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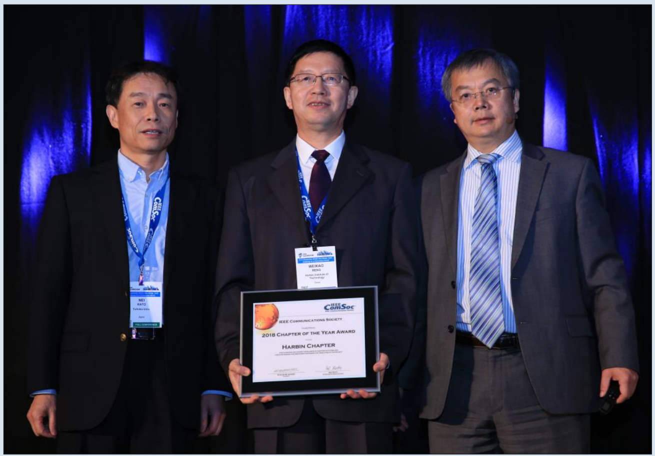
CHAPTER REPORT

# IEEE ComSoc Harbin Chapter: Winner of Three 2018 Chapter Achievement Awards

**By Weixiao Meng, Harbin Chapter Chair, China**



Prof. Weixiao Meng receiving the 2018 Chapter-Of-The-Year Award at GLOBECOM 2018 from Nei Kato, IEEE ComSoc Vice-President MGA, and Chengshan Xiao, IEEE ComSoc Awards Committee Chair.

The IEEE Communications Society Harbin Chapter won three international awards at IEEE Globecom 2018 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, December 9–13 2018, which are:

- 2018 Chapter of The Year Award.
- Asia Pacific Region 2018 Chapter Achievement Award.
- 2018 Member and Global Activities Contribution Award, given to the chair of Harbin Chapter, Prof. Weixiao Meng.

The IEEE Communications Society has four regions and 25,600 members currently in the world. China belongs to the Asia-Pacific region, which includes six chapters. As the youngest chapter, the IEEE Communications Society Harbin Chapter contains 147 members from universities and institutions in three provinces of Northeast China. The chapter is a non-profit academic organization aiming to lead the professional career of members, provide academic exchange platforms and service channels for members so as to promote the development of communication theory, technology and industry.

The Harbin Chapter was founded by Prof. Weixiao Meng in 2012, who was also the chair. Associate Prof. Shuai Han served as the vice chair and established the student chair. In the past six years, the Harbin Chapter has made outstanding achievements in academic exchanges, membership services, upgrades, development, and information consultation, and has won consistent commendation from the IEEE Communications Society. This is the first time Chinese academic organizations have won the serialization of international academic activities award. Prof. Weixiao Meng attended the conference and accepted the award from the international academic organization and made a speech.

Prof. Tadashi Matsumoto, IEEE Fellow, from Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, giving his talk at Harbin Chapter.

In the past one year, the IEEE Communications Society Harbin Chapter tried its best to attract more elites and promote the quantity and quality of its membership. In order to enrich the chapter and elevate its international influence, the Harbin Chapter organized a series of recruiting events targeted to faculties and students of northeastern universities in China, which has relative great influence.

The core volunteers have made much effort to enhance the IEEE and the Communications Society. Chapter Chair, Prof. Weixiao Meng, and Vice Chair, Dr. Shuai Han, organized a publicity meeting where they described the history, development and current influence of the IEEE Communications Society Harbin Chapter in detail, which has become one of the routine activities for newcomers every September.

Prof. Weixiao Meng maintained contact with all the EEE and ECE Deans of universities from the three provinces of Northeast China, encouraging them to distribute the recruiting polices to the corresponding areas of their own universities. Faculty members also shared the functions of the IEEE Communications Society with their students and inspired them to start their professional careers with Communications Society student membership.

At the same time, the Harbin Chapter noticed the crucial state of multimedia, so it made full use of social networks for more sufficient propaganda. After contacting professors who are focusing on information and communications engineering in northeastern universities, QQ, WeChat and other social communication groups which are mainly oriented to teachers, master and Ph.D. students, were established among universities and various organizations.

In March 2018 the IEEE Communications Society Harbin Chapter nominated Ms. Qian Chen, a Ph.D. student member, as the student chair, serving an important bridge role between the chapter and all kinds of students. In those groups, the Harbin Chapter issued the relevant notifications for the recruiting events and sent warm invitations to the potential teachers and students.

