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INTERVIEW

Sister and Related Societies

Interview with Ana Garcia Armada, IEEE ComSoc Vice President for Member and Global Activities

by Stefano Bregni, Global Communications Newsletter Editor-in-Chief, Director Conference Operations, and Ana Garcia Armada, Vice President for Member and Global Activities

This article continues the series of interviews to the Officers of the IEEE ComSoc Member and Global Activities (MGA) Council, which is published every month on the Global Communications Newsletter.

In this issue, I interview Ana Garcia Armada, IEEE ComSoc Vice President for Member and Global Activities, in her capacity as Chair of the Sister and Related Societies (SRS) Ad-Hoc Committee.

Stefano Bregni

Ana Garcia Armada

Ana García Armada is a Professor at University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain. She has published more than 250 papers in international journals and conference proceedings and she holds five granted patents. She is serving on the editorial board of IEEE Transactions on Communications, and IEEE Open Journal of the Communications Society. She has been a member of the organizing committee of several conferences and the General Chair of IEEE Globecom 2021. She has been a Member at Large of the Board of Governors, Director of Online Content and member of several management committees in the IEEE Communications Society, where she is now the VP of Member and Global Activities.

The Sister and Related Societies Committee was created at the beginning of 2022 by the IEEE ComSoc President Sherman Shen to develop the strategy, formulate the process, and engage with the ComSoc Sister and Related Societies (SRS) to promote additional cooperation through joint activities. Currently, the members of the SRS Committee for term 2022–2023 are the following:

- Ana Garcia Armada, VP MGA, Chair
- Tomoaki Otsuki, MGA Council
- Stefano Bregni, Conferences Council
- Zhisheng Niu, Technical and Education Activities Council
- Octavia Dobre, Publications Council
- Karen Pannullo, Staff

Stefano: Hello Ana! I would begin our interview by introducing first what are the Sister Societies and the Related Societies. In particular, what is the difference between them?

Ana: Sister Societies are associations or societies of similar areas of interest and technical scope as IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc), with which ComSoc has established relationships. Examples of Sister Societies are China Institute of Communications (CIC), the Korean Institute of Communications and Information Sciences (KICS), the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE-CS) and Sociedade Brasileira de Telecomunicações (SBRT).

Related Societies are national or international professional/learned associations with status/charter similar to ComSoc, but complementary in technical scope. Examples of Related Societies are the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

Stefano: Is there a standard process to establish and manage relations between ComSoc and SRS?

Ana: ComSoc signs with each SRS a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), where the conditions of each relationship are agreed. In this way, we enter a formal relationship to strive to achieve the mutual goals of both organizations.

The MoU should be periodically reviewed and updated according to the evolution of the relationship and common interests.

Stefano: Are there any advantages for SRS and ComSoc members, because of the MoU agreement signed?

Ana: The MoU usually establishes cooperation and benefits for each other's members.

For example, membership to the sister organization is advertised and promoted to current members of each of the societies and membership fees may be discounted. Registration fees to the sponsored events by each sister society may be done at each other's member rates. Training courses may be offered at discounted prices.

Stefano: Is it possible for ComSoc and SRS to organize jointly events?

Ana: Jointly sponsored events may be organized on topics of mutual agreement at appropriate technical, professional, and student conferences and events held by each organization.

ComSoc may provide technical co-sponsorship to well established events sponsored by the sister society, always following the ComSoc review process, and waiving the technical co-sponsorship application.

Speakers may be recommended to each other for sessions or events, or activities may be conducted at each other's events with the agreement of both parties.

Stefano: There are also co-sponsored publications? Or do Members get special rates to subscribe ComSoc or SRS publications?

Ana: Through cooperative agreements, ComSoc members can subscribe to several outstanding journals published by the sister societies at discounted subscription rates. The following are some examples:

- Journal of Communication and Information Systems (SBrT)
- IEICE Transactions (IEICE)
- IEEE/KICS The Journal of Communications and Networks (KICS)
- European Transactions on Telecommunications (AEIT)

Stefano: With how many Sister and Related Societies has ComSoc signed agreements?

Ana: ComSoc has established MoUs with 25 Sister Societies and 7 Related Societies. These agreements represent 22 countries and span a wide technical area of expertise. Of these, 17 have been recently renewed or are in process of renewal.

Stefano: Very good. Would you make any special remark to conclude our conversation? Anything in particular you wish to highlight to the attention of GCN readers?

Ana: ComSoc has a long tradition of global outreach and some of these societies are important for our members in their local or regional communities. By preserving the relationships with them, ComSoc pursues its vision of bringing the world together in harmony through communications and networking technology research, application, education, and incubation of new ideas.

I would like to finish thanking the members of the SRS Committee for their work and commitment, namely Stefano Bregni, Octavia Dobre, Zhisheng Niu and Tomoaki Otsuki.

