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SECTION REPORT

IEEE Iraq Section Keeps Active: Students Are Our Future!

Prof. Sattar B. Sadkhan, Chair of IEEE ComSoc Iraq Chapter, University of Babylon, Iraq

The status of Iraq in most of the cities, especially all the cities from Baghdad up to Bashara (in the south of the country), is unusual. Most of the Government institutes (especially academic and education institutes) are freezing the daily participation, especially from the students. This aspect started with undergraduate students, most of whome decided, from the start of the demonstrations and protests, to participate actively, especially in the last two weeks. Most of the students' universities installed tents in the squares inside cities, especially in Baghdad in a very important square (Al-tahrir Square), and they spend their days within these tents. They prepare their food and sleep inside these tents.

This aspect encouraged me and many other IEEE volunteers to support the students and to enhance their efforts, since many of them are IEEE student members. Actually, this status covers all Iraqi cities, and even the communication among us, as IEEE members, stopped sometimes due to the Government decision to stop Internet service in all of these cities.

This status causes great problems for us as IEEE members to continue our communications and our activities within the universities in different Iraqi cities.

In Iraq we have more than 350 IEEE members; approximately 97 percent of these members are academics, and the others are from the telecommunication companies in Iraq. Most of the IEEE members are post-graduate (M.Sc. and Ph.D. students) especially at Babylon University. Also, we have academic members in all Iraqi universities, many of them with doctorate degrees, and others with M.Sc. degrees.

Group of undergraduate students and academics from Babylon University.

The main efforts of our IEEE members are related to holding International IEEE sponsored conferences, and holding the national scientific workshops. Also, many IEEE members follow the student activities within their universities, as well as the young professional activities. The IEEE Iraq section enhances the activities of women in Iraqi scientific areas, and also continually enhances the activities of the primary student activities.

These days have been very difficult days in the last 16 years in our country, and especially for all citizens. For that reason we are looking to the future , and we hope that God will help us to overcome this very difficult status. We also believe that "the student is the future." For that reason we prepared a poster featuring this statement in English and Arabic, and we invited the IEEE students and many lecturers to take a picture with this poster.

Groups of academics from Babylon University.

CONFERENCE REPORT

5G and IOT Summit 2019 in Lahore, Pakistan

By Kashif Bashir, IEEE ComSoc Lahore Chapter Chair, Pakistan

The IEEE ComSoc Lahore Chapter, in collaboration with the Sultan Qaboos IT Chair and Al-Khawarazmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS) UET Lahore, organized a one-day event "5G and IoT Summit 2019" on 26 February 2019. The event was held at the seminar hall of KICS-UET Lahore. This summit provided a platform for industry, innovators and researchers to collaborate and exchange thoughts in the area of 5G and IoT. More than 75 participants from various universities and industries such as UET Taxila, Punjab University, LUMS, UET Lahore and Power Soft19 attended this mega event where presentations were delivered on the most popular topic of today, "5G and IoT".

The event started with the recitation of Quran. Mr. Kashif Bashir, Chair of the IEEE Comsoc Lahore Chapter, delivered the welcome note. He also gave a presentation on the past activities of the ComSoc Lahore Chapter. Mr. Usman Munawar, General Secretary of the IEEE Lahore Section, spoke on "Steer Your Career with IEEE" and described the benefits and the functions of IEEE and IEEE ComSoc. Dr. Ghalib Asad Ullah Shah, Vice Chair, Sultan Qaboos IT UET Lahore, spoke on the topic of "Communication in Internet of Things". Dr. Tariq Jadoon, Chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department at Lahore University of Management Science (LUMS) and past Chair of the IEEE ComSoc Lahore Chapter, delivered his presentation on the subject of "5G: What Can We Learn from the Previous 4Gs". Following next was a talk on "Multimedia Streaming in Mobile Environment and IoT" by Muhammad Saleem, Sr. Architect, Power Soft19. The final talk of the event was delivered by Huawei's Senior Instructor, Mr. Fahmeed Akram, on the subject of "IP Core Network in 5G Technology".

Mr. Kashif Bashir giving shield to Dr. Tariq Jadoon.

Usman Munawar, Kashif Bashir, Dr. Tariq Jadoon with participants of Summit.

