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CHAPTER REPORT

Distinguished Lecturer Tour of Professor Albert Banchs in Central America and Mexico

By Carlos Eugenio Martínez-Cruz, El Salvador Chapter Vice Chair

Since October 2016 ComSoc colleagues from Guatemala and Mexico have been trying to organize a tour for one of our Distinguished Lecturers. In November 2016, by chance we met at the Regional Chapter Chairs Congress for Latin American Region, held in Medellín, Colombia. There, four of our chapters decided to request the visit of one of our finest speakers, professor Albert Banchs. From both sides of the Atlantic Ocean emails started to interchange. After several dozen electronic communications, a schedule was confirmed. He would visit Guatemala, El Salvador and two Mexican cities from March 26 to April 4.

From Guatemala, Albert Banchs arrived in El Salvador on March 28. I personally went to pick him up. Previously, I had warned I would be carrying a big IEEE poster with me. There I was, elbow to elbow, among taxi drivers who happen to be waiting for arriving travelers to take them to San Salvador's hotels. In the taxi, on our way to San Salvador, during the long one hour trip from the airport to the city, there was a lot of time to talk. We found out that for three years, unknowingly, we were researchers at the same university, in the same faculty and in the same building. He was in the Department of Computer Networks and I, one floor above, was in the Department of Signal Theory and Communications. We never met each other and I have no recollection of having seen him before. However, we share many stories in common. The world is very small and this is how IEEE and its societies always put us together.

The first talk was given on March 29 at 10 o'clock in the morning at the Universidad Don Bosco. This private university is 15 kilometers east of San Salvador, and holds one of the best engineering schools in the country. Besides students from the host university, there were students from the Universidad de El Salvador where, recently, a new student ComSoc chapter was founded. The subject of the talk was "Offloading Cellular Traffic through Opportunistic Communications." Professor Banchs explained some very disruptive technologies that



Professor Banchs gave a talk at Universidad Don Bosco, Soyapango, El Salvador.



Lecture of Professor Banchs in San Salvador, El Salvador.

would break with very established paradigms in the world of mobile communications. Opportunistic communication has to consider the random mobility of the network members, which makes it very unreliable, and a solution is challenging. Professor Banchs addressed optimization approaches. It was very interesting that one of its solutions is based on an adaptive control theory algorithm.

In the afternoon a second meeting was held. This time the audience was made up of industry professionals. More than 40 people attended the meeting. The subject of the talk was "A Global Vision of 5G Mobile Networks and the Network Slicing Technology." At the end of the talk many questions were asked by the attendees. People from our local government regulator were very interested in learning about these new mobile communication technologies, as were local communication engineers. 4G deployment has just started very recently, so they wanted to know what the future would look like. At the end cocktails were offered by a local company called SETISA and the American manufacturer Keysight Technologies.

On Thursday, March 30, Banchs departed to Mexico. His first destination was the city of Puebla. The Puebla ComSoc chapter organized the talk at Complejo Cultural Universitario. On Sunday, April 2, he made his last stop of the tour at Cuernavaca City, hosted by the Morelos ComSoc chapter. People were very happy with Albert Banchs. He is a great lecturer, a fine speaker, and a very special person.



Professor Banchs (right) received a diploma of recognition.

IEEE ComSoc Lahore Section Celebrates World Telecom Day 2017 in Pakistan

By Kashif Bashir, Chair, IEEE ComSoc Lahore Section, Pakistan

IEEE Communication Society Lahore Section and KICS-UET organized World Telecommunication Day (WTC) on 16 May 2017. The event was held at Seminar Hall at the University of Engineering and Technology Lahore, embraced by many high-ranking officials and experts from academia and industry. The event, which had the theme “Big Data for Big Impact,” was attended by: Mr. Kashif Bashir, IEEE ComSoc Lahore Section Chair, Edward Zhang, Vice President of Huawei Technologies China, Mr. Javed Aslam, EVP Technical PTCL, Dr. Amjad Hussain, Director, Fast University, Mr. Sajjad Kirmani, CEO, Infogistic, Mr. Fysal Gill, Senior Director, SpeedCast, Prof. Dr. Waqar Mahmood, Director KICS, Mr. Moeez Ahmad Faizi, and the Deputy Chief, Telecom Punjab Safe City Authority. The purpose of WTD was to highlight the importance of communication in our lives.

The event began with a video message by Prof. Dr. Vincenzo Piuri, who is a full professor at the University of Milan, Italy. He emphasized the importance of Big Data in today’s world and thanked the organizers for organizing the World Telecom Day 2017 at KICS UET Lahore.

The chief guest of the occasion, Edward Zhang, Vice President of Huawei Enterprise Wireless Solutions, spoke about the strong friendship between Pakistan and China and how beneficial it has been since the outset in terms of business development between the two countries. He also spoke about ICT solutions, and Huawei Pakistan’s functions. Mr. Zhang then presented an overview of the Safe City Project Lahore, and the Smart City Services Development and IoT Services.

Javed Aslam, Executive Vice President Technical PTCL,



Edward Zhang, bottom left, with attendees.

expressed his views on “How PTCL Connects us to the World.”

Amjad Hussain, Chair of the IEEE Lahore Section and Director of FAST, presented his views on technology enhancements and communication development.

