

Global Communications

Newsletter

December 2011

IEEE India Industry Day, 2011

By Debabrata Das, IIIT Bangalore, India

IEEE India Industry Day was organized on 10th – 11th March, 2011 in Bangalore. The main theme was to enhance the collaboration between industry and IEEE by connecting stakeholders, professionals and solution providers in a unique opportunity for fostering business relationships and thereby advancing technology.

It was sponsored by IEEE MGA Industry relations, IEEE Corporate Activities and IEEE ComSoc. It was jointly organized by IEEE MGA, COMSOC and IEEE Bangalore Section. The patrons to this event were, NIKSUN Inc., CMAI, and Tata Consultancy Services.

The scope of the event were to participate with industry experts, innovators, inventors, entrepreneurs, researchers, academics, legislators and engineering leaders in a synergistic approach to match technological solutions to industry's needs through keynote speakers, panel discussions and informative breakout and technical session tracks.

The event started at 9am of 10th March, 2011, with welcome address from Dr. Ashutosh Dutta, IEEE Industry Relation Chair and Dr. Shri Goyal, Membership Development Director of IEEE COMSOC. Dr. Debabrata Das and Dr. Sanjoy Paul, IEEE India Industry CoChairs welcome the audience. Dr. Howard Michel IEEE MGA VP talked about various IEEE activities and role of MGA. Dr. Byeong Lee, IEEE ComSoc president discussed about role of IEEE Communication Society in engaging the Industry.

After the welcome speeches on day one, the 1st Keynote presented by Dr. F C. Kohli, IEEE Fellow, who has been referred as “Father of Indian IT Industry”. His talk was with great touch of visionary points with respect to past, present and future of IT as well as other issues. The 2nd Keynote was addressed by Dr. Parag Purthi, Founder, Chairman and CEO of NIKSUN. The keynote talk was on cyber security. On day two, Mr. Narayana, from Tata Consultancy Services presented the 3rd keynote. He was followed by Prof. Viswanadhan, Indian School of Business for 4th Keynote. In the evening Mr. Latif Ladid, IPv6 forum president gave a Banquet speech. All the keynotes were highly appreciated by the participants. The main Ballroom of the hotel was jam packed with attendees from the industry, academia and media. After the



Inauguration of the India Industry Day - 2011.

Keynotes of Day 1 and 2, Technical Tracks presentation started.

There were six technical tracks. Track1: Smart Energy, Track Chair: Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman, IBM Research Lab, India; Track 2: Security and Surveillance, Track Chair: Mr. Partha Mallick, Spanco; Track3: E-Health, Track Chair: Dr. V. R. Singh; Track 4: Consumer Electronics, Track Chair: Mr. Praveen and Mr. Prabindh, Texas Instrument; Track 5: Wireless and Broadband, Track Chair: Mr. N. K. Goyal, CMAI; Track6: Innovation for Emerging Economy, Track Chair: Dr. Subir Saha, Ion-Idea. On day 1, in between the tracks there was a panel discussion, chaired by Mr. Deepak Maheshwari of Microsoft. Each track and panel had very eminent speakers. All the tracks were well attended and interactive on many ways. After the panel discussion Dr. Byeong Gi Lee, IEEE ComSoc President, Prof. Jhing, Region 10 Industry Liaison and Mr. Rajendra Asthana, Region 10 Industry Liaison addressed the gathering on roles of ComSoc and Region 10 Industry activities with IEEE.

During the day one dinner, IEEE hosts from HQ and IEEE Bangalore section appreciated the role of event manager Mr. Supratik and officials of IEEE MGA. Day one had full day event, and around 450 people attended. Day two was half day event. Total 710 people attended the event over two days. Each participant had given nice feedback and many of them requested to host this kind of event from IEEE across India.

