

Global Communications Newsletter

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EuroDIG 2011: Multistakeholder Dialogue on Internet Governance Must be Further Strengthened

By Milan Jankovic, Republic Agency for Electronic Communications, Serbia

The fourth “European Dialogue on Internet Governance” conference, EuroDIG 2011, held on 30 and 31 May in Belgrade, Serbia, finished with a broad support of participants to further strengthening the multistakeholder dialogue model for Internet governance, based on the understanding that it is the only way to effectively address the challenges the Internet brings to public policy. Participants, gathered to discuss public policy issues and challenges related to the Internet, stressed that events such as the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the EuroDIG — with its concept spreading to regional and national levels — are already influencing decision making.

During two days the conference brought together more than 500 participants — a hundred of them participating through remote participation from 12 regional remote hubs across Europe — from the private sector, governments, international organizations, youth, media, civil society and the academic and technical communities, including the representatives of the Council of Europe, European Commission, European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Swiss Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), Norwegian Post and Telecom Regulatory Authority (NPT), ISOC, Google, Microsoft, Ericsson, Telenor, Telefonica, Verizon, Cisco, and many others.

EuroDIG 2011 was opened by the Prime Minister of the Serbian Government, Mr. Mirko Cvetkovic, and the State Secretary for the Digital Agenda, Ms. Jasna Matic. Among the speakers were Mrs. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of Council of Europe; Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director of Telecommunication Development Bureau of ITU; Ms. Erika Mann, ICANN Board Member; Mr. Kjell Morten Johnsen, CEO of Telenor Serbia; Dr. Jovan Kurbalija, Director of DiploFoundation; Ms. Maritje Schaake, MEP; Prof. Dr. Milan Jankovic, Director of Republic Agency for Electronic Communications of Serbia (RATEL); Ms. Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for the Digital Agenda, and Mr. Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, delivered video messages.

The Prime Minister of the Serbian Government, Mirko Cvetkovic, stressed the importance of the Internet for the development of the economy and pointed out that the development of new services, such as administration, banking and broadband Internet was of the utmost importance for small and medium enterprises. The State Secretary for the Digital Agenda, Jasna Matic, highlighted that the hosting of the EuroDIG by Serbia shows it is thinking and understanding the importance of IT, and actively creating conditions for their



Attendees of the EuroDIG Conference. On the first row, fourth from right, Dr. Mirko Cvetkovic, Prime Minister of Serbia.

faster development. Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio said it is necessary to ensure freedom on the Internet, but also to protect vulnerable users by preventing and punishing all forms of abuse, mentioning that the Council of Europe is in favor of ensuring a maximum of rights and a minimum of restrictions while ensuring an adequate level of security. Vladimir Radunovic from DiploFoundation, member of the organizing team, said that since the Internet is no longer a technological phenomenon but a social one, the decision makers, business people and Internet communities should, hand in hand with the engineers, discuss the legal, economic and regulatory issues in an open dialogue such as EuroDIG.

This year’s dialogue on Internet Governance was marked by several interesting movements in the discussion on technical and social aspects. One of the major topics of discussion was the security of critical resources of the Internet in Europe, especially having in mind the fast development of the Internet and the need for security of the infrastructure, since the increased use of the Internet and the intensity of network traffic create risks for the quality of service. It is thus necessary to create procedures for a fast and secure recovery in case of an attack or a failure. What also needs to be done is to define critical segments and potential threats so that they can be efficiently neutralized.

IPv6 was the focus of a side event that attracted a number of participants and relevant institutions, including the representatives of RIPE, ISOC, the European Commission and ISPs. The panel estimated the growth in IPv6 readiness as still insufficient for the smooth transition to an IPv6-enabled

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Activities of the Telecommunications Societies and Institutions in Brazil

By Marcelo S. Alencar, Univ. Federal de Campina Grande, Brazil

Scientific Events

The Brazilian Telecommunications Society (SBRT) sponsored the XXV Brazilian Telecommunications Symposium (SBRT'07), which was held in Recife, 3 – 6 September, 2007, with general coordination of Rafael Dueire Lins and with Valdemar Cardoso da Rocha Jr. as technical coordinator. There were four short courses related to the books from the Series SBRT-Brasport. Three tutorials were presented together with 184 technical articles and 14 scientific initiation posters. The technical program also had three invited talks by Bahram Honary (U. Lancaster-UK), José Luis Santos (INESC Portugal), and Garik Markarian (U. Lancaster-UK).