Fysal Gill, Head SpeedCast (Central & South Asia), talked about topics such as GPRS technology and satellite systems.

Sajjad Kirmani, CEO Infogistic, discussed his views on legacy systems, advancements in technology, cloud computing, and the explosive growth of telecom in Pakistan.

Moeez Ahmad Faizi, Deputy Chief of Telecommunication, Punjab Safe City Authority, discussed the safe city projects and speed connectivity.

Prof. Fazal Ahmad Khalid, Vice Chancellor of UET Lahore, thanked the guests and stressed the importance of technology in today’s world. He also made special mention of Huawei’s collaborations with UET.

Prof. Waqar Mahmood, Director of KICS, also spoke about the importance of Big Data and gave a presentation on the IEEE and the KICS’ Labs.

The event concluded with the distribution of souvenirs among the guests.

A post panel discussion followed in which the distinguished guests and high-ranking officials of the Al-Khawarazmi Institute discussed their views on the impact of Big Data. Kashif Bashir, IEEE ComSoc Chair and Manager at HUTIC, elaborated on Big Data’s impacts on the masses and told the panel about conducting more events like these in the future. He also thanked all the guests and members of IEEE who attended this event.



Edward Zhang, fifth from left, with attendees.

MEMBER AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

ITU/APNIC Internet and IPv6 Infrastructure Security Program, May 2017, Nonthanburi, Thailand

By Leo Hwa Chiang and Ewell Tan, IEEE APO Office, Singapore

On behalf of IEEE ComSoc, the Director of IEEE Asia Business Development, Leo Hwa Chiang, jointly organized a one-week “Internet and IPv6 Infrastructure Security Program” with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (Thailand). This training program was held at the TOT Academy, Nonthanburi, Thailand on the 8-12 May 2017.

With the explosive growth of smart IT devices and the increasing popularity of cloud computing and the Internet of Things (IoT), IPv6 is becoming a critical innovation for future Internet communications. In view of this growing demand, this program is essential to the policy makers, regulators, telecom operators



The training program at TOT Academy.

and enterprise network administrators to build their skills and knowledge regarding the deployment and management of IPv6 network infrastructure, especially as it relates to security.

This program was well attended by 40 participants from 18 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand and Vietnam. This intensive training program was conducted by Philip Smith,

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IEEE Spain Section Student Branch - Women in Engineering and Young Professionals (SWYP'17)

By Josemaría Malgosa, Maite Torres, Juan Pedro Muñoz, Pilar Manzanares, Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Spain

Among the most interesting and promising organizations developed in the IEEE as a regional organization are the student branches. They provide an opportunity for students to begin networking in their areas of interest and future profession. They also carry out activities related to bringing engineering closer to society. Most of these activities are focused on schools, where they seek to demystify the dark and serious image that most students have of engineering work. Not surprisingly, when pupils realize the wide variety of applications that can be developed with current market technology (mobiles, drones, Arduino, Odroid, etc.), they take their studies a little more seriously.

The youth of their members provides many benefits to the IEEE, including the fact that most of the high quality scientific publications of the IEEE conferences and journals come from the hard work of pre-doctoral students. However, their youth also gives them a touch of inexperience. This may explain why some seem to think they constitute a sort of second-order organization. However, the amount, interest and frequency of their activities reveal rather the contrary.

The Spain section of the IEEE includes all the student branches of every Spanish university. All of them have a well defined regulation that, in short, provides them with the legal

framework within which to develop their activities. Recently, however, this framework has changed a little in order to better suit the growth of the student branches. To date there has been one Section Student Representative (SSR) in Spain, who has been in charge of both supervising the activities of the branches and creating new ones. However, to support the SSR in his management tasks, this year all branches have agreed on a less centralized management with the incorporation of four additional coordinators.

One of their main tasks is the organization of the annual congress known as Student Branch, Women in Engineering and Young Professionals (SWYP, formerly Congreso Nacional de Ramas, also known as CNR). The first session of the SWYP was held in Granada, Spain on March 9-11. The SWYP gave members an opportunity to share their expertise, but even more important, a platform to discuss the challenges they face and different ways to deal with them. In addition, there were several presentations on the topics of both Women in Engineering and Young Professionals, which were very interesting in giving a different view on the roles that women are able to play in engineering as well as new future working opportunities. Finally, the SWYP is also in charge of monitoring the activities of all branches. The assessment takes into account indicators such as the number of projects and dissemination activities developed, the quality of the web page of the student branch, and so on. It is not an easy task, since all branches have done good work. This could explain the surprising fact that this year there were two winners in a hard-fought tie: The Universitat de València and the Universidad Miguel Hernández, both of them located in the València region of Spain.

The next SWYP congress will be held in Cartagena, Spain. We all wish the very best for this and future SWYP meetings.



Some of the participants in the SWYP'17 happily posing for a group-photo in front of the Cathedral of Granada (Spain).

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Fakrul Alam and Ashish Narayan, with topics covering IPv6 security issues, deployment challenges, policy considerations, operator experience, and transition technology. Through a series of case studies, working group exercises and hands on lab work, upon completion of this training program, participants had acquired the skills to manage IPv6 Internet infrastructure security threats, and had learned methods for network monitoring and configurations. This program was very informative as it gave the participants an in-depth understanding of Internet infrastructure security, particularly focusing on the similarities and differences between IPv4 and IPv6.