A Different Conference Experience: Short Report on SoftCOM 2011

By Dinko Begusic, Nikola Rozic, Josko Radic, Croatia; Nicolae Oaca, Romania

The 19th International Conference on Software, Telecommunications and Computer Networks (SoftCOM 2011) was held in attractive ambience of the Amfora hotel at the island of Hvar on September 15 & 16, and aboard the cruising ship "Marko Polo", September 17, visiting the beautiful town of Dubrovnik. The Conference has been organized by the University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture and CCIS (Croatian Communications and Information Society) under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, and the Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development. The Conference has been technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc) and IEEE Electromagnetic Compatibility Society.

Researchers and experts from industry, research institutes and universities from 31 countries all around the world have submitted in total 172 papers for presentation on SoftCOM 2011. Submitted papers have been reviewed by more than 200 scientists from universities, institutes and ICT companies all over the world. All accepted papers have been carefully selected based on their contribution, relevance, conceptual clearness and overall quality. Nearly 54% of submitted papers have been recommended for presentation within the technical program.

The conference program featured ten general conference sessions, a symposium on RFID technologies and the Internet of things, a symposium on environmental electromagnetic compatibility and three special sessions dedicated to the most actual topics in the area of mobile and wireless communications. A professional workshop dedicated to the wide spectra of topics in ICT was held too. In addition three half day tutorials have been held by worldwide recognized experts. A special session dedicated to Ph.D. students featuring presentations of research topics has been organized, too.

At the opening ceremony the participants have been welcomed by: prof. Tomislav Kilic, (Dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture in Split, University of Split), prof. Pascal Lorenz, University Haute Alsace, France, Visko Haladic (Deputy Governor of the County of the Split and Dalmatia) and Mr. sc. Danijel Mileta, State Secretary, Ministry of sea, transportation and infrastructure).

During the conference luncheon Antun Carić received the IEEE Communications Society Croatian Section award for his contribution to establishment of collaboration between the industry and academy in the area of ICT.

The workshop on "The Electronic Communications Regulatory Challenges - Experiences from the Looking to the Future Project" was chaired by Antun Carić (HAKOM) and Ignac Lovrek (Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Zagreb) and presented the progress of the national broadband project aiming at establishing a medium term strategy on competition and regulation, as well as a long term strategy for technology and investments..

Nicolae Oaca (National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications of Romania) presented a talk titled "CEE Regional Working Group - a cooperation project in our region, a project for strengthening cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe on the harmonisation in usage of digital dividend band. The project aims at creating a regional portal, managed by the regional working group, consisting of at least one representative of 12 authorities from 11 countries in our region. The regional portal, www.CEERegionalWorkingGroup.net, a one-stop-shop for information in our region is in construction - an in-house version was created and filling national relevant statistics is in progress. Kreco Antonovic (Director-General, Electronic Communications and Postal



The plenary speech titled "Electronic Communications in Croatia: Opportunities and Challenges" was held by Dracen Lucic, Ph.D. (executive director of the Croatian Posts and Electronic Communications Agency, HAKOM).



SoftCOM 2011 participants enjoying the unique panorama of the ancient city of Dubrovnik from the top of the hill Sra.

Service Directorate, Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, Croatia) held a talk titled "Amendments to Electronic Communications Legislation - Towards Better Regulation and Consumers' Protection".

Ericsson Nikola Tesla Summer Camp 2011 projects pursued during the summer at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture in Split was presented in a special session dedicated to education in ICT which was chaired by Saca Decic (Ericsson Nikola Tesla).

The special event held in conjunction with the SoftCOM 2011 conference was a Symposium on scientific work and achievements of Rucer Boakovic, the famous Croatian scientist and philosopher, which was organized in the memory of his 300th anniversary.

The fruitful collaboration with the universities from Ancona, Lecce, Bari, Colmar and Zagreb has contributed to the quality of the Program significantly.

