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# Global Communications Newsletter

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December 1998

## Farewell Message from the Editor

By Byeong Gi Lee

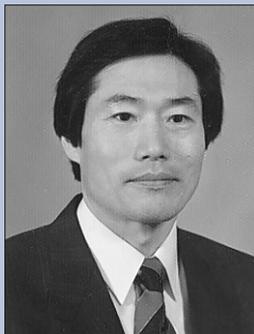
I recognize *GCN* as an important news vehicle that can facilitate the globalization of ComSoc as well as the exchange of information among all constituent entities of the communications community worldwide. It can also contribute to dissemination of various kinds of information such as ComSoc policies and decisions as well as opinions of ComSoc officers, and to returning members' feedback for future policies and decisions. As Editor of *GCN* I have endeavored to better fulfill these functions for the past two years.

This year ComSoc has experienced a major organizational restructuring, and the direction of *GCN* has been modified accordingly. In the past, the role of *GCN* was limited to reporting communications-related activities in "global" regions, excluding North America. Last year we modified this to some extent by including ComSoc news and activities. Starting this year, we have further extended *GCN's* contents so that the spirit of globalization pursued by the ComSoc restructuring can be properly reflected.

To that end, we have diversified the *GCN* articles in such a way that regional local news is balanced with regional office news and ComSoc office reports. Specifically, articles have been invited from two different sectors — ComSoc central organizations and global regions. The former includes ComSoc Officers' messages, Technical Committee activity reports, meeting and conference status reports, journal and magazine status reports, and other membership development and service-related reports. The latter includes *GCN* correspondents reports, regional offices (Brussels and Singapore) reports, Regional Directors (AP, EMEA, LA, and NA) reports, ComSoc Chapters reports, Sister Societies news, and other global communication community news and membership feedback.

This arrangement has the effect of enhancing the level of participation of all ComSoc members and officers, not limited to *GCN* correspondents. In addition, it helps members to learn about the activities of each national society, regional office, and regional committee, and the decisions made by each council, board, and committee of ComSoc. I believe that such an open forum has contributed to the globalization of ComSoc by promoting active participation in ComSoc activities and stimulating collaboration worldwide among ComSoc members.

One distinctive feature of *GCN* is that its globalization is enhanced by the change of editor. This is because the editorship rotates globally, activating participation from each region. In the beginning the



Byeong Gi Lee

editorship was given to the EAME Region with Andrzej Jajszczyk, then to the Asia Pacific Region, and it will be given to the Latin America Region next. Professor Nelson Fonseca of the State University of Campinas, Brazil, is going to take over the editorship beginning January 1999. I believe that this will enrich the correspondent pool in the LA Region and will promote LA Regional participation.

For the past two years I have been indebted to a number of ComSoc colleagues — *GCN* correspondents, ComSoc Regional Office managers, Regional Directors, Technical Committee Chairs, Chapter Chairs, Sister Societies officers, and ComSoc officers — who have contributed about 150 articles. I would like to take this

opportunity to thank them all for their participation and time spent writing articles. Especially, the contributions of some frequent contributors, namely, Jaques Kevers, Fanny Su, Jacob Baal-Schem, Joan Garcia-Haro, Giancarlo Pirani, Dongmyun Lee, and Craig Skinner, are gratefully acknowledged.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Professor Saewoong Bahk, Associate Editor, who has shared editorial work with me, taking the responsibility of editing and reviewing *GCN* articles. I would like to extend my appreciation to Professor Kenzo Takahashi for joining the *GCN* editorial board as Associate Editor for the Chapters Corner, and to Professor Nelson Fonseca for earnestly taking over the editor-

*(Continued on page 4)*

### 75 Years of Australian Telecommunications Research

By Craig Skinner, Australia

Since its inception 75 years ago, Telstra Research Laboratories (TRL) has been bringing the future to Australian telecommunications. Today, TRL is one of Australia's largest industrial R&D organizations, helping Telstra (previously the government-owned national carrier) to overcome the problems of long distances, harsh environments, and climate extremes that are unique to Australia.

TRL began in 1923 as a single-person research department within the Australian Post Office, the government organization then responsible for Australian postal and telecommunications services. The founder, Sidney Witt, helped introduce much needed technology to meet the demands placed on the network after World War I. This consisted initially of repeaters and three-channel carriers.

