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DISTINGUISHED LECTURER TOUR

Distinguished Lecturer Tour of Abbas Jamalipour in Malaysia, 2017

By Aduwati Sali, Fazirulhisyam Hashim, Chee Yen Leow (Bruce), Nur Idora Abdul Razak, and Hafizal Mohamad, IEEE Malaysia ComSoc/VTS Joint Chapter

In April 2017, the IEEE Malaysia Communications and Vehicular Technology Society (ComSoc/VTS) Joint Chapter hosted Prof. Abbas Jamalipour from the University of Sydney, Australia for his Distinguished Lecturer Tour (DLT) at three different venues. His first lecture was given at the Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Shah Alam (April 11, 2017); the second lecture was at the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) Cyberjaya (April 12, 2017); the third lecture was at the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Skudai, Johor Bahru (April 13, 2017).

Prof. Jamalipour arrived at Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 on April 9, 2017. He was welcomed by Fazirul, the Past Chair of ComSoc/VTS and brought to the Everly Hotel Putrajaya. On April 10, 2017, Prof. Jamalipour had a lunch meeting and spent time with ComSoc/VTS executive committee members led by Aduwati Sali. Various topics were discussed during this meeting, notably on strategies to strengthen the chapter, potential collaboration, how to attract more members to join IEEE and ComSoc/VTS, etc.

On the morning of April 11, 2017, Prof. Jamalipour delivered his first lecture at the Al-Haytham Seminar Room, Engineering Complex, UiTM, Shah Alam. The title of his lecture was "Wireless Communications Techniques for Emergency and Disaster Situations." There were about 25 attendees, mainly postgraduate students and researchers from various research institutes and industry in Malaysia. In this lecture, Prof. Jamalipour discussed the recent advancements and developments in the field of wireless communications for emergency and disaster situations and highlighted some of his research works in this field. The audience was very interested in the topic, since it is highly relevant to Malaysia, and their field of studies and research. The program ended with a networking tea session while the audience took the opportunity to interact with the speaker. Prof. Jamalipour then travelled to UTM Kuala