*(Continued on Newsletter page 2)*

CHAPTER REPORT

# IEEE ComSoc Republic of Macedonia Chapter: Winner of the 2018 Chapter Achievement Award

### By Vladimir Atanasovski, Republic of Macedonia Chapter Chair

The Chapter Achievement Award (CAA) for the EMEA region for 2018 is another crucial cornerstone for the IEEE ComSoc Republic of Macedonia Chapter. It marks the second time the chapter has received this award in a very short time frame as the chapter also received the CAA for EMEA in 2014. This shows that the chapter's activities are well in line with the promotion of IEEE and are well accepted locally and acknowledged internationally.

The IEEE ComSoc Republic of Macedonia is a small chapter that tries hard to animate the local community, industry and students and disseminate the values of IEEE and its products and services. The key behind all its activities is the focus on the IEEE ComSoc beneficiaries (e.g. students, entrepreneurs, engineers, managers) and the creation of a portfolio of sustainable activities that will continue and be enhanced with various presidencies. Therefore, the chapter tries to build a set of recognizable events that associate with the IEEE brand in Macedonia having two-fold effects, i.e. making IEEE membership prestigious and acknowledging the hard work done by local telecom students and experts.

Besides the standard organization of technical/professional lectures by various experts, the IEEE ComSoc Republic of Macedonia Chapter introduced several unique activities that have been continuing for several years.

First and foremost, the Chapter introduced the annual "ComSoc Macedonia Student Achievement Award" in 2012 to acknowledge a graduate student that is best-in-class. The merit for this is the publication of papers in either IEEE journals or IEEE conferences. This approach allows our students to focus on IEEE publications, thus increasing the visibility of IEEE in the local community. As the criteria are rather strict, the award is seen as very prestigious among Macedonian ICT students.

Then there is the "ComSoc Macedonia Best Practical Diploma Thesis 'Nikola Tesla' Award," which was established in 2016 to acknowledge a Dipl.-Ing. student thesis that offers a practical engineering solution. The winners usually have a combination of hardware and software in an end-to-end product designed and tested in the Laboratory for Telecommunications at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies (FEEIT) in Skopje. Suitable diplomas and symbolic funds accompany both student awards.

IEEE GLOBECOM
9 - 13 DECEMBER 2018 | ABU DHABI, UAE
GATEWAY TO A CONNECTED WORLD
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Tuesday, 11 December
Symposium Sessions (8:30 - 10:00; 13:30 - 15:00; 15:30 - 17:00)
Conference Hall B (Part A, B, C, D), Capital Suite 11 (A, B, C, D)
Capital Suite 12 (A, B), Capital Suite 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
Capital Suite 21 (A, B, C)
Industry Sessions
Conference Hall A (Part A, B)
Keynote Session (10:30 - 12:00) - Hall 4
Education Track (13:30 - 15:00; 15:30 - 17:00)
Conference Hall A: Part A
Conference Banquet at Emirates Palace (ticket required)
18:00 - 21:00 (bus departs ADNEC at 17:30)
Wednesday 12 December
IEEE ComSoc
EMEA REGION
2018 CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA CHAPTER

Vladimir Atanasovski, Republic of Macedonia Chapter Chair, showing the CAA plaque in the ADNEC's hall at GLOBECOM 2018.

The IEEE ComSoc Republic of Macedonia Chapter also endorses local telecom related workshops, the most prominent one being FutureComNet, which marks the World's Telecommunications and Information Society Day (WTISD) on 17 May every year. As a chapter closely related to the theme of this day, the IEEE ComSoc Republic of Macedonia Chapter supports the various local events that are organized annually marking this day.

Furthermore, the chapter is usually involved in the co-sponsorship of international conferences that take place in Macedonia (e.g. the bi-annual ETAI conferences or the upcoming BalkanCom 2019).

Finally, the chapter is trying to focus its activities toward the interest of the local industry, which is mostly on IoT and embedded systems. Therefore, the chapter stimulates students that are IEEE members and do a seminar or Dipl.-Ing. work in these areas through providing networking with relevant national and international experts, subsidizing the costs of consumables for development, etc. Even though lately most of the talented telecom graduates leave Macedonia, the notion of IEEE ComSoc and its values are inspired locally. The chapter believes that IEEE ComSoc membership adds value to every telecom engineer and is proud of its achievements so far.

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## HARBIN CHAPTER/*Continued from page 1*

In order to conveniently organize activities afterward, the Harbin Chapter raised funds to customize T-shirts for the new members and guests, and mailed them to everyone, which were extremely popular among them. Since most of the students had no credit cards, the payment of membership became knotty. A faculty member was willing to pay equivalent dollars online for new student members so that the problem was successfully solved. From these details, therefore, newcomers increased their confidence in the Harbin Chapter.

