of Japan (SCJ).
- July,1998 : changed its name to “Robust Quality Engineering Society ”
- September,2016: became a general incorporated association.

Number of members

As of April 2021, we have 1,054 individual members, including 21 overseas members (China: 13, USA: 4, Malaysia: 2, Taiwan: 1, Germany: 1).

Honorary members	:	11
Regular members (domestic)	:	1017
Regular members (overseas)	:	21
Student members	:	5
total	:	1054

Breakdown of 21 overseas members by country

China	:	13
USA	:	4
Malaysia	:	2
Taiwan	:	1
Germany	:	1

Activities of RQES

RQES is currently promoting various activities for the development, research, and improvement of specialized technologies. RQES conducts research, dissemination, presentation, and information exchange on Robust Quality Engineering, a general-purpose technology, and builds a comprehensive evaluation system. To contribute to the improvement of productivity in society, we carry out the following activities.

(1) Research and investigation of Robust Quality Engineering, and encouragement and support of such research and investigation

- Systematization of Robust Quality Engineering / Research on methods / Cooperation with local research groups*, etc.

(2) Dissemination of Robust Quality Engineering, and encouragement and support of it

- Establishment of qualification system / Holding of special Robust Quality Engineering education courses / Provision of analysis support tools, etc.

(3) Awards for research and dissemination of Robust Quality Engineering and significant contributions to the society

Activities of RQES

(4) Publication of journals and other publications

- Journals (4 issues/year), etc.

(5) Holding research presentation conferences and research meetings, etc.

- Robust Quality Engineering Research and Presentation Conference (held in June)
- Robust Quality Engineering Technology Strategy Research and Presentation Conference (held in November)
- Company exchange meetings (once a year), etc.
- **ICRQE (when held in Japan from 2021)**

(6) Collection and provision of Robust Quality Engineering information

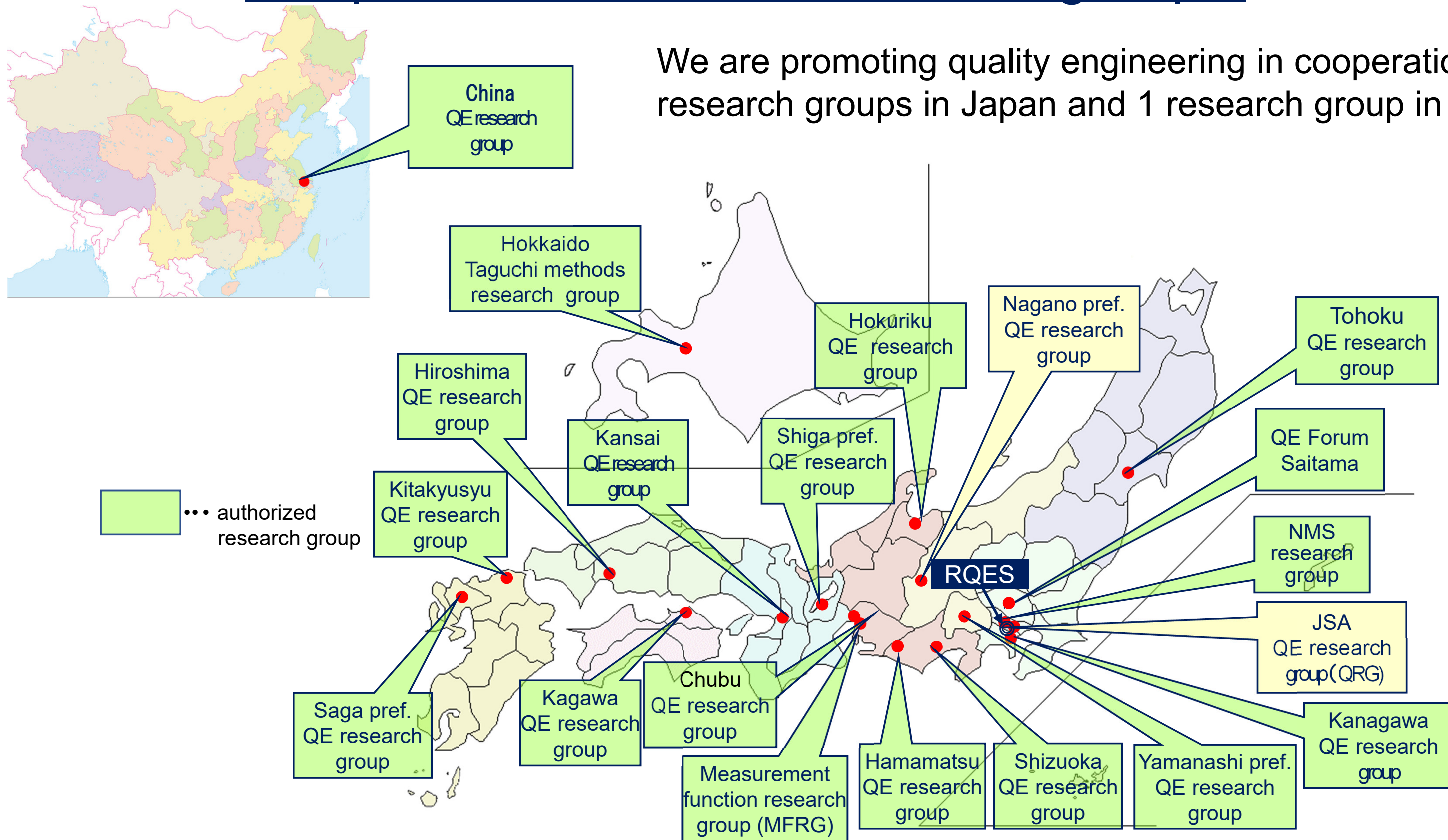
- Electronic publication of papers (J-Stage) <https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/qes/-char/ja/>

(7) Liaison and cooperation with related organizations in Japan and overseas

- Japanese Standards Association(JSA), the Japanese Society for Quality Control(JSQC), the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), JAXA, etc.

Cooperation with local research groups* (As of June 30, 2021)

We are promoting quality engineering in cooperation with 20 research groups in Japan and 1 research group in China.



Significance of this conference and expectations for it

Through these activities, we've been able to get great results from the use of Robust Quality Engineering in many fields. Unfortunately, however, much of this information has not been shared outside of Japan. I believe that globalization of activities is essential and holding ICRQE2021 hosted by RQES will serve as an opportunity to promote globalization.

Four keynotes and 21 case studies will be presented at this conference. Although the conference will be held entirely online, recording and distributing presentations, web-based questions and discussions, and LIVE discussions are effective ways to hold global conferences. I hope that this conference will be successful and continue to expand and develop as a forum for research presentations and information exchange on Robust Quality Engineering on a global scale.