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## Region 8 Communications Chapters Chairs Meeting in Florence, Italy (9-10 October 1998)

By Jacob Baal-Schem,

Region 8 ComSoc Chapters Coordinator and Vice-Chair, ComSoc EAME Board

Communications Chapters in Region 8 are growing and very active. There are actually about 28 Chapters in the Region. The most recent Chapter was actually established on 27 August as the Italy Chapter, connected to both the North Italy Section and the Central and South Italy Section of IEEE. A meeting of Communications Chapters Chairs was initiated by Dr. Jacob Baal-Schem, ComSoc Chapters Coordinator of Region 8 and member of the Europe, Africa and Middle East Board of ComSoc. This meeting was financially supported by both ComSoc and Region 8, and was organized by the Manager of the Brussels Office of IEEE, Jacques Kevers. Participants in the meeting came from as far as Novosibirsk in Siberia and Dharan in Saudi Arabia, and also included representatives from the Benelux, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, and UKRI Chapters, as well as the newly elected Chair of the Italy Chapter. Region 8 Director Maurice Papo and Communications Society President-Elect Roberto De Marca honored the meeting by their presence.

After a short introduction of all the participants, the Region 8 Director presented his view of the importance of Chapters and their activities, which are the basis of the technical activities of IEEE in the Region. He also stressed the importance given to Chapter activities in Region 8 and the excellent leadership provided by the Chapter Coordination Committee and its Chair. ComSoc's President-Elect presented the new structure of the Society's leadership and the importance given to globalization by holding major conferences in

Regions 7-10 and planning to hold major meetings outside the United States. In order not to limit the meeting to organizational matters, Hamid Aghvami, former Chair of the UKRI Chapter, was invited to present an overview of the Universal Mobile Telephone System planned for the next century and succeeded in squeezing a day-long tutorial into a short and much appreciated presentation. Federico Tosco, former Chair of ComSoc's EAMEC, represented EAME Region Director Horst Bessai and explained the objectives of the Europe, Africa and Middle East Board and its aims in assisting technical activities and participation in ComSoc Conferences. The first morning concluded with a presentation of the activities of the Brussels office by Jacques Kevers, who did an excellent job in organizing this meeting in conjunction with ICUPC.

The whole afternoon was devoted to presentations by the representatives of the Communications Chapters and to discussions of achievements and problems. The Region 8 Director and ComSoc President-Elect pointed to assistance and grants available from the Section, the Region, and the Society. This presentation was complemented the next day by a short presentation on the establishment of the Italy Chapter by Prof. Vatalari, who was elected as its first Chair. The main subjects raised referred to the possibilities of organizing Speaker Tours for the Chapters, and the Brussels Office offered its services to assist in this activity. The evening was spent at a dinner offered to the participants and their spouses.

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## E-commerce and Science Hubs in Singapore

By K. R. Subramanian, Singapore

### E-commerce

Five areas of development have been identified to give cyber-commerce a boost in Singapore. Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong, Acting Prime Minister of Singapore, spoke at the opening of Comdex Asia '98, a three-day IT exhibition held in Singapore on 23-25 September 1998. He said, "The Government will work with the private sector to put in place the infrastructure for e-commerce." Singapore already has some systems in place, including a system for secure Net transaction and the relevant legislation. The Government has opened a Net shop which sells goods and services from eleven agencies so people can enjoy faster access to its products and services without leaving home. The focus will be on services which will benefit both citizens and businesses, through improved efficiency and business costs. Singapore has signed the Berne Convention, which accords certain minimum levels of copyright protection on the Internet.

Singapore has already drawn a master plan to create an e-commerce hub that would, in five years' time, hum with the activities of at least half of the business here and ring up trade to the tune of \$4 billion. Cyber-commerce has been forecast to soar to US\$300 billion worldwide in four year's time. The five pillars of the Master Plan are:

- Drawing global firms — Incentives will be given to the companies to make Singapore the hub for their e-commerce activities.
- Raising productivity — Education and support will be given to firms to engage in e-commerce.
- Infrastructure — The Monetary Authority of Singapore

has commissioned a study on how the financial sector can use IT.

- Laws and Policies — Singapore will work with major trading partners to align cyber-trade laws.
- Public education — Mass education will be conducted to develop an e-commerce savvy culture.

### Science Hub

Singapore is developing its own Silicon Valley where ideas born within a scientific community are cradled, nurtured, and developed into commercial products. A variety of organizations such as educational institutions, research and development companies, and venture-capitalists — all of which will boost technopreneurship — will be located in the hub. It should be noted that Singapore has already established two Science Parks to promote industrial research and development activities. Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan said that the Science Hub would position Singapore for high-technology industrial activities, create a focal point for R&D, and develop an innovation milieu. Teo Ming Kian, Chair of the National Science and Technology Board said, "The hub will provide a vibrant environment where ideas and innovations can take place. Not only researchers, but businessmen, lawyers, and venture capitalists will be involved." World-class Institutions such as Insead — Europe's version of Harvard University — and John Hopkins University will set up campuses here. Essentially the Science Hub will be a self-contained focal point for R&D and the techno-entrepreneurial culture and environment.