Due to the meticulous preparation, many teachers and students responded positively. In order to maintain its lasting competitiveness, the Harbin Chapter held more than 10 visiting academic lectures last year and hosted three DLT and DLS in recent years. In addition, they drafted newsletters to ComSoc twice a year. Their Monday Seminar is still ongoing, chaired by student members in Harbin once a week.

Thanks go to the IEEE Communications Society for confirming the achievements of the IEEE Communications Society Harbin Chapter in the last year and awarding the three awards for it. The Harbin Chapter will maintain seriousness, pragmatism and innovation, trying to make greater effort for advanced contributions to IEEE Communications Society in the future.

GCN GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTER

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COMSOC SISTER SOCIETY

# Fifteen Years of the Croatian Communications and Information Society (CCIS): Croatian Sister Society of ComSoc

**By Nikola Rozic, Dinko Begusic, Josko Radic, Dean Marusic, Darko Huljenic, CCIS, Croatia**

The Croatian Communications and Information Society (CCIS) started its membership in ComSoc's Sister Society family in 2002. The Agreement between CCIS and ComSoc was signed at Globecom 2002 in Taipeh. It was renewed three years later in Seoul, at Globecom 2005, and the renewal has been repeated every four years regularly. In 2018 the actual Agreement between the CCIS and ComSoc was signed by N. Rozic, CCIS and K. B. Letaief, ComSoc president (coordinated by O. Dobre, director of Sister and Related Societies). Today, we are proud to say that CCIS has spent a really fruitful 15-year period in ComSoc's Sister Society family, a great reason to continue advancing the collaboration with ComSoc and with other Sister Society members. The information about ComSoc's Sister Society family and CCIS can be found at: https://www.comsoc.org/about/SisterSocieties.

The cooperation agreement offers to both sides general benefits including co-sponsoring of conferences, as well as benefits through joint cross promotion, membership and publications. Looking in the past, CCIS in cooperation with ComSoc's Croatian Chapter has established a very successful cooperation in organizing main conferences in Croatia in the area of ICT, including the International Conference on Software, Telecommunications and Computer Networks (SoftCOM), International Conference on Telecommunications (ConTEL), and recently the International Conference on Smart and Sustainable Technologies (SpliTech). The CCIS leaders have regularly participated at SS Summits that are traditionally organized in conjunction with ICC and Globecom conferences presenting the activities of the CCIS. A five-member CCIS group attended the Globecom 2008 conference in New Orleans where the secretary, Carole Swain, organized important contacts and meetings between the CCIS and ComSoc representatives.

CCIS's main conference, SoftCOM, has been based on the standard yearly application process, technically co-sponsored by ComSoc since 1998. In addition, starting in 2002, the SoftCOM conference has been regularly advertised in ComSoc's the most popular publication, *IEEE Communications Magazine*. SoftCOM Conferences have regularly featured keynote and invited talks, often given by recognized ComSoc's speakers. We are honored to have had an opportunity to host some well recognized ComSoc leaders as keynote speakers, including Sergio Benedetto (SoftCOM 2003), Nim Cheung (SoftCOM 2006), Roberto Saracco (SoftCOM 2007), and others. Besides ComSoc's leaders, the keynote speaker at SoftCOM 2008 was Elya Joffe, the president of the IEEE EMC Society. Inspiring keynote talks and personal attitude of the mentioned outstanding persons as well as their openness and readiness to communicate with each conference participant have had significant impact on the interest for ComSoc as well as CCIS memberships. The joint CCIS–ComSoc info desk has been regularly organized at SoftCOM conferences. The participants had been offered the samples of ComSoc's main publications, Conference Calendars, Call for Papers, and Forms for Memberships and subscriptions provided by ComSoc.

In cooperation with the University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Naval Architecture (FESB), CCIS publishes the *Journal of Communications Software and Systems* (JCOMSS) since 2005. JCOMSS is published quarterly and focuses on high-quality, internationally peer reviewed papers that advance the state-of-art and applications in communications software engineering and communications systems including new and emerging technologies, methods, algorithms, implementation aspects as well as reports on experiments with performance analysis and prototypes. The journal has been endorsed by ComSoc's Technical Committee of Communications Software (TCCS) from its beginning. In 2007 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between ComSoc and CCIS which extended the previous Publications Side Agreement to include ComSoc's technical co-sponsorship to JCOMSS, and it was renewed in 2012. From the very beginning of the JCOMSS publishing, the policy has inclined to ComSoc's Transactions standards. The JCOMSS editorial team includes a number of recognized ComSoc members, and reviewers were mostly engaged among members of the IEEE family. Among the authors of the published papers there were several very recognizable names such as Claude Berrou, S. Benedetto, Y. Nemoto, A. Jamalipour, N. Kato, G. Caire, S. Lin, G. Montorsi, F. Chiaraluce, R. Garello, and F. Lattarulo. Last year's JCOMSS has evolved in an open access journal and is currently indexed in Scopus, EBSCO, Doaj, Google Scholar, and recently is under evaluation by the Clarivate Analytics (former Thompson Reuters) for inclusion in the SCIE/ESCI databases.

