

AVNET JAPAN LEAPS INTO EDUCATING KIDS ABOUT TECHNOLOGY



For the second summer in a row, Avnet Japan teamed up with Freescale Semiconductor to provide children in Tokyo and Osaka with an opportunity to experience a hands-on electronics construction and programming project.

The summer vacation electronics construction class is one of the Freescale Freak series of seminars that targets future engineers. Of the 20 children in Tokyo and 16 in Osaka who attended, two thirds were elementary school kids accompanied by their parents, while the rest were junior high school students. All worked on a fairly easy to build teaching aid called “the color frog”, which uses a microcomputer to recognize color and expresses its “mood” by playing music.

After the children and their parents were given the color frog manuals and construction kits,



they were then given time to practice soldering so they could mount the components onto the board and finish the physical assembly. Next they were given instructions on how the microcomputer in the color frog could be modified through programming to recognize primary colors and play tunes

according to the color recognized. Each left with a souvenir photo of his or her very own color frog.



Not only did Avnet Japan host the Osaka class at its training room, but five employees – Tamotsu Matsunaga, Kazunari Arai, Norihiro Michigami, Katsutoshi Kikuchi and Takako Sakata – also participated in both events, answering questions and assisting children in building their color frogs.