Rio de Janeiro hosted the XXVI Brazilian Telecommunications Symposium (SBRT'08) 2 – 5 September, 2008. The 2008 symposium was a special edition, in which the SBRT's 25th anniversary was celebrated.

The XXVII Brazilian Telecommunications Symposium (SBRT 2009) was organized by FURB and UFSC (LINSE), held in Blumenau 29 September – 2 October, 2009. In charge of the event's general coordination was Orlando José Tobias and Paulo Roberto Brandt. Bartolomeu Uchoa Filho and Rui Seara were the technical chairs.

The International Telecommunications Symposium (ITS), the most important international forum on all areas of telecommunications in Latin America, was held in Manaus, chaired by Prof. Rafael Lins. The ITS, which occurs every four years, was organized by the Brazilian Telecommunications Society (SBRT) and was supported by the IEEE Communications Society (COMSOC).

The 13th International Symposium on Wireless Personal Multimedia Communications (WPMC 2010) was held in Recife, Brazil 11 – 14 October, 2010, under the sponsorship of NICT and YRP. It also received collaboration and support from the Institute for Advanced Studies in Communications (Brazil), Recife Conventions and Visitors Bureau (Brazil), Federal University of Campina Grande (Brazil), University of São Paulo (Brazil), University of Toronto (Canada), Federal University of Pernambuco (Brazil), The Brazilian Council for Research and Development, and the Brazilian Telecommunications. The series of the symposium was inaugurated in 1998 in Yokosuka, Japan, and had taken place in Asia, Europe and North America. This was the first WPMC that took place in the South American Continent.

The theme for the symposium was "Towards Autonomous Network Infrastructure." The general chairs were Prof. Marcelo S. Alencar and Prof. Valdemar C. da Rocha Jr. Prof. Elvino S. Sousa was the principal technical program chair. In addition to high-level technical sessions, the Symposium featured six keynote presentations, special technical sessions, panel discussions and four tutorials. The number of submissions was 98, out of which 90 papers were accepted for presentations in 24 sessions.

At the opening ceremony, on October 11, the organizers were honored to have the presence of Prof. Sergio Machado Rezende, Minister of Science and Technology of Brazil, Dr. Hiroshi Kumagai, Vice-President, National Institute of Information and Communications, Japan, Mr. Kazushige Fujita, Director for Technology Policy Planning, Technology Policy Division, Global ICT Strategy Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan, and other distinguished guests.

Among the submitted papers, six were selected by the Award Committee members and were given citations, a certificate and honorarium. A total of 202 participants from 18 countries registered for the event, which was a great success.

The SBMO/IEEE MTT-S International Microwave and Optoelectronics Conference is a traditional event promoted by the Brazilian Microwave and Optoelectronics Society (SBMO)



Institute for Advanced Studies in Communications.



The WPMC 2010 opening ceremony.

since 1985. The 2009 edition of the event was held in Belém, on 3 – 6 November. The general chair was Gervasio Cavalcante, the general co-chair was Joao Tavares Pinho, the technical program chair was João Crisóstomo Weyl Costa, and the technical program co-chair was Maria Thereza Rocco Giraldo.

The Brazilian Microwave and Optoelectronics Society (SBMO) sponsored, in 2009, the International Conference on Electromagnetic Fields, Health and Environment (EHE), conceived to become a global forum to discuss the latest developments and studies about the influence of electromagnetic fields on health and the environment. The conference was held in São Paulo, on September 25, 2009.

The Brazilian Electromagnetics Society (SBMag) organized the Compumag Conference of 2009. Compumag 2009 was held in Florianópolis, Brazil on 22 – 26 November, 2009. João Pedro Assumpção Bastos was the chair and Nelson Sadowski was the vice-chair. The Editorial Board was lead by Nathan Ida.

