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CHAPTER REPORT

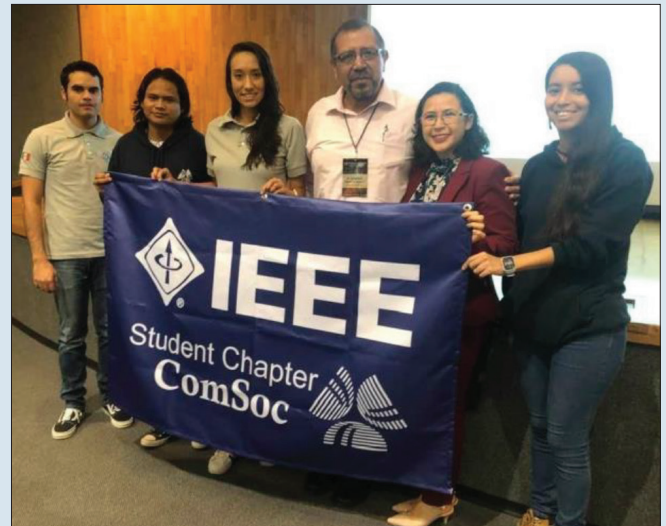
IEEE ComSoc Puebla Chapter, Mexico: Winner of the 2019 LA Chapter Achievement Award

By Ignacio Enrique Zaldivar Huerta, Puebla Chapter Chair

First of all, in the representation of my chapter, I would like to express our thanks for this award. It is very motivating for the members and for me to receive this recognition obtained as a consequence of teamwork. The ComSoc Puebla chapter was founded in 2011 and now is in a consolidation process. This work has required a big effort and enthusiasm, and finally we have started to see the results. It is very important to remark that the main achievement of this year was the consolidation of an IEEE ComSoc student chapter. Undoubtedly, the participation of our chapter in the IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lectures Tours has been a motivation for the students. In this regard, as with every year, we have participated in the organization of a Distinguish Lecture Tour. This event was carried out mainly between El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico. Internally, in Mexico, this event was in collaboration with the Morelos, Guadalajara and Monterrey Chapters.

I take this occasion to express my thanks for the enthusiast participation and help of these chapters. For example, in 2019 the presence of Professor Sudhit Dixit's tour in Mexico was achieved in collaboration with the Morelos, Puebla, and Guadalajara chapters. In Puebla, Professor Sudhit Dixit participated in the keynote conferences organized by the National Institute of Astrophysics, Optics and Electronics. Even more, the participation of other IEEE ComSoc members such as Ph.D. Maria Catalina Chico Ovando with another keynote conference was fundamental. It is important to remark that more than 100 people attended these talks. As I mentioned before, the presence of these personalities has motivated the students to participate in an active way. By another side, the new IEEE ComSoc student chapter participated in the IEEE day celebration, in a recruitment day, and in a series of technical meetings organized by the IEEE Puebla Section.

It is evident that the collaboration with other IEEE technical societies allows reinforcing our activities and presence in our region. At the same time, it is important to remark the valuable support



Members of the IEEE ComSoc Puebla Chapter (from left to right): Miguel Romero, Eduardo Moctezuma, Alejandra Chaparro, Ignacio Zaldivar, Catalina Ovando, and Teresa Serrano.

of the IEEE ComSoc staff in the organization of Distinguish Lecture Tours, the enthusiastic participation of the Lecturers, as well as, the chairs of the El Salvador, Guatemala, Morelos, Guadalajara, and Monterrey Chapters. As future work, it is evident there is a necessity to involve more students in the new student chapter, this is, to promote new memberships for ComSoc in other Universities and Institutes, to continue with the visit of a Distinguished Lecturer of ComSoc, as well as to increase our technical activities. It is a pleasure for me to see the motivation of the students in our activities. In a personal way, to participate as an IEEE volunteer has allowed me to know various colleagues and persons from others areas, allowing me to grow as a person and professionally. Definitely, this work must to continue and the recompense will be the consolidation of our chapter, as well as an active participation in the professional actives in our region. Finally, I can summarize this brief article with this phrase: "The seed has already been sown; now it must be cultivated".



People attending the IEEE ComSoc DLT event at Puebla Chapter: 11° Seminario de Electronica y Diseño Avanzado, 2019.

