

# GLOBAL Communications NEWSLETTER

October 2013

## *The New Scientific Activities of IEEE ComSoc Iraq Chapter in 2013*

*By Sattar B. Sakhn, Chair of the IEEE Section and IEEE ComSoc Chapter, Iraq*

IEEE ComSoc Iraq Chapter scientifically sponsored the International scientific Conference : "2013 International Conference on Advanced Research in Engineering and Technology (ICARET 2013)". The conference aimed at bringing together the researchers, scientists, engineers, and scholar students in all areas of Engineering and Technology, and provided an international forum for the dissemination of original research results, new ideas and practical development experiences which concentrated on both theory and practices. The conference focused on the frontier topics in the Electronics Engineering, Computer Science and Electrical Engineering subjects. ICARET 2013 hold during Feb. 7th to 8th, 2013 in K. L. University, Vijayawada, India. Chairman of IEEE ComSoc Iraq Chapter, Prof. Dr. Eng. Sattar B. Sakhn was nominated from the IEEE Organization as a keynote speaker for the conference. His talk was : "Multidisciplinary in Information Security".

With the Diyala University – Science College, the IEEE ComSoc hold a scientific workshop on "The Effect of the electromagnetic wave radiation of the Mobile Basestations on the Human Health". This workshop considered as the 5th. Workshop hold by the IEEE ComSoc Iraq chapter within the last 2 years in different Iraqi Universities. 4 speakers were participated on this worksho: The chairman of ComSoc chapter, and the Secretary of the Chapter (Eng. Hussain Ali) and Eng. Mohammed Adel (MIEEE) from the Ministry of Science and Technology, the fourth speakers was from the Diyala University. The workshop hold at 10 April 2013.

In 29-30 April the IEE Comsoc Iraq chapter sponsored scientifically the National Conference on: " Developments in Communication and Information Technologies" of the "Universal Al-Najef Islamic Colege" in the period (29-30) April. The Chairman of ComSoc Iraq Chapter has keynote speak about the : "Status of Scientific Activities of IEEE Iraq ComSoc Chapter inside and outside Iraq". The Conference has ceremony for the "Final Year Projects of the College students".



*The researchers participated in the first National Scientific Conference hold in Universal Al-Najef Islamic College in cooperation with IEEE ComSoc Iraq.*



*IEEE ComSoc Iraq Chapter Chairman Prof. Dr. Eng. Sattar B. Sakhn with the K. L. University Students participated in the ICARET 2013*

More than 40 Final Year Projects were celebrated within this ceremony in special session within the conference.

Recent studies showed that the companies focus on soft skills when recruiting employees more than focusing on the technical knowledge. In this context, IEEE ComSoc Iraq Chapter planned a strategy to train the engineering students about the basic essential soft skills in different Iraq universities, which will increase their opportunity in having better career after graduation.

Inspired by the IEEE training course "Stuff You Didn't Learn in Engineering School", IEEE ComSoc Iraq Chapter team prepared a training course of 4 days (12-15 May 2013) for the engineering students in Technical College of Kirkuk (TCoK) to be the start of the plan. Four topics have been delivered to the audience in the four days of the training course: Essential Skills, Communication Skills, Management Skills, and People Skills. The lecturer was IEEE ComSoc member engineer Hussein Ali Albayati, while logistics preparations were taken care of by engineers Ahmed Al-Ayady, Ibrahim Khalid, and Saad Jasim. The crucial support from Iraq Section Chairman (Dr. Sattar Sakhn) was the key for the training course success. The training course was held inside the campus of the TCoK, where several professors from (Electronic & Control) and (Software Engineering) departments cooperated with IEEE team to make the course happen. The reaction was very positive from the students as they expressed in a survey conducted to evaluate the course performance. As a result of positive reaction, 32 of the participants have joined the IEEE as student members, which will encourage the IEEE Iraq section team to go ahead with their plan in other universities.

# 1st International Conference on Wireless Sensor Networks for Developing Countries (WSN4DC'13), Jamshoro, Pakistan "Wireless Sensor Networks will Instrument the Whole World"

By B. S. Chowdhry, Chair of the IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter, Pakistan

After the huge success of two International Multi-topic ICT conferences (IMTIC'08 and IMTIC'12), the 1st International Conference on Wireless Sensor Networks for Developing Countries (WSN4DC'13) was organized by Mehran University of Engineering & Technology (MUET) in Jamshoro, Pakistan with collaboration of IEEE Communications Society - Karachi Chapter (ComSoc-Khi), Erasmus Mundus Strong-Ties program and International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), between 24-26 April 2013 at its Jamshoro campus. The conference was sponsored by Higher Education Commission, ICT R&D and Pakistan Science Foundation.