The 14th Brazilian Symposium on Microwaves and Optoelectronics and the 9th Brazilian Congress on Electromagnetism (MOMAG 2010) occurred in Vila Velha, Espírito Santo, in 2010. The event was organized by the Laboratório de Telecomunicações (LabTel), Federal University of Espírito Santo (UFES) and by the Laboratório de Eletromagnetismo Aplicado (LMAG), Escola Politécnica, University of São Paulo (USP). The event was supported by the Brazilian Microwave and Optoelectronics Society (SBMO) and by the Brazilian Electromagnetics Society (SBMag).

The 2011 SBMO/IEEE MTT-S International Microwave and Optoelectronics Conference (IMOC 2011) is a biennial international forum of telecommunication technologies organized by the Brazilian Microwave and Optoelectronics Society (SBMO) and co-sponsored by IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE MTT-S).

In its 14th edition, this conference will be held at the amazing city of Natal, Brazil. The conference venue is the Imirá Plaza Hotel, a beach hotel with 166 apartments, located at Via Costeira. IMOC 2011 will provide a major international forum for exchanging information on research and development in the theoretical and experimental fields of Microwaves and Optoelectronics including Millimeter and Nanometer Waves, Antennas, Propagation, Wireless Communication, Fiber Optics, and Photonic Networks. The general chair is Prof. Adaildo G. D'Assunção (UFRN, Brazil), and the technical program chairs are Prof. Gervásio P. S. Cavalcante (UFPA, Brazil) and Prof. Evandro Conforti (Unicamp, Brazil).

Using Social Media, Alliances, and F2F Networking to Build a ComSoc Community in Silicon Valley

By Alan J Weissberger, Affif Siddique, MP Divakar, IEEE ComSoc Santa Clara Valley Chapter Officers, USA

In the last few years, IEEE ComSoc Santa Clara Valley Chapter (ComSocSCV) has greatly expanded its scope of activities beyond traditional monthly technical meetings. We have successfully used social media, alliance partnerships (both within and outside IEEE) face to face (f2f) networking, and industry tours to create a large, vibrant community in the San Francisco Bay Area. Even with the telecom industry in a decade-long slump, ComSocSCV has been able to build brand name recognition as the acknowledged “go to” communications industry non-profit organization in Silicon Valley. We have quadrupled attendance at our monthly meetings (50-140 in 2011), increased activity on our social networking sites (described below), held several well attended industry tours and many successful social events. As a result, we see many new faces at our events.

ComSocSCV has attracted IEEE members from all over the world to participate in our email Discussion Group, started in January 2007 to provide premium information content as a tangible benefit to IEEE members. The Discussion List subject matter includes meeting previews, comment and analysis of breaking telecom industry news, lively discussions of hot topics, plus opinions about relevant telecom and networking subjects of interest to our members. (One of our best discussions this year was what to do about “the pernicious decline of the scientific mind.”)

Recognizing and appreciating the scale-free nature of social networks (whose degree distribution follows a power law albeit asymptotically), the officers of ComSocSCV decided to spread the reach of its activities among technical professionals in the Silicon Valley and beyond. In 2010, we established a ComSocSCV LinkedIn group for member queries and discussions as well as a Facebook page (with lots of great event photos).

The Chapter’s LinkedIn group was established with the intent of providing information with added value. It reaches out to a wider audience than our email notification list and enables the accomplishment of tasks that would not otherwise be possible. ComSocSCV meetings and workshop notices are all listed under LinkedIn general events, which are accessible to anyone with a LinkedIn account. As a result, our Sept. 2010 workshop on M2M Communications was attended by a professional from Southern California who learned of the event from our LinkedIn Group. Many of our monthly meeting attendees learned about it from LinkedIn.

In 2011, we added a Twitter account to push out important information to our community (follow us @ieeecomsocscv).