In conjunction with the SoftCOM 2011 conference a Business Forum has been organized featuring workshops, invited talks, round tables, presentations with participation of managers, executives, experts, government and institution representatives who discussed and exchanged opinions and experiences on a number of hot topics in contemporary and future ICT industry and market including business, technological and social aspects.

The conference participants had an opportunity to visit the city of Split, the town of Hvar and the town of Dubrovnik, highly appreciated touristic resorts.

At the welcome reception, in Diocletian Palace Basement
(Continued on Newsletter page 4)

ITST 2011 Conference in Saint-Petersburg, Russia

By Alexey Vinel, SPIIRAS (Russia)

Joel Rodrigues, Institute for Telecommunications, University of Beira Interior (Portugal)

Marion Berbineau, IFSTTAR (France)

Yevgeni Koucheryavy, Tampere University of Technology (Finland)

Oleg Gusikhin, Ford Research & Adv. Engineering (USA)

Yan Zhang, Simula Research Lab / University of Oslo (Norway)

The 11th International Conference on Telecommunications for Intelligent Transport Systems – ITST 2011 – was held in St. Petersburg, Russia on 23-25 August 2011. ITST series started in Yokosuka in Japan in October 2000 and, since then, 10 times conferences were held in Yokosuka, Seoul, Singapore, Brest, Chengdu, Sophia-Antipolis, Phuket, Lille and Kyoto. This year the ITST was brought to a new level.

The conference was organized by Saint-Petersburg Institute for Informatics and Automation, Russian Academy of Sciences – SPIIRAS (Russia), Tampere University of Technology – TUT (Finland) and French institute of science and technology for transport, development and networks – IFSTTAR (France). The event was technically co-sponsored by IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc), was co-organized by the ComSoc Technical Sub-Committee on Vehicular Networks and Telematics (VNAT) and was co-located with the 11th Next Generation Teletraffic and Wired/Wireless Advanced Networking conference (NEW2AN). Patrons and supporters of the conference were Ford Motor Company, Russian Foundation for Basic Research, National Science Council of Taiwan and other organizations.

The technical program of ITST-2011 included 7 keynote talks from the internationally recognized speakers, 3 invited lectures, 5 specialized workshops, panel discussion, 3 tutorials and the main conference track (23 technical sessions). Conference proceedings comprised around 140 papers of about 460 authors from more than 40 countries. The highest number of the accepted papers authors represented France, Taiwan, Italy, Germany, P.R. China, Japan, Russia, India, Sweden and USA. The conference was attended by over 250 participants.



Prof. Jia-Chin Lin (Taiwan) takes the baton for the organization of the next year ITST conference in Taipei from the chairmen of ITST-2011 - Dr. Alexey Vinel (Russia) and Prof. Yevgeni Koucheryavy (Finland).

New insights in theory and practice of Intelligent Transportation Systems for different types of transport were the key topics of the conference. Keynote speakers presented trends in vehicular networks and telematics applications, intelligent mobility, cognitive radio and broadband networks. Significant scientific contributions were presented in the areas of vulnerable road
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IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecture Tour 2011: Qian Zhang's visit to Australia

*By Dhammika Jayalath, Chair of the joint IEEE Signal Processing and Communications Chapter,
IEEE Queensland Section, Australia*

Prof. Qian Zhang of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) delivered a talk in Brisbane Australia for IEEE communications society's distinguished lecture tour (DLT) on 22nd August 2011. The title of the talk was "Cooperation in Cognitive Networks" and was held at the Gibson room of Queensland university of Technology. It was attended by a mix of academic staff, students and industry. The talk was paced and formatted skillfully to address the need of the wider audience. Prof. Qian provided a broader insight into the cognitive radio and cooperation concepts. She also presented some recent advances in these areas. She also highlighted the importance of regulatory initiatives in these areas and the importance of spectrum efficiency measures for the future of wireless communications networks. There were some interesting questions from the audience at the end of the talk. The talk was followed by morning tea sponsored by the IEEE Queensland Section. This provided further networking opportunity for the audience.