The opening ceremony and the plenary session was held in the attractive ambience of the Radisson Blu Resort hotel, Split, September 22. SoftCOM 2017 was chaired by Prof. Dr. Sc. Dinko Begusic, CCIS Vice president (right), prof. Maja Matijasevic, president of the IEEE Croatian Section, and prof. Pascal Lorenz, welcomed the attendees on behalf of the IEEE ComSoc and TCCS.

CCIS members are active in a number of projects within the ICT industry in Croatia and abroad including Ericsson Nikola Tesla, Zagreb, the Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industry (HAKOM), as well as a number of research groups, including the groups from the universities of Milano, Torino, Salento and Perugia, Osaka, Vienna and others. Specifically, collaboration with Ericsson Nikola Tesla is focused to software engineering in practice, the innovative companies aspects, Telco services and IoT, and Ericsson Nikola Tesla Summer Camps. In collaboration with HAKOM, roundtables have been organized on the topic "Development of the Infrastructure for the Broadband Access in the Areas with Insufficient Commercial Interest by using Structure and Investment Funds (ESI)." With universities from Vienna, Zagreb, Budapest and Split, a few Ph.D. forums on the topic of innovations in research as well as workshops on doctoral education in ICT have been organized in past years.

CCIS regularly solicits members, particularly Ph.D. students, to join not only CCIS but also ComSoc so they can easily and preferentially access the most important publications, conference proceedings and other scientific and technical materials.

ComSoc's Sister Society Publications website is https://www.comsoc.org/about/SisterSocieties/sister-society-publications, and the JCOMSS home page is available at https://jcomss.fesb.unist.hr/, and the CCIS home page is http://www.ccis.hr/

CHAPTER REPORT

# IEEE Comsoc Summer School 2018 on Intelligent Communication Networks, Lahore, Pakistan

**By Kashif Bashir, IEEE Cosmoc Lahore Chapter Chair, and Usman Munawar, IEEE Lahore Section Secretary, Pakistan**

"Education" is one of the major pillars of the IEEE Communication Society. In view of this, the IEEE Comsoc Board appreciates when the chapters disseminate awareness of the latest research and technological developments in the field of communication and related areas.

In Pakistan, the IEEE Comsoc Summer School has been organized continuously over the past three years. The first edition of the summer school was organized with the joint collaboration of Punjab University and the Al-Khawarizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS), University of Engineering and Technology Lahore, Pakistan on 26-29 July 2016; the second edition of the summer school was organized with the joint collaboration of FAST National University and Al-Khawarizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS), UET Lahore, Pakistan on 11-14 July 2017.

The IEEE Comsoc Lahore Chapter organized the third IEEE Comsoc Summer School 2018 at the Syed Babar Ali School of Science and Engineering, LUMS Lahore with the joint collaboration of the IEEE LUMS student branch and Al-Khawarizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS), University of Engineering and Technology Lahore, Pakistan. This year the theme of the Summer School was Intelligent Communication Networks. It attracted a diverse audience of communication technology students, researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, and public administration across the world.

The opening ceremony of the IEEE Comsoc Summer School 2018 took place at LUMS Lahore on 7 August 2018. The Chief Guest of the opening ceremony was Prof. Dr. Shahid Masud Acting Vice Chancellor and Dean of School of Science and Engineering LUMS. Prof. Dr. Shahid Masud delivered the welcome note and mentioned that LUMS is ranked amongst the top 500 schools of science and engineering overall in the world. He appreciated the fact that despite the communications community being comparatively small in Pakistan, gathering interested people and quality speakers from all over the world was a big milestone achieved by the organizing team of IEEE Comsoc Summer School 2018. He emphasized the importance of the communications field and how everyone desires high speed data transmission.

Mr. Kashif Bashir, Chair of the IEEE Cosmoc Lahore Chapter and the General Chair of the IEEE Comsoc Summer School 2018, explained the history of the IEEE Comsoc Summer School and showed glimpses of the last two summer schools through a video. He also discussed the agenda of IEEE Comsoc Summer School 2018.