Prof. Dr. M. A. Uqaili, Conference General Chair and Pro Vice Chancellor in his welcome address informed that this conference is the first of its kind which is being organized by MUET. He said that such an occasion brings together a wide spectrum of international experts to facilitate a creative environment for the promotion of collaboration and knowledge transfer.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and Chairman Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECO-SF) congratulated the conference team for organizing such a mega event in the emerging area of Information and Communication Technologies. He said that with the emergence of electronics and nanotechnology the pervasive and ubiquitous environments are becoming reality where the key enabler technology is Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs).

Prof. Dr. B. S. Chowdhry, Dean Faculty of Electrical, Electronics and Computer Engineering (FEECE), the Chief Organizer of the event and Chair ComSoc-Khi stated that WSN4DC'13 received over 100 submissions – confirming a trend of increasing interest in WSN4DC – coming from 30 different countries. He said that after



Organizers and delegates at the inauguration ceremony of WSN4DC'13

going through review process by experts, only 23 papers were selected for conference which gives about 23% acceptance rate. The conference will, therefore, efficiently disseminate original research results in printed and electronic form globally. He further said that ComSoc-Khi has supported events such as WSN4DC'13 in the past and will continue to do so in its region.

Dr. Faisal Karim Shaikh, Technical Program Committee Chair along with other experts and conference delegates announced the launching of "Global Society for WSN4DC", a society dedicated on developing WSN based solutions for developing countries.

Prof. Javier Ponce from University of Malaga, Spain gave a key note presentation on Wireless Underwater Acoustic Communication Systems, which he said has become one of the most promising technologies for the development and deployment of underwater sensor networks with applications in oil prospecting, aquaculture, pollution control, prediction of natural disturbances etc.

At the concluding ceremony of the event the chief guest Dr. Shafqat Abbasi who is the advisor of the Government of Sindh on Energy, Science and Technology addressed the gathering. He said that it was heartening for him to know that this conference is first of a kind on the emerging technology targeting developing countries. He continued that this made him proud and that he felt satisfied that institutions such as MUET ensured that Pakistan does not lag behind in the area of science and technology.



Some of the speakers / presenters at the event.

# Activities of IEEE ComSoc Harbin Chapter in 2012

By Weixiao Meng, Chair of the Harbin Chapter, China

The IEEE Communications Society Harbin Chapter was founded on 24th, February, 2012. It has already been a year since approval. During this year, we have held many activities to make our community life much more colorful and acquire something that cannot be learned outside the activities at the same time. The activities are presented as follows.

We hold a great variety of seminars to promote the academic exchanges among scholars from both domestic and overseas as well as provide an interactive platform of academic exchanges to boost new ideas. Our teachers and students participate in these activities actively and many of them are inspired by the scholars we invited.

The first lecture is given by Prof. Cheng Li from Memorial University of Canada on series of “Opportunistic and Cooperative Forwarding in Mobile Ad-hoc Network” from July 1st to 9th, 2012. Dr. Cheng Li explained the opportunistic data forwarding through node cooperation for the multi-hop wireless network. He also systematically presented the features and design requirements of underwater sensor network. In addition, Dr. Li also attended the seminar of Prof. Weixiao Meng’s group (Monday Seminar). Dr. Li gave directions to students in their research domain patiently, and discussed with students and other teachers, which brought us new ideas about our research work.

The second lecture is from Prof. Nei Kato from Tohoku University, Japan from July 3rd to 9th, 2012. The topic is concerning his study field in Communication Research Center. Prof. Nei Kato currently serves as the Chair of IEEE Satellite and Space Communications Technical Committee, the Vice Chair of IEEE Ad Hoc & Sensor Networks Technical Committee, the IEICE Satellite Communications Technical Committee and editor of several SCI journals. He has made great contribution in the area of wireless communication. Moreover, Prof. Nei Kato also talked about the research activities on wireless networks in Tohoku University, providing valuable information for our teachers and students.