As the chair of the signal processing and communications chapter of IEEE Queensland section, I hosted the Prof. Qian
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Prof. Qian Zhang during her lecture.

Student Project Contest at the Kerala Chapter

By Sasi P Meethal, Chair, Comsoc Kerala Chapter, India

ComSoc Kerala chapter invited proposals from the 4000+ student community of IEEE/Comsoc in Kerala on innovative project proposals in communication technologies or applications, which would be of mass /rural public / humanitarian use. Comsoc Kerala chapter would provide technical and financial support for selected projects. The activity is being supported by IEEE Humanitarian Technology SIG.

The objective of this initiative was to

1. Provide support technical support for the IEEE/Comsoc students in implementing major projects in Communications technology.

2. Encourage the students to become socially-responsible engineers.

3. Motivate non-members to become members of Comsoc.

This program is intended to be a participatory model for project development and management, involving both the academia and industry.

The chapter received a total of 13 project proposals from the IEEE/Comsoc student community across Kerala. Preliminary evaluation of project proposals was done by domain experts based on the following metrics:

- Innovation content
- Technology content
- Potential for mass utilization
- Feasibility of product realization
- Scalability
- Advantage over similar products/ technologies, if any
- Humanitarian value addition
- Cost estimate for final product
- Cost estimate for system development

Nine projects were selected after the first level screening. These projects were presented before the Steering committee on 3rd September 2011. Committee selected eight projects for

technical and funding support by Comsoc. The total funding support committed is about \$2000. Maximum duration of project development is 12 months.

The selected projects are:

1. Walking aid for blind people based on mobile phones.
2. Intelligent text editor for the blind.
3. Mobcards – financial transactions using SIMcards.
4. Mobile phone charging from human foot motion.
5. Automated online bloodbank database.
6. Multipatient monitoring using mobile telemetry for rural areas.
7. Trauma assist network for ambulances.
8. Automated control for street lights.

To support the project development activity, an online discussion forum for posting issues and solutions is being set up. This forum will be supported by an interdisciplinary team involving experts from technology, application and project management domains. It is planned to have periodic project review and guidance to monitor the progress in terms of the projected deliverables and also to guide the teams in proper directions. Completed projects shall be showcased by ComSoc, which may be useful to the people all over the world.

DLT: QIAN ZHANG/*continued from page 3*

Zhang's visit to Australia together with two other Australian chapters; New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory. The whole tour organization process became an almost effortless task for us due to the invaluable support of Ms. Ewell Tan of IEEE Communications society. The whole tour was very well coordinated and organized by her.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Qian Zhang for visiting us and Ms. Ewell Tan and the IEEE Communications society for facilitating the tour.

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users' protection, modulation and coding, global navigation satellite systems, cooperative road safety applications and electric vehicles. Panel session "ERA-Glonass: Technological Framework and Applications" was prepared by the representatives of the Navigation Information Systems Joint Stock Company (Russia), Ford Motor Company (USA), Peiker Acoustic GmbH (Germany) and Luxoft Technology Strategy Center (Russia).

The conference proceedings are available at IEEE Xplore. Some results of the conference are also available at the conference web-site: www.itst2011.org

The ITST Steering Committee approved Taipei (Taiwan) as ITST-2012 Venue.

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in Split, ms. Branka Cosic greeted the participants in the name of the Mayor of the Town of Split. Popular old Dalmatian songs performed by native vocal group Filip Devic offered the participants the attractive glimpses of the tradition and culture of Dalmatia.

At the island of Hvar participants had an opportunity to take a walk around the ancient fortress. In Dubrovnik the participants were taken to the trip to the top of the hill Sra by cable car to enjoy the panorama of the city. After that a guided tour through the city has been organized.

More information about the SoftCOM 2011 conference may be found at the address <http://www.fesb.hr/softcom>

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www.comsoc.org/pubs/gcn

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