The event concluded with the presentation of shields to the honorable guests and the participants by the Chair of the IEEE ComSoc Lahore Chapter, Mr. Kashif Bashir, and Chairman of EE LUMS Dr. Tariq Jadoon Then guests and participants were taken on a technical visit to the Huawei UET Telecom and Center.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURER TOUR

The Presence of IEEE Asia-Pacific Office and Support to IEEE Activities in the AP Region

By Ewell Tan, Project Manager, IEEE Asia-Pacific Limited, Singapore

Strategically located in the heart of Asia, our IEEE Asia-Pacific office is located in Singapore as one of the IEEE global offices and an expansion of IEEE in Asia. Our office in Singapore was registered in January 1994 and it has progressively expanded its role from a customer service center into a comprehensive line, which covers member services, volunteer projects and supports (a.k.a. IEEE Region 10 Support), sales and marketing, IEEE products and services training support and business development.

With IEEE Headquarters based in Piscataway, New Jersey on the East Coast of the United States, the presence of the Singapore office provides valuable support to bridge the time zone difference and strive to better serve more than 130,000 members, volunteers and customers of IEEE in Asia.

In January 2011, our office has relocated to the hub of Singapore's science and engineering research at Solaris @ Fusionopolis. This move enabled IEEE to expand its quality standard services for the R&D community, as well as provide a greater support role for its growing membership and activities in Asia. Today, with a staff of 10 led by the Director of Singapore Operations, Mr. Leo Hwa Chiang, our Singapore office endeavors to keep the Asia Pacific region the most vibrant and dynamic region in IEEE, by keeping our members, volunteers and customers informed, engaged and their activities coordinated.

In addition to the Singapore office, IEEE also has a strong presence in Asia with global offices including Beijing and Shenzhen in China; Tokyo in Japan; and Bangalore in India. These offices continue to embrace connectivity and cooperation to better serve the local IEEE communities. The key goals of the Singapore Office are:

Staff of the IEEE Asia-Pacific office. From left to right: Leo Hwa Chiang, Director of IEEE Singapore Operations; Alex Liu, Manager of Client Service Asia; Melody Koh, Senior Accountant; Karen Lim, Contact Center Technical Associate; Jacelyn Koh, Customer Center Analyst; Ira Tan, Regional Sales Manager APAC; Lijun Huang, Order Processing Associate; Ewell Tan, Project Manager; Min Bia Gunawan, Administrator; Richard Chandra, International Area Manager.

- Expand IEEE's visibility and develop SE Asia as one of the largest markets through our programs, products and services.
- Engage local members, industry, government and international organizations through emerging technology trends and issues.
- Enhanced Support for Region 10, promoting inter-section collaboration and engaging specific industry corporations.
- Increase Xplore subscriptions.

To reach us, address and contact details are posted on our web site: https://site.ieee.org/ieeeap/

IEEE Region 10: https://www.ieeer10.org/

CHAPTER REPORT

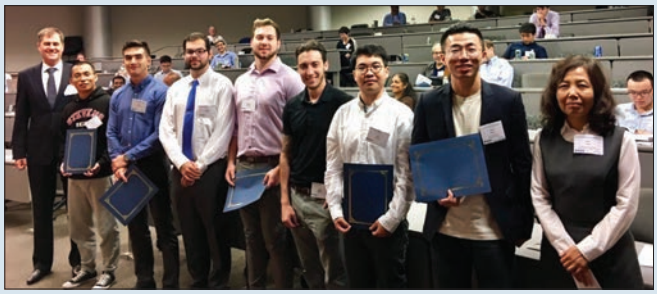
Seventh Annual IEEE North Jersey Advanced Communications Symposium, Fall 2019

By Amit Patel, IEEE North Jersey Section, ComSoc Chapter Chair, USA

The 2019 IEEE North Jersey Advanced Communications Symposium (NJACS) was held at the Babbio Center, Stevens Institute of Technology, in Hoboken, NJ, on Saturday, September 14, 2019. The symposium consisted of four keynote presentations and a parallel poster session contest with nearly a dozen local student posters participating. The symposium was well attended with close to 75 attendees, speakers, and volunteers from the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area.