These four social media entities complement our official ComSocSCV web site and the IEEE SF Bay Area e-Grid for advertising and reporting on our events (technical meetings, industry tours and socials). For example, we use our email Discussion group to provide background information and motivation for our meetings. We also use it for an “overtime session” that follows a “timed-out” meeting, i.e. when there are left over questions or issues that speakers or panelists didn’t have time to address during the live meeting. Our LinkedIn group and Facebook page are similarly used to announce events, offer corporate sponsorship opportunities (for meeting refreshments), and welcome new volunteer officers. We post selected photos of event speakers and panelists on our Facebook page, which provides a more intimate feel than just a text description alone. Event summaries of technical meetings and selected industry tours (e.g. AT&T Labs) are often posted on the Community ComSoc web site, with the URL pushed out to Twitter followers and also referenced in Discussion group emails.



From left to right: Daniel Wong (IEEE ComSoc SCV Webmaster), Affif Siddique (Chief Marketing Advisor) Alan Weissberger (IEEE ComSoc SCV Chair), Prof. Raj Jain (Ohio State University), Prof. Suhas Patil, Vish Mishra (Chair, TiE Silicon Valley), Prof. Vijay Dhir (Dean, UCLA), MP Divakar (IEEE ComSoc SCV Secretary) & Prof. Guru Parulkar (Stanford).

One of the reasons for our elevated awareness and sense of community spirit in Silicon Valley is the alliances we’ve made with other IEEE societies and non profit organizations.

In 2010-2011, we’ve held co-sponsored technical meetings with IEEE Computer (2), Signal Processing, Power Engineering and Circuits & Systems. We have organized and co-sponsored an industry tour to a local engineering product design house (Whizz Systems) with IEEE CPMT and CNSV (Consultants Network of Silicon Valley).

In addition to working with other IEEE Societies, we’ve co-organized and co-produced workshops and technical meetings with TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs)-SV Chapter, NATEA (North American Taiwanese Engineers Association), SVC (Silicon Valley Chinese) Wireless, Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), and SIPA (Silicon Valley Indian Professional Association). ComSocSCV has also forged alliances with many other organizations to co-promote (but not co-produce) events. We believe that has elevated our stature and awareness among a much wider population. Recognizing the expertise of ComSocSCV subsequent to our M2M workshop in 2010, some of our officers were invited to events in this space as subject matter experts (GigaOm’s GreenGrid in March 2011).

Our jointly produced seminars and workshops attract a larger audience than we could draw on our own, provide speakers that often have a different perspective (e.g. China’s telecom industry), and enable the combined organizations to recruit more highly qualified and knowledgeable panelists. Equally important is the cross fertilization and cross pollination of ideas, concepts, and the great information exchanged during the networking sessions (which are an integral part of our jointly produced events).

For example, our March 2011 joint event with TiE-SV featured four outstanding panelists: the UCLA Dean of Engineering and three University Professors who also have worked in industry. They each discussed the challenges and secret success factors involved in Transforming Academic Research Into Commercially Viable Technologies. That event, moderated and chaired by ComSocSCV’s MP Divakar, left the audience in awe as to the difficulty of getting University administration on the side of researchers. This is a daunting challenge considering that the technology being developed might become obsolete before the student researchers com-

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Internet, and encouraged the public sector to consider IPv6 in procurement practices and to run “dual stack” (both IPv4 and IPv6) in their online services.

The need to protect privacy on the Internet was present in many of the discussions. A common idea that was underlined is the need to raise users’ awareness of their rights as much as on the consequences of their actions when managing their personal data online. This should be a shared responsibility between public authorities, industry and civil society. Education of users, for example of social networks, was highlighted as a key priority.

In the sessions there was a fairly unanimous opinion that the Internet is a great tool for democracy, even though it can be used against it, and that access to the Internet should be considered a fundamental right. That is why there is the need for programs to assist vulnerable and marginalized groups. The following topics were also discussed in the eight thematic sessions: standards for defining privacy; greater inclusion of individuals in processes of Internet development; ethics and corporate responsibility; new business models on the Internet; literacy; crime on the Internet; and the presence of languages other than English on the global network.