Dr. Momin Uppal, an associate professor at LUMS, said that this school has been organized very carefully to deliver the best and latest through interactive sessions with the participants.

This year the IEEE Comsoc Summer School 2018 featured 10 speakers including four from abroad and six from national universities. International speakers were from the University of Leeds, UK; NEC Labs Europe, Germany; the University of Oklahoma USA, and Vodafone UK; the national speakers were from LUMS Lahore, UET Lahore and ITU Lahore.

Featured speakers and topics of the talk were Dr. Syed Ali Zaidi (emerging technologies for intelligent communication network design and deployment); Dr. Momin Uppal (OFDM: the theory of practice); Dr. Ali Ahmad (blind deconvolution using deep generative priors); Dr. Zarrar Yousaf (NFV and SDN–key technology enablers for 5G networks); Dr. Muhammad Tahir (cross-roads between machine learning, signal processing, and communications); Dr. Ali Imran (leveraging AI for designing lean, elastic, agile and proactive (LEAP) wireless networks of the future: case studies, challenges and opportunities); Dr. Junaid Qadir (on analyzing self-driving networks: a systems thinking approach); Dr. Usman Javed (internet of things – a digitally connected society); Dr. Mahboob Ur Rahman (toward intelligent receiver design for nano-scale communication systems operating in the terahertz band); and Dr. Ubaid Ullah Fayyaz (factor graphs in channel coding).

A technical tour to Punjab Safe City Authorities (PSCA) was arranged on the third day of the Summer School to give the researchers the latest updates on how the latest technology is helping government institutions ensure the safety of their citizens. Mr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Chief Operating Officer, delivered a comprehensive presentation on PSCA and its activities and programs.

A thesis competition was also arranged with the title '5 Minutes Thesis Madness' on the last day of the Summer School. Students participated in this competition and showcased their thesis and research work. Three students were declared winners and were presented shields as tokens of appreciation.

The Chief Guest of the closing ceremony was Prof. Dr. Waqar Mahmood, Managing Director of the Al-Khawarizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS) UET Lahore. He delivered a presentation on KICS research activities and two IEEE conferences ICOSST 2017 and ICECE 2017. He expressed appreciation for the efforts of the organizing committee and volunteers for organizing a four- day event 7–10 August.

Dr. Momin Uppal, Associate Prof. at LUMS, and Mr. Usman Munawar, Secretary of the IEEE Lahore Section, were also present at the closing ceremony. Dr. Tariq Jadoon from the Electrical Engineering Department at LUMS distributed the certificates among the participants of the Summer School. At the end of the event shields were distributed among the invited speakers and the events' organizers by the Chief Guest of the closing ceremony.

All guests with participants of the Summer School along with Mr. Kashif Bashir, Dr. Zarrar Yousaf, Dr Momin Uppal and Dr. Syed Ali Zaidi.

# Activities of the IEEE ComSoc Iraq Chapter in 2018

**By Sattar B. Sadkhan, IEEE ComSoc Iraq Chapter Chair**

The IEEE Communications Society Iraq Chapter, in cooperation with the IEEE Iraq section and the IEEE CIS Iraq Chapter, enhanced the technical sponsorship of seven International Scientific Conferences within Iraqi universities. These are:

- Diyala University–Engineering College, January 2018.
- Wasit University–Engineering College, March 2018.
- Islamic University in Al-Najef City, May 2018.
- Zakho and Duhook Poly-technique Universities, October 2018.
- Al-Mansour University College, November 2018.
- Al-kitab University, December 2018.
- University of Technology, December 2018.

All these conferences were well organized and controlled scientifically by the volunteering academics of the Communications Society Iraq Chapter and Iraq Section, and the CIS Iraq Chapter. There were many great challenges faced by the Iraqi academics to support the realization of these International conferences.

One of the important points that needs to be mentioned here is that within the Conference of Zakho University and Duhook Poly-technique University, papers from 11 countries were submitted in addition to the papers submitted from Iraq. This is the first time that this many countries participated in an international conference held in Iraq.

Academic women in "AL-Mansour College University" have a great volunteering efforts to support and enhance the realization of success of the International conference hold in Nov. 2018. This group of Iraqi Women gave good indication to the Interest of IEEE Iraq Section with the Women in engineering and Science inside Iraqi Scientific Area.

Signing the Local MoU for the supporting the "Al-Sadiq University" to hold the 3rd International conference sponsored technically by IEEE. For the first time some of the best undergraduate students were invited to participate in such event in the presidency of the university.

Some of the participants in the Zacho and Duhook Poly-Technique University Conference held on 9-11 Oct. 2018.