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## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

**IFIP/IEEE NOMS 2023 Conference Highlights**

by Kemal Akkaya, General Co-Chair, Florida International University, USA

The 23rd IEEE Network Management and Operations Symposium was held in Miami, FL on May 8-12, 2023 with the theme of "Integrated Management Towards Resilient Networks and Services." This year's conference was the first to integrate its sister conference, namely IFIP/IEEE International Symposium on Integrated Network Management (IM). These two symposia have been held since 1988 on even and odd years alternately.

The conference venue was FIU Kovens Center which was located at Florida International University (FIU) Biscayne Bay Campus by the ocean. Indeed, FIU was not only a local supporter of the event with its venue and volunteers but also a gold patron through its Cybersecurity Preeminent program, which is a university wide center focusing on interdisciplinary cybersecurity research and education.

Other patron was Futurewei Technologies which was at the Platinum level. The location of the venue by the beach and accessibility of Miami from various locations in the world made Miami a competitive candidate for winning the hosting of NOMS 2023.

After finishing the Formula 1 race held in Miami, conference participants attended the first day of NOMS on Monday May 8th with 3 workshops, mini-conference and a tutorial. The main conference started on Tuesday with a welcoming from conference organizers and a keynote. On the evening of the same day, the conference welcomed its guests to the reception on the terrace of the beautiful Kovens Center. The attendees enjoyed a beautiful Miami breeze along with a spectacular ocean bay view while enjoying their conversations after a long time that was shadowed with on-line conferences.

The following days of NOMS conference also included a packed program with 4 more keynotes, panels, demos, distinguished expert panels, tutorials as well as many technical paper sessions. The demos, in particular, attracted a lot of lively one-to-one discussions and offer great engagement. The conference banquet was held on Wednesday again at the Kovens Center ballroom and conference participants again had the opportunity to mingle on the terrace on a beautiful Miami evening. The last day of the conference, on Thursday evening, the conference chairs announced the best paper, demo, picture and other awards while inviting people for NOMS 2024, which will be held in Seoul, S. Korea. On the same evening, the conference organizing and steering committees held their meeting with an enjoyable dinner. On Friday, May 12th, the conference resumed with 3 more workshops, mini-conference and a tutorial and concluded with a great success.

During 5 days at the conference, participants had countless opportunities to network with each other for collaboration and exchange of numerous technical ideas. FIU Biscayne Bay campus allowed the participants to take a short walk on the campus trail by the beach. Whoa app which was used as the official communication app of the conference was full of pictures from the participants enjoying their time on campus as well as per-



Participants listening to a Keynote.



Organizing committee of NOMS.



A group of people enjoying reception at the Kovens Center Ballroom Terrace.



forming other attractions in greater Miami area that included scenes from beaches, Miami Heat NBA game, shopping malls and of course alligators!

Overall, IFIP/IEEE NOMS 2023 has been a great success with its lively technical sessions, abundant opportunities for networking and beautiful weather for its social events. After 3 years of online conferences, many participants acknowledged the

fact that on-site conferences are much more engaging and useful and thus they should not be replaced with online options. The only complaint about the conference came from Europeans who said that Kovens center was too cold, and they were freezing during the sessions! We look forward to seeing the network management community again next year in S. Korea.

## CONFERENCE REPORT

### First IEEE ComSoc Career Fair at IEEE ICC 2023, Rome, Italy

by Stefania Bartoletti, ICC 2023 Career Fair Organizing Committee Chair, Italy

The IEEE ComSoc Career Fair was organized for the first time within the IEEE ICC in Rome, from May 28 to May 30, 2023. With more than 150 student registrations and 13 participating companies, this inaugural edition of the event was a resounding success, providing attendees with valuable insights into the importance of soft skills in the industry, as well as current trends in job opportunities and what companies are seeking in potential candidates. Over the course of three days, approximately 90 interviews were arranged, and with the assistance of volunteers from IEEE ComSoc, every interview was facilitated.

#### THE SEMINAR SERIES

The first day started with a warm welcome from the Organizing Committee, including Ana Garcia Armada, Stefania Bartoletti, Periklis Chatzimisios, Luca Foschini, Virginia Pilloni, and Fawzi Behmann, who provided an overview of the day's events. Following, the seminar series was moderated by Stefania Bartoletti with around 20 students attending in addition to other participants from the different companies.

As the first speaker, Roberto Verdone, Full Professor at University of Bologna and Director of Wilab at CNIT, gave a presentation on the role of soft skills and cognitive styles in future engineering jobs. The presentation was very well received with many questions from the audience.