Reports, transcripts and webcasts of each discussion can be found at www.eurodig.org. The reports from every session will be used to prepare the ‘Messages from Belgrade’ which will be presented as the contribution of the EuroDIG to the UN Internet Governance Forum in Nairobi in September 2011 as guidelines for policy makers with regard to Internet Governance.

The conference was hosted by the Digital Agenda Administration of the Republic of Serbia and organized by the Council of Europe, the Swiss Federal Office of Communications (SFCOM), Diplo Foundation, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), with the support of the Serbian National Register of Internet Domain Names (RNIDS), the Republic Agency for Electronic Communications (RATEL), EUnet, the research centre ‘Petnica’, together with other organisations.

The next EuroDIG will take place in Sweden in 2012, hosted by the Swedish Post and Telecom Agency (PTS).

plete their PhDs. Do they have time to do a mid-course correction? Or the research might be ahead of its time, with the technology developed not ready for mass market when the researchers complete their degree or leave the University. All four presentations may be downloaded from the Comsoc SCV web site (www.comsocscv.org). The role of Professor as research leader, technology advisor, and team builder was also addressed.

There was terrific interaction among members of each organization during the networking dinner at this technical meeting, as well as at our June 2010 Mobile Apps & Infrastructure Workshop, which was also jointly organized with TiE-SV. Our pre-seminar networking sessions seem to be much more productive and interactive during jointly hosted events, especially with TiE-SV (perhaps because entrepreneurs tend to be more outgoing than engineers or scientists).

In addition to our regular Sept 2011 technical meeting on Telemedicine, Comsoc SCV CMO Affif Siddique organized two joint Sept panel sessions: one with SVC Wireless (M2M Communications & Internet of Things @Home) and the other with SIPA (Trends, Challenges and Opportunities for Wireless Telcos). The latter meeting, our third jointly organized event this year, focused on M2M communications and included panelists from Sprint and Asentria.

Face to Face socializing — both during our pre-seminar networking sessions and our stand-alone social events — creates a sense of identity and belonging to ComSocSCV. There’s nothing in technology that can match the intimacy of human interaction. We try to encourage and nurture this at all our social activities. Our hugely successful Aug. 2011 social attracted 22 participants, including key employees at Sprint, Ericsson, Alcatel, Agilent, Cisco, Huawei, Santa Clara Univ. (IT Dept Managing Director), Intersil (the 2010 Chair of IEEE SCV), and XO Communications (a facility based competitive carrier). Of course, all of our 2011 ComSocSCV officers in the Bay Area attended as well.

One of the highlights of 2011 was our March seminar and tour of Sprint’s M2M Innovation Center & Advanced Technology Labs (ATL) in Burlingame, CA. Thirty participants were treated to a preview of what Sprint is planning for M2M communications as well as its next generation wireless network. Sprint’s ATL is where companies that have developed products that connect to Sprint’s wireless networks (2G, 3G, or mobile WiMAX via Clearwire MVNO) can test and showcase their technology, without worrying about competitors having access to their intellectual property.

ComSocSCV has diligently tried to get feedback from our attendees on our parent organization. One of the questions we ask at each of our monthly meetings: “Is global ComSoc serving the needs of its community?” In particular: What areas of improvement would you suggest? Standards? Education? R & D? Strategic Planning? PR/Market Awareness? The responses are beyond the scope of this article, but they have been collected, synthesized, and made available to the ComSoc Strategic Planning Committee.

In conclusion, the effective use of social media, coupled with jointly organized and co-promoted technical seminars, panel sessions, and workshops, have elevated ComSocSCV’s stature to a much higher level. We are attracting a larger, more diversified audience at our technical meetings, industry tours, and socials. There’s increased interest in our activities via social media and we’ve broadened our constituency beyond traditional EEs. We believe we have succeeded in creating a ComSoc Community in Silicon Valley and look forward to continue expanding it in 2012!

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STEFANO BREGNI
Editor

Politecnico di Milano - Dept. of Electronics and Information
Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32, 20133 MILANO MI, Italy
Ph.: +39-02-2399.3503 - Fax: +39-02-2399.3413
Email: bregni@elet.polimi.it, s.bregni@ieee.org

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