The third lecture is given by Prof. Vijay Bhargava from University of British Columbia of Canada concerning “Research Issues for Energy Efficient Cellular Networks” from August 18th to 23th, 2012. Professor Vijay Bhargava has made outstanding contributions in the field of wireless communications. He owns a high academic status and



Dr. Cheng Li presenting a lecture.



Prof. Nei Kato presenting a lecture.

international influence, especially in the cognitive radio and cooperative communications research and applications. He put a special emphasis on cognitive and cooperative techniques in order to realize energy efficient cellular systems.

The fourth lecture is given by Prof. Ian F. Akyildiz from Georgia Institute of Technology of USA on “Wireless Underwater Sensor Network: Research Challenges” from November 29th to 31th, 2012. Professor Ian F. Akyildiz has made outstanding contributions in the field of mobility and resource management for wireless communication networks. Professor Ian F. Akyildiz also emphatically explained the frontier problem in communication field — Nano communication network theory and technology and explained the Nano communication network by using the molecular communication devices example.

In a summary, we have gained a lot from our activities during the last year and we really appreciate the fulfilling life in IEEE Communications Society Harbin Chapter. And at the same time, we will look into the future and be confident of having many other wonderful moments in our community! Both teachers and students benefit a lot from these lectures and seminars and have a deep impression of their rigorous research style and nice personality.



Teachers and students are taking a photo with Prof. Vijay Bhargava.

# LATINCLOUD: The IEEE Latin America Conference on Cloud Computing and Communications

By Lisandro Zambenedetti Granville, Cristiano Bonato Both, Edmundo Madeira, Nelson Fonseca, Brasil

The Cloud Computing and Communications paradigm has defined unprecedented business models, promoting on-demand computing, resource allocation, elastic scaling, and the elimination of up-front costs. Such new paradigm has already changed the way we compute and communicate. To cope with technology challenges for the support of diverse services and applications, the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc), Latin America Region, with the support of the IEEE Cloud Computing Initiative, conceived the IEEE Latin America Conference on Cloud Computing and Communications (LatinCloud). The conference has the goal of establishing a scientific forum for the discussion on the rather relevant topic of cloud computing and its critically associated aspects of communications in the Latin American context.

The first edition of LatinCloud was held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 26-27 November 2012 at the Sheraton Hotel Porto Alegre. In such first edition, LatinCloud received 25



Lab tools session at LATINCLOUD 2012.



Technical session at LATINCLOUD 2012.

submissions from 10 different countries, and 44 TPC members selected 12 papers for oral presentation along 4 technical sessions. The topics of accepted work included applications, services selection, middleware platforms, testbeds, among others. In addition, 2 keynotes, 2 panels, and 2 lab tools sessions were presented. The success of the LatinCloud 2012, as the first incarnation of this conference, was only possible because of the key work of all authors who submitted their papers, as well as the careful work done by TPC members and reviewers in the review process.

Establishing a new series of conferences is an effort that depends on critical support and help of interested and excited people. LatinCloud is a reality because of these people. As such, we thank Nim Cheung, from the IEEE Cloud Computing Initiative and former ComSoc President for his support in the creation of LatinCloud, as well as Abbas Jamalipour, ComSoc Vice President Conferences. Organizing a conference like LatinCloud was only possible because of the support of sponsors and the volunteer work of general and local organizing committees. Because they made the first LatinCloud edition possible, we would like to thank CAPES, CGI.br, and EMC for their financial support. We want to thank the invaluable contribution of the organizing committee members, professor Thais Batista for taking care of our two keynote speeches by Brian Cooper and Patricia Florissi, professor Antonio Tadeu for organizing our two panels, and professor Carlos Kamienski who accepted the challenge of creating two tools lab sessions with concrete, hands-on demonstrations of industry and academic solutions on cloud computing communications.

Finally, because we believe the success of the first edition of LatinCloud paved the way for the next editions to come, we also need to thank the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), and the Brazilian Computer Society (SBC) for their invaluable support. Last, but certainly not least, we want to thank the great team of students from the Computer Networks Group of UFRGS who formed the local organizing committee; without their unconditional dedication the realization of LatinCloud would have not been possible.

For further information about LatinCloud, please visit the conference portal at <http://www.ieee-latincloud.org>.

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[www.comsoc.org/gcn](http://www.comsoc.org/gcn)

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A publication of the  
IEEE Communications Society