As second speaker, Vincenzo Luciano Lucrezia, CIO & Co-Founder at Tiesse S.p.A, gave a presentation on the importance of soft skills in the workplace, drawing on his experience at Tiesse S.p.A. and presenting an overview of the company and the main activities.

Then, Ki-Dong Lee, Assistant Vice President at LG Electronics, gave a talk on the benefits of working at LG Electronics, highlighting the company's positive work culture and opportunities for growth. During the coffee break, attendees had the opportunity to network with other professionals in attendance. The break was followed by a joint presentation among several participants from Imola Informatica, who presented on the importance of self-awareness in the workplace and how it can lead to increased productivity and innovation.

Ivan Brancaccio, HR Manager at Nextworks, gave a workshop on the behavioral interview, providing attendees with tips and strategies for success. Following Nextworks' seminar, attendees had the opportunity to network with other professionals and companies and they were provided with a box lunch to enjoy.

A short afternoon session concluded the Career Fair with a presentation from Lelio Di Martino, Head of Network Applications Research at Nokia Bell Labs Core Research, who gave a talk on the importance of soft skills in research careers in industry.

Following the seminar series, the mentoring session started in the same room, and it was open to all attendees, including students, and was presented by ComSoc's Young Professionals and Women in Communications Engineering.



Roberto Verdone, ICC 2023 Executive Chair, speaking at the IEEE ComSoc Career Fair at ICC 2023.



#### THE FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEWS

The face-to-face interviews were held over the course of three days to ease the networking between students and representatives from participant companies: Anritsu, Athonet, CNIT, Huawei, Imola Informatica, Leonardo, LG Electronics, Open Fiber, Nextworks, Nokia, and Tiesse. In total, 91 interviews were planned, and both the students and the companies expressed high levels of satisfaction with the process.

The interviews provided students with the opportunity to showcase their skills and experience, while companies were able to identify potential candidates for future positions. The interviews



were conducted in a professional and efficient manner, with both parties expressing their appreciation for the experience.

#### FINAL REMARKS

Overall, the IEEE ComSoc Career Fair at ICC 2023 in Rome was a valuable event that provided attendees with insights into the importance of soft skills in the industry. The program was well-received by attendees, and the seminar session provided a

great opportunity for attendees to connect with industry professionals. The seminars were informative and engaging, providing valuable insights into the latest developments in the industry. In addition, the face-to-face interviews were a great success, providing valuable networking opportunities for both students and companies and helping to facilitate potential future collaborations between them.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT

### 8th IEEE RADIO, Mauritius, 2023

#### Ham Radio Session & Demonstration

by Miroslav Skoric, IEEE Austria Section

The 8th IEEE Radio and Antenna Days of the Indian Ocean (RADIO) 2023 was held in Balaclava, Mauritius, from 1st to 4th May 2023. It was a face-to-face event because COVID-19 restrictions were lifted by Mauritian authorities in an effort to revive tourism sector at the island that had been badly damaged during early pandemic years. Nevertheless, potential visitors were still required to fill in an online form confirming health condition.

Besides a single-track paper presentations, the RADIO event hosted invited talks every conference day, as well as a dedicated amateur radio program. The first part of it, entitled “Radio Amateur GEO Satellite Communication for Emergency Communication and Education,” was performed by Jean Marc Momphe, 3B8DU, the acting president of MARS (Mauritian Amateur Radio Society). The speaker and his team performed an amateur radio test by establishing a real radio link with another amateur enthusiast abroad, by using satellite dish antennas for the QO-100 satellite. It was a nice presentation of domestic efforts among Mauritian “hams” — particularly because a female radio operator, Chong Manly “Mary” Chong Shin Sen, 3B8BBI, was the main actor in that test.

The second part of the amateur radio program, entitled “Advantage of Winlink Global Radio email infrastructure and APRS positioning tool from Mauritian coastal perspective” was delivered by Miroslav Skoric from IEEE Austria Section. Winlink (also known as Winlink 2000) is a well-matured amateur radio service that helps people in need to communicate by email when Internet services are disrupted due to natural disasters or made-made calamities. The main motivation for the speaker to present opportunities of that email system at Mauritius was a fact that most of the countries surrounding Indian Ocean do not have active Winlink RMS (Radio Message Server) stations. In return, the lack of such resources prevents local amateurs to communicate by exchanging non-voice content (E.g. text messages, diagrams, Word documents, spreadsheets, etc.) Next to that, there was a talk and display related to APRS (Amateur Packet Reporting System). The primary goal of APRS is to collect valuable information alongside the road — sent and received by “mobile” amateur radio operators who travel across unknown territory (say a foreign country or a remote part in their own country) to feel comfortable by having weather-related and other information displayed by their mobile (vehicle) transceivers (or even hand-held amateur radios) — without a need for cell telephony or Internet providers. The system uses a single VHF radio frequency across a continent, so there is no radio channel change after crossing national borders. Mauritius belongs to Region 1 of IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) that includes Europe, Middle East, Africa, and Russia, where a single frequency is used by the whole region.