Ottawa ComSoc/CESoc/BTS Joint Chapter: Winner of the 2019 Best Chapter of The Year Award and of 2019 North America Chapter Achievement Award

By Wahab Almuhtadi, Director of IEEE ComSoc NA Region (2018-2019), Chair of Ottawa ComSoc/CESoc/BTS Joint Chapter, Canada

The IEEE Ottawa ComSoc/CESoc/BTS Joint Chapter (<http://www.ieeeottawa.ca/comsoc>) is in IEEE Region 7 (IEEE Canada). The Chapter is one of the most active chapters in IEEE Region 1 to R10. This is the reason why the Chapter was selected from among all ComSoc chapters worldwide to be for the second time the winner of the 2019 Communications Society Chapter of the Year (2019 CoY) worldwide as well as the winner of the 2019 Communications Society Chapter Achievement Award (2019 CAA) in North America Region (R1-R7). The two Awards were announced by the IEEE ComSoc Awards Committee and received by the Ottawa Chapter Chair on Dec. 10, 2019 in Waikoloa, HI, USA at the 2019 GLOBECOM Conference. The first time was in 2010, when the Chapter won two awards, the 2010 CoY Award and the 2010 CAA Award and received them at 2010 GLOBECOM on December 7, 2010 in Miami, FL, USA. And also on Dec. 5, 2016 in Washington, DC, USA at 2016 GLOBECOM, the Ottawa Chapter was the final winner of the 2016 CAA Award in the North America Region (R1-R7). Also, the Ottawa Chapter received the 2018 Outstanding Chapter in the Ottawa Section for organizing international conferences, and educational and technical events serving members and the community and promoting the Institute, Societies, the Region, and the Section.

One of the main goals of the Ottawa Chapter is to serve its members, the engineering profession, and industry and academia. The strength of the Ottawa Chapter is best practices that are used by the Chapter to run several activities and initiatives such as organizing local technical meetings and workshops; hosting DL seminars/tours; organizing and hosting conferences; holding activities for YP, WIE, and student members; promoting membership and development; and building relationship with the community. Here are some of the activities held in 2018 that led to the Chapter winning the 2019 ComSoc Chapter of the Year Award (2019 CoY) and the 2019 ComSoc Achievement Award (2019 CCA).

Organizing Local Technical Meetings and Workshops

The Chapter organized successful 16 technical seminars in 2018. Here are some example:



Wahab Almuhtadi, Ottawa Chapter Chair (1st on the left) receiving the 2019 ComSoc Chapter of the Year Award and the 2019 IEEE ComSoc Chapter Achievement Award from Song Guo, IEEE ComSoc Member Services Director (2nd on the left) and Chengshan Xiao IEEE ComSoc Awards Standing Committee Chair (3rd on the left).

1. Improve Measurement Accuracy on Switching Characteristics of SiC and GaN devices, presented Evan Shuster, Testforce Systems Inc.
2. Medical Device Test Strategies, presented by J. Max Corner, IEEE IMS President.
3. Women in Engineering and Diversity, presented by Sandro Perruzza, OSPE, Canada.
4. Canadian Telecoms and the Appearance of Choice: Are Monopolies and Government Interference Stifling Innovation and Growth in Canada?, presented by Michael Lalonde, PureColo Inc.
5. A Microinverter Based, Self-Forming Nanogrid for ON and OFF Grid Applications, presented by Edward Keyes, Solantro Semiconductor.
6. Talk 1: Machine Learning in Digital Medicine. Talk 2: Cellular and Device-to-Device Networks Coexistence, presented by Giorgio Quer, Scripps Research Institute, USA.
7. Navigating the Wireless IoT Implementation Waters, presented by Don Hawkins, Syntronict.
8. Advances and Challenges in 5G Wireless Security, presented by Yi Qian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA.
9. Applications, presented by Sébastien Cense and François Berthelot, OPAL-RT Technologies.
10. State of the Art in Today's Fiber Optic Transmission, presented by Henry Sun, Infinera.
11. IBIONICS — Doing for Blind People what Cochlear is Doing for the Deaf, presented by Suzanne Grant, iBIONICS.

Hosting DL seminars/Tours:

The Chapter managed to organize five successful distinguished lectures:

1. Advances and Challenges in 5G Wireless Security, by Yi Qian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA.
2. Talk 1: Machine Learning in Digital Medicine and Talk 2: Cellular and Device-to-Device Networks Coexistence by DL Giorgio Quer, Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, California, USA.

Organizing and Hosting Conferences:

The Ottawa Chapter is very well known in organizing conferences symposia (national and international) in the past years and currently the chapter is heavily involved in organizing and hosting the 2021 International Conference on Communications (ICC 2021) in Montreal from 14 June to 18 June 2021. The Chapter along with the IEEE Communication Society, IEEE Ottawa Section and IEEE Montreal Section are co-organizers of ICC 2021.

Holding Activities for Young Professional, WIE, & Student Members:

The Ottawa Chapter held meetings, seminars and workshops at Algonquin College, University of Ottawa, and Carleton University. Many students attended these events. All these events were co-organized with the student branches of these academic institutes. The Ottawa Chapter held meetings for young professionals (formerly GOLD) and WIE. The Chapter co-organized an educational event with the the IEEE Ottawa Section Education Activities Committee. All the technical meetings and DL talks organized by the Chapter were also co-organized by the IEEE student branches (Algonquin College, University of Ottawa, Carleton University) and the IEEE Ottawa Young Professional Affinity group. The Chapter also supported the events organized by the student branches.