CHAPTER REPORT

IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter, Pakistan: IoT Applications in Smart Agriculture

by Umair Ahmed Korai, IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter Vice Chair, and Faisal Karim Shaikh, MUET, Pakistan

IEEE Communication Society (ComSoc) Karachi Chapter in collaboration with IEEE ComSoc MUET Student Chapter and IEEE MUET Student Branch organized a technical seminar titled as "IoT Applications in Smart Agriculture" by Prof. Dr. Faisal Karim Shaikh on March 08, 2023, at the Butt Karahi Hall Hyderabad.

The total number of participants in this seminar were 63 in which 56 were IEEE members and 07 were non-IEEE members. The event started with the recitation of Holy Quran followed by the National Anthem of Pakistan. Afterwards, Dr. Umair Ahmed Korai, Vice Chair IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter, welcomed the Chief Guest, Guest of Honors, Speaker, volunteers, and participants of the seminar. The IEEE members have attended the seminar are, Dr. Abi Waqas, Assistant Professor MUET and Branch Counselor, IEEE MUET Student Branch, Dr. Badar Muneer, Associate Professor MUET and Advisor, IEEE MTT MUET Student Chapter, Engr. Mahveer Rathi, Lab Engineer MUET and Advisor, IEEE CS MUET Student Chapter, and Engr. Mohsin Shah, Assistant Professor MUET and Ex-Com Member, IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter

Prof. Dr. Aftab Ahmed Memon, Meritorious Professor and Chairman, Department of Telecommunication Engineering attended this seminar as a Chief Guest, and Engr. Moiz Rahman Memon, Treasurer IEEE Karachi Section, attended this seminar as a Guest of Honor.

The first session of the talk was delivered by Prof. Dr. Faisal Karim Shaikh. He is currently serving as a Professor at the Department of Telecommunication Engineering, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology Jamshoro. Dr. Faisal explained the importance of IoT in agriculture and how crops quantity and quality can be increased by using this technology.

The seminar aimed to provide insights into how IoT is revolutionizing the agricultural sector, particularly in developing countries. The seminar was conducted through a mix of presentations, group discussions, and practical demonstrations. Dr. Faisal began the talk by discussing the current state of art for smart agriculture in Pakistan, highlighting the challenges faced by farmers and the need for more efficient farming methods. He then explained the role of IoT in addressing these challenges, particularly in the areas of crop monitoring, irrigation management, and soil quality monitoring. He also presents the results of a case study of one of the similar projects, deployed at Matiari Pakistan. This project (Prof. Dr. Faisal Karim and Dr. Umair Ahmed Korai, "Smart Tubewell for Energy Efficient Agriculture System (22-HAC-106)," 2022–2023) is funded by IEEE HAC/SIGHT Projects Call for Proposals Focused on Pressing Community Needs.

The group discussions focused on the challenges faced by farmers in Pakistan and the potential benefits of IoT solutions.

A Group picture has been taken with Chief Guest, Guest of Honor, Speaker, Volunteers, and participants at the end of the technical seminar on IoT Applications in Smart Agriculture

Participants shared their experiences with IoT technology in agriculture and discussed potential barriers to adoption.

The second session of this seminar was explaining the benefits of IEEE and IEEE ComSoc. This session was conducted by Engr. Moiz Rahman Memon and Dr. Umair Ahmed Korai. Engr. Moiz explained the benefits of IEEE in general and Dr. Umair explained the benefits of IEEE ComSoc, in particular. Following key points were discussed during the second session for explaining the benefits of IEEE and IEEE ComSoc.

In last, the Worthy Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Aftab Ahmed Memon, gave the concluding remarks of the seminar. He acknowledged the efforts of guest speakers, organizers, and volunteers and encouraged the participants to explore in more depth about IEEE and importance of IoT. In the concluding remarks, Dr. Umair Ahmed Korai, thanked chief guest, guest of honor, speakers, guests, event organizers, collaborators, volunteers, and participants for attending the seminar. In the end, shields and certificates were distributed, followed by the group picture and dinner.

Prof. Dr. Faisal Karim Shaikh delivering his talk on IoT applications on smart agriculture.

CHAPTER REPORT

IEEE ComSoc Delhi Chapter

Winner of the 2022 Chapter Achievement Award for Asia-Pacific Region

by Prashant Chugh, IEEE ComSoc Delhi Chapter, India

IEEE Communications Society-Delhi Chapter received the year 2022 Chapter Achievement Award for achieving excellence in chapter activities and for contributions made in furthering the objectives of the IEEE Communications Society. This award recognized ComSoc-Delhi Chapter as the top-performing Chapter in IEEE ComSoc Asia-Pacific region. The award was given for the Chapter's achievements in the year 2021. One of the major achievements was that the Chapter conducted about 50 technical events in the year 2021. To reach out to its members, Chapter Switched to virtual mode for most events as physical events were not possible due to COVID pandemic. Technical events were a combination of standalone lectures, lecture series of about a week, half -day webinars-cum-workshop, 2-day workshop.

On the eve of International Women's Day, Chapter organized under its WICE initiative: IEEE Women-in-Communication Engineering-Happy Hour to reach out to Women to join IEEE Communications Society. ComSoc-Delhi Chapter also encouraged Engineering students by means of starting Awards for Best Thesis in the area of Communications & Allied areas for Under-Graduate and Graduate Students.