Besides the amateur radio session listed in the official program, IEEE RADIO 2023 welcomed Miroslav Skoric, 3B8/YT7MPB, who provided a continual radio display & experimentation during all four conference days. Having that approach, the audience had a rare chance to get in touch with the high-quality equipment and feel what it is about to be active in



3B8DU (first from left), 3B8FA (fifth from left), 3B8YT (sixth from left) and 3B8HI (eighth from left).



Miroslav Skoric, 3B8YT, presenting Winlink & APRS capabilities.



Jean Francois Yeung Ching Sing, 3B8HI, documented “ham” session.

the amateur radio service. A technical display included several VHF and HF radio stations, antenna tuner, GPS/GNSS receivers, packet-radio and pactor modems, an external “whip” antenna positioned at the terrace, as well as various computer software. Real-time experimentation & practical demo confirmed that African countries surrounding sub-equatorial part of the Indian ocean, including Madagascar and other island in the area, need to invest additional efforts in building Winlink and APRS sta-

tions. Recent cyclons that struck eastern coasts of Africa warn all of us to stay alerts and keep designing new & improving existing amateur radio infrastructure, on behalf not only amateur operators but also local population and authorities.

Credit goes to IEEE RADIO 2023 management who welcomed rich amateur radio program, as well as to ICTA authority for granting temporary 'ham' radio license and special radio

identifier ("call-sign") 3B8YT to the guest speaker. Local Mauritian radio amateurs were of great help in giving the satellite talk (3B8DU), in establishing the proper equipment set-up (3B8FA), as well as giving support in exploring the island's points of foreign visitor's interest (3B8HI).

Miroslav Skoric <skoric@ieee.org>

## CHAPTER REPORT

### International Women's Day at the Bangalore IEEE ComSoc and IEEE Section

#### Chaitra Rao Felicitated at "Meet-the-Achiever"

by Gnanapriya C, IEEE ComSoc Bangalore Chapter, India

IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc) Bangalore Chapter & IEEE Bangalore Section jointly celebrated International women's day 2023 and honored women in communication. This year Chaitra Rao who is working in Programme Management and Systems Group, U R Rao Satellite Centre, URSC was felicitated. URSC is a center where satellites are designed, integrated, tested, and shipped to launch pads for launch. The event consisted of a well-knit Q&A session named "Meet-the-Achiever" that covered a range of topics from her experience at Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO over a range of projects (especially the Mars orbiter mission), work-life balance, and her research initiatives. Gnanapriya C, Senior IEEE member, Bangalore ComSoc Chapter Execom member, facilitated the discussion and live interaction. Chaitra was felicitated by our IEEE ComSoc chair Anindya Saha, Vice Chair Dr. Sujatha, Execom Senior Members Subhas, Gnanapriya, Dr. Sheeba, and Dr. Shushrutha.

Bangalore ComSoc and section was very fortunate to have Chaitra Rao for the Women's Day celebrations. A very inspiring journey! Passion is very key to be successful, when ignited in early years, it can do wonders. Chaitra's visit to ISRO during her school days created an impact, which nurtured her to pursue her future in ISRO.

She shared her experiences from varied key roles she played across missions. India's first Interplanetary mission made ISRO the 4th space agency to achieve Mars orbit, Mars Orbiter Mission which had 20 women scientists out of 90 in total and made significant contributions. Chaitra as the Spacecraft Operations Manager, MOM, ISRO Satellites Centre (ISAC), had to spend long hours



Chaitra Rao (achiever, on the right) in conversation with Gnanapriya C (author, sitting left).

before the launch of the mission and had full support from her family. She shared her experiences in the Planning and Scheduling of payloads during Initial and normal phase observations for India's first astronomical space observatory, Astrosat. She also called out the contributions done by ISRO for the societal benefits, Digital India drive. She remembered "Missile Man of India," Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam being with the core team, wishing and encouraging them.

Meet the Achiever session was attended by Professionals from industry, academia, researchers, and students. Chaitra addressed the questions that came from the audience on varied topics, Satellites, Digital India, Radiation, Capacity & Coverage, Societal contributions, Work Life balance, teamwork and many more. The audience found this lively interaction very inspiring.

As a concluding remark, she encouraged young engineers to embrace Core Engineering and be part of "Aatma-Nirbhar-Bharat" drives.

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