The symposium started at 9:30 am when the registration desk opened, participants got together for networking, and the posters were set up. The program started at 10:00 am with welcome remarks given by Symposium Chair Dr. Adriaan van Wijngaarden, Nokia Bell Labs. Acknowledgments and thanks to the many technical and financial supporters were given by Mr. Amit Patel, IEEE North Jersey Section ComSoc Chapter Chair. Symposium Program Chair and Stevens Professor, Dr. Yu-Dong Yao delivered opening remarks. Additional co-sponsors for the event included the IEEE North Jersey Section, ComSoc Chapter (which had received additional financial support from the IEEE Communications Society), and its Information Theory, Vehicular Technology and Computer Chapters.

Dr. Yao then gave program remarks and introduced this year's theme: "Continued Deep Learning". The morning program began with Dr. Jin Yu (Signify, Phillips Lighting) giving the first lecture on "Audio Recognition with Lighting IoT Systems". This was followed by Drs. Shang Li, Velin Kournev, and Gaurav Thakur (AT&T Research Labs) on "Deep Learning and Computer Vision for Radio Access Network Planning". During the lunch break, there was time for discussions with the participants, speakers and with poster presenters. Poster judges also reviewed the materials and student presentations.



Student poster winners with Dr. van Wijngaarden (far left) and Dr. Hannah Zhao(far right).

Symposium posters presented in the atrium.

The afternoon program started with "Towards More Autonomous UAVs Using Deep Learning" by Dr. Marcus Pendleton (Air Force Research Lab). This was followed by a lecture on "An Introduction to Blockchain-Based Distributed Learning" by Professor Shucheng Yu (Stevens Institute of Technology). Abstract summaries and speaker biographies for all presentations can be found at https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/m/200499.

In the closing remarks following the technical program, program chair Dr. Yao introduced the Poster Committee Chair, Dr. Hannah Zhao (Fairleigh Dickinson University), who announced the winners of the poster competition. The symposium's Poster Committee had invited students and postdocs during the months prior to the symposium to prepare a poster presentation on recent research work and cutting edge developing technologies for this year's theme. Undergraduates, Master students, Ph.D. students and postdocs were all encouraged to participate. The symposium's Poster Committee had accepted a number of high-quality posters from local universities. The poster topics ranged from applications of machine learning for speaker verification biometrics, deep learning for baby detection, fake news detection methods, noise classification using deep learning and others. The poster session provided student researchers with direct interactions with faculty, industry researchers and regional IEEE officers and volunteers. It served as an excellent platform and opportunity to network for future collaborative research and career advancement. The posters were on display all day and special exhibition times were scheduled for all attendees. The poster committee, chaired by Hannah Zhao and further consisting of judges Adrian van Wijngaarden and Stephen Wilkowski, evaluated the posters. The chair emphasized that all posters had been of an extremely high quality and demonstrated the wide range of subject matter and domains to which machine and deep learning was being applied. After a rigorous review process, the following posters were selected to receive poster awards. Third place was a three way tie between three separate poster teams:

First Place: Fangzhou Wang, "Joint Waveform and Receiver Design for Co-Channel Hybrid Active-Passive Sensing with Timing Uncertainty".

Second Place: Yudi Dong, "Multimodal Biometrics for Speaker Verification Leveraging mmWave Radar".

Third Place: Nicholas Donatelli, Timothy Flynn, Michael Macari, "CELLS Test Bed"; Yuan Jiang, "Deep Learning Denoising Based Line Spectral Estimation"; and M. Hopwood, S. Wu, A. Wurst, "Deep Learning for Detecting Emotion of Human Voice".

The first, second, and third place winners received prizes of $200/$150/$100 respectively (one prize per winning participant). All poster presenters received participation certificates.

In his closing remarks, Dr. van Wijngaarden thanked Stevens Institute of Technology for hosting the symposium and for the use of the Babbio Center, which provided an excellent venue for the symposium. Additional thanks went to all co-organizers and volunteers for their hard work that made the symposium a success, including Michael Newell, Registration Chair; Hong Man, Local Arrangements; and Bennet Meyer, CEU coordinator. Please contact the organizing committee or volunteers for any additional follow up questions or feedback on the event.

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