Promoting Membership Development:

The IEEE Ottawa ComSoc Ottawa Chapter is working closely with the Ottawa Section and
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IEEE ComSoc Bangalore Chapter, India: Winner of the 2019 AP Chapter Achievement Award

By Dilip Krishnaswamy, Bangalore Chapter Chair, India

At the outset, we would like to thank the IEEE Communications Society for recognizing the Bangalore Chapter with the 2019 Chapter Achievement Award for the Asia Pacific Region. Our sincere congratulations to the other chapters as well for their recognition.

In addition to the information that we provided in the previous edition of this newsletter (December 2019), we do have a few minor updates to share. We hosted a very well attended third 5G summit for the year at the Samsung premises in Bangalore on November 30. Also, as planned, we continued our fun study group meetings on quantum communications after concluding our study group meetings related to Massive MIMO. In November we organized the second edition of the ITS workshop related to smart automated vehicular systems for future smart cities. We also had a nice Distinguished Lecture event related to Satellite Antennas by Dr. Sudhakar Rao, followed by a discussion related to the fellow nomination process in December. IEEE ComSoc chapter members participated actively in the organizing committee and also gave invited talks and participated in panels at the IEEE International Conference on Advanced Networks and Telecommunication Systems (ANTS) at the BITS Pilani Goa campus in December.

We are continuing to plan for the IEEE 5G World Forum event on September 10-12, 2020 at the Leela Palace in Bangalore. Our sincere

thanks again to the IEEE Future Networks team for providing us with this opportunity to host this event. In addition, we have started work to plan for the weeklong summer school to be held at IIT Bangalore on June 20-24, 2020. We hope to host 80 to 100 students during the summer school, and we hope to have a series of lectures by distinguished speakers from academia and industry, related to the latest research and developments in 5G and future networks and emerging technologies to educate the students. In addition, we plan to have industry visits along with birds-of-a-feather sessions for like-minded student researchers to gather together and collaborate during the summer school.

This year there has also been a remarkable increase in chapter membership which now stands at around 375 active members with an increase of over 100 members since the past year. We also hope that additional student members can join the society as well in the coming future with the new \$1 membership fee for students that the IEEE Communications Society has instituted. We therefore also hope that additional student chapters could form in our community.

A key concern that we see coming from different quarters is that new members find that they do not have access to IEEE Xplore after paying for the IEEE membership. Some academic institutions and a few companies pay an annual fee to subscribe to IEEE Xplore and hence provide access to their academic communities or employees respectively. However, many institutions, particularly at corporations, do not subscribe to IEEE Xplore annually. New IEEE members and IEEE ComSoc members who work at these institutions are surprised to find that they are not able to access IEEE publications after they become members. Perhaps the IEEE could consider giving free access to a small number (say 20) of publications per year per member on IEEE Xplore to help them with their scholastic or research pursuits? This is something that the IEEE could consider in general. Perhaps the IEEE Communications Society could also consider allowing certain additional publications to be freely available to members?

All in all, there has been very nice teamwork and great cooperation and coordination among all the chapter members this year. We plan to recognize many of our outstanding volunteers at the AGM on January 5, as we hand off responsibilities to the new slate that takes over in 2020. We thank the IEEE Communications Society for having provided the opportunity to serve our community in 2019.



Third 5G Summit Speakers & Volunteers, from left to right: Tushar Vrind (Samsung), Ganesan Thiagarajan (MMRFIC), Navin Kumar (Amrita Univ), Debabrata Das (IIT Bangalore), Niraj Nanavati (Nokia), Meeta Thakur (Ericsson), Subodh Gajare (Cisco), Chandra Murthy (Indian Institute of Science), and Dilip Krishnaswamy (Comsoc Chapter Chair, Reliance Jio Infocomm).

GLOBAL

COMMUNICATIONS

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its Membership Development Committee to recruit new people to become IEEE and IEEE ComSoc members. The ComSoc Ottawa Chapter also keeps maintaining the membership retention by contacting the members to renew their membership. At the beginning and/or during coffee breaks of each technical seminar or social event, the Chapter always promotes MD and encourages non-members to become IEEE ComSoc members. Also as part of retention and MD, the Chapter encourages members to apply for Senior Membership and IEEE Fellow. Also, active members are encouraged to be volunteers with the Chapter or with ComSoc conferences.

Building Relationship with the Community

The Chapter is heavily involved in strong relationships with local industry, academia, Ottawa Tourism, and the City of Ottawa in the preparation for hosting workshops, symposia, and conferences in Ottawa. The local high tech and communications industry (more than 1800 companies) and four academic institutes in Ottawa are very supportive in providing funding, sponsorship, speakers, advertisements as well as making their facilities available for the seminars, workshops, and field tours.