Furthermore, Chapter increased Collaboration with other Delhi Section Chapters- Computer Chapter, Signal Processing Chapter, Computational Intelligence Chapter and IEEE Delhi Section, Industry Relation Committee (IRC)-Delhi Section, also with ComSoc- Bangalore Chapter, with ACM-India, Indian National Academy of Engineers (INAE) for better outreach. Chapter also increased Collaboration with institutes in the area covered by Delhi Section. Activities were conducted in collaboration with NIT Hamirpur, IIIT Delhi, IIT Delhi, MAIT Delhi, DTU Delhi, Bharatiya Vidyapeeth Delhi, NSUT etc. Chapter also organized two half-day workshops on Industry-Academia interaction to ensure participation of Industry members.

Chapter Chair actively participated in on-line mode in ComSoc Membership Value Research Congress (MVRC)

Prashant Chugh, IEEE ComSoc Delhi Chapter Chair (2021-2022) receiving the 2022 Chapter Achievement Award at IEEE GLOBECOM 2022, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

and shared ideas and thoughts as Chapter representative to strengthen the ComSoc and its reach. IEEE Day, a crucial event, was celebrated by organizing a ComSoc Virtual Distinguished Lecturer (VDL) talk on the subject "Machine Learning in Digital Medicine." The subject was chosen considering there is a need of increased usage of communications and computing in digital medicine to be prepared in future for Covid-type pandemics. Besides, Chapter strengthened its Executive Committee considerably so that it could conduct better quality and increased number of technical events. Chapter also contributed towards IEEE DELCON conference organized by IEEE Delhi Section. Though the conference was in Feb 2022, a large part of preparation was done in 2021. Chapter contributed extensively in review of papers in the area of communications and computers, in being track chair of communications related track.

Overall, chapter was successful because its Executive Committee members reached out to all sections of its members and potential future members and collaborated with other IEEE OUs and other organizations for better outreach. It is hoped that success of the Delhi chapter shall motivate other chapters to excel.

ANNUAL REPORT

Warning on Prevention from Quantum "Tie-in Selling" and LiFi Misleading in the Thai IEEE ComSoc Annual Report 2022

by Keattisak Sripimanwat, IEEE ComSoc Thailand Chapter Chair

At the IEEE Thailand section annual meeting, yearly activities and related technical advancements were reported to all members both onsite (30) & online. Specially, there were important issues based on quantum & visible light communications misleading. Thus, recent pseudoscience & crazed engineering was summarized. The opening of a collaborative project; "Quantum ICT — Ready & Learning Organization" as the solution, was then followed.

Generally, quantum cryptography or quantum key distribution (QKD) aims to be the testbed for human resource development toward the future quantum communications. However its rhetoric on real-life applications has been misleading our community for many decades. That case of concern was also found locally. QKD bundling with other product to secure the power grid network was tackled and then shown out to the meeting.

As appeared worldwide, QKD's overrated marketing tactics has been started from its "miracle" thru "threatening" for a long time. While, no any QKD manufacturer has ever implemented to secure their own networks (7days/ 24hrs). Moreover, the National Cyber Security Centre — UK 2018, National Security Agency — US 2020, Agence nationale de la sécurité des systèmes d'information — France 2022, and Federal Office for Information Security — Germany 2022, did not recommend QKD either. After those unsuccessful strategies for telecommunications market, QKD came up with the latest channel, to tie itself for the power industry.

In parallel, there was a coincidental information distributed from the national science & technology policy agency that stunned people for years. Its quantum technology roadmap (2020 — 2029) shows extremely weird and listed as our news of the year 2022. Starting from proposing quantum tech to secure private information and to develop borrower ratings and bad debt opportunities algorithms for banking and finance businesses, they would also adopt quantum unbelievably though the earthquake warnings system, to the "Animal Healthcare!"

Presentations and Video Thumbnails in the Annual Report 2022: Quantum "Tie-in Selling" and Weird Policy LiFi Misleading

Another, Thai ComSoc has been working for a decade to protect people from crazed engineering of LiFi (Light Fidelity or WiFi via light). Previous events were reported on IEEE GCN (2017 -https://bit.ly/31z0GmT & 2018 — https://bit.ly/34Ea36L). However, LiFi misleading is still carrying on. Its first rhetoric of "wireless data from every light bulb" has just mutated to "light-based wireless communications." In common, both LiFi and quantum misleading emit similar negative effects to the public as super spreaders of fake news & fabricated marketing report, research misconduct, and others. Therefore fighting with those high hype, real science communications is needed. Columns, books, videos, and related published information by local chapter including "Quantum ICT — Ready & Learning Organization" project, were then introduced as a knowledge-vaccine to immune people from those related infections.

In this year-end meeting, many audiences not only agreed to help us working toward a sustainable knowledge based society, but they were also waiting for the responsibility from those who distributed crazed engineering into our community.

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