# Conference Report on APNOMS '98: Managing the New Telecommunications Paradigms

By Masayoshi Ejiri, Japan, Jong-Tae Park and Hongbeom Jeon, Korea

**A**PNOMS '98, the Asia-Pacific Network Operations and Management Symposium, was held 16–18 September 1998 in Sendai, Japan. This symposium, which follows the very first and successful APNOMS '97 held in Seoul, Korea, in October 1997, was attended by more than 260 researchers, developers, providers, and vendors from 10 countries around the world.

The theme of this three-day symposium was “Managing the New Telecommunications Paradigms,” which was chosen to emphasize the role of network operations and management in business success and customer satisfaction in today’s global competitive and rapidly changing market.

On the first day of the symposium, APNOMS '98 participants enjoyed six tutorials on the hottest topics in the area of network operations and management. All tutorials were equally well attended, and there were a lot of interesting discussions between the audience and speakers.

The second day was opened by a welcoming message from the general chair, Masayoshi Ejiri (Fujitsu, Japan), which was followed by four keynote speeches started from Shri K. Goyal (GTE, USA). He delivered a visionary speech on “Network and Service Management — The Next Generation,” emphasizing transparently connected accessible management based on independently managed component systems for the new generation. The other speakers were Keith Willetts (NMF), Mario Campolargo (EC DGXIII, EU), and Nobuo Fujii

(NTT, Japan). There were also two keynote speeches on the third day by Shoichi Noguchi (University of Aizu, Japan) and Hyun-Woo Kim (Korea Telecom, Korea).

Following the keynote speeches on the second and third days of the symposium were the technical presentations. Forty high-quality technical papers and 12 posters on the latest results in research and development were presented. Technical presentations covered topics on SDH and access network management, CORBA-based and distributed management, mobile management, security management, NMS implementation technologies, service management, ATM network management, and Web-based and Internet management.

APNOMS '98 participants were also treated to two days of demo exhibitions. Sixteen exhibitors participated in the exhibition, and demonstrated the latest tools and systems on network operations and management. APNOMS '98 ended the three days with a very interesting and highly debated panel session on the topic of “How to Manage in the New Telecommunications Paradigms.”

Overall, APNOMS '98 was a very successful symposium in terms of the number of participants, the quality of technical and poster presentations, the number and quality of exhibitions, the electrifying keynote speeches, and, finally, the lively interaction between the attendees and speakers.

APNOMS '99 (<http://dpe.postech.ac.kr/knom/apnoms99>) is planned to be held in the fall of 1999 in Korea.

## The Evolving IEEE ComSoc Victoria Chapter

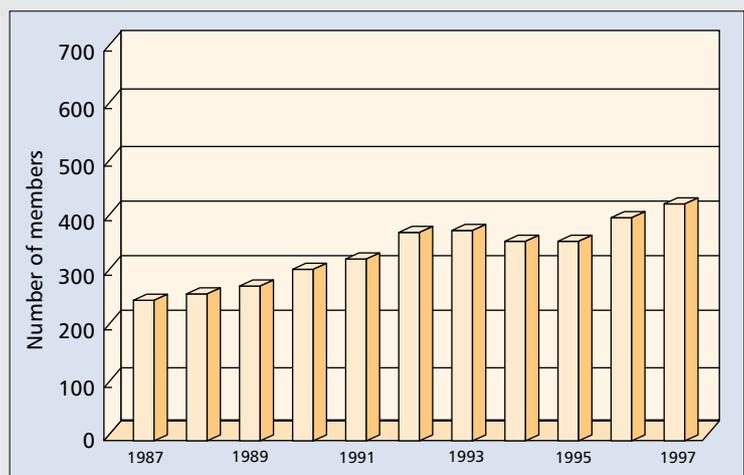
By Kenzo Takahashi, Associate Editor, Chapters Corner, and Craig Skinner, Australia

**T**his chapter is chaired by Dr. Craig Skinner (Cskinner@vtrmlm11.telstra.com.au) and belongs to the Victoria Section of Australia in Region 10. They have continued outstanding IEEE ComSoc activities, including frequent mutual communications between the members, and academic enhancement and encouragement of the members through well organized conferences and seminars. Thus, they have remarkably increased the membership by this steady effort (see Fig. 1).

### The Voice of the Victoria Chapter

As we move toward the end of every year, it is time to begin planning next year’s program and consider the Chapter Committee within the Victoria Section for next year. The aim of our planning process is to produce a Chapter plan and finally satisfy (or even exceed) our members’ wants on a local basis, within the necessary constraints. Traditionally, our Chapter has focused on organizing technical seminars and tutorial workshops. We are interested in trying some new ideas in the coming year and welcome ideas or suggestions that have been effective in other Chapters.

Another aim of our planning process is ensuring the smooth continuation of the Chapter Committee. Calls for nominations within the Victoria Section only bring forth the occasional new committee members. Almost all the current committee members within the Victoria Section and its Chapters are there because some existing committee member personally invited them. We think we need to learn to



■ Figure 1. Membership of the IEEE ComSoc Victoria Chapter.

be more active in recruiting new volunteers from among the membership.

An active committee member is a vital resource for the Chapter. It is the available time of the Chapter Committee that is the principal constraint on what the committee achieves. We hope to be able to continuously expand our Chapter Committee in order to be able to provide more value to the Chapter members. We also think the best measure of the success of a Chapter is the growth in its membership.

# Report from the IEEE Vehicular Technology/Communications Society Joint Italy Chapter

By Francesco Vatalaro, Italy

The IEEE Vehicular Technology/Communications Society joint Italy Chapter has been founded. After approval of the North Italy Section it was initially established 15 May 1998, and then extended to Central and South Italy on 27 August 1998. As an IEEE Senior Member and the Chapter Chair, I am glad to announce to our community this important event, while I thank all colleagues who gave their approval, and particularly those friends who helped in collecting almost 50 signatures on the petition. I also wish to thank for their approval both Section Chairs, Prof. Giuseppe Zingales of Università di Padova (North Italy Section) and Prof. Gaspare Galati of Università di Roma Tor Vergata (Central and South Italy Section).

The Chapter is based in Genoa, on the Riviera Ligure, in the North of Italy. It is hosted by the Istituto Internazionale delle Comunicazioni (IIC), a non-profit institute whose main aim is to promote cultural events in the fields of telecommunications and transportation. This convergence was suggested to promote our joint IEEE Chapter, and this is one motivation for this twinning with IIC. Many thanks to IIC, and personally to President Prof. Paolo de Ferra, for hosting our new-born Chapter in their wonderful 19th century Villa Piaggio, with a gorgeous view over the Gulf of Genoa.

The Chapter Executive Committee has been also established. It includes nine members: Prof. Oreste Andrisano (Università di Bologna), Prof. Maurizio Decina (Politecnico di Milano and former President of the IEEE Communications Society), Prof. Maria Gabriella Di Benedetto (Università di Roma La Sapienza, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer), Prof.

Gabriele Falciasecca (Università di Bologna and Fondazione Marconi, Chapter Deputy Chairman), Dr. Franco Grimaldi (Wind), Dr. Pietro Porzio Giusto (Telecom Italia Mobile), Dr. Federico Tosco (CSELT), Prof. Francesco Vatalaro (Università di Roma Tor Vergata and IIC, Chapter Chairman), and Dr. Valerio Zingarelli (Omnitel Pronto Italia). The Chapter's first meeting was held on Thursday, 8 October 1998 in Florence, during ICUPC '98. On that occasion the Chapter Officers were elected, and the first initiatives to be undertaken decided.

Prestigious institutions are offering to host our events: one location already made available is Villa Griffone of Fondazione Marconi in Pontecchio Marconi, near Bologna, where radio was invented.

It is not a coincidence that our Chapter has been founded now, when telecommunications, and particularly wireless communications, are growing very fast and their impact on our society is getting deeper and deeper. Therefore, I am fully confident that the Chapter will undertake significant initiatives, in line with the tradition of IEEE of dissemination of engineering sciences, and with its present strong commitment to internationalization. With our Chapter we will do our best toward these aims.

## REGION 8 MEETING/(Continued from page 2)

The second day of the meeting was mainly devoted to a short seminar on conference organization, presented by Jacob Baal-Schem, who is also Chair of the Technical Meeting Development Committee of IEEE. This seminar was intended to provide an overview of steps in conference organization, and present the procedures and activities required in order to hold major regional and society conferences by IEEE Sections and Chapters. There was fine interaction between the participants and both the presenter and the Regional Director, dealing with subjects specific to Chapters in the Region.

The meeting ended with a joint tour to Pisa with a view of the leaning tower and a visit to the Cathedral. In summary, there was a common feeling that holding Chapters Chairs meetings is important to convey information to the officers as well as to create personal connections between volunteers dealing with similar problems and living thousands of miles away from each other. It was deplored that only some of the Chapters in Region 8 were represented at the meeting, including Chapters who are geographically close to the venue. It was felt that these Chapters missed a great opportunity to join forces with their peers in boosting the technical activities in the field of communications in Region 8.

## EDITOR'S FAREWELL MESSAGE/(Continued from page 1)

ship and endeavoring to continue the editorial job seamlessly. Lastly, I would like to thank Andrzej Jajszczyk, Editor-in-Chief of *IEEE Communications Magazine* and the founding Editor of *GCN*, Hussein Mouftah, Director of Magazines, Bill Tranter, Director of Journals, and Curtis Siller, Vice President – Membership Services, for their support and article contributions, and Joe Milizzo and Cathy Kemelmacher for their publication support.

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www.comsoc.org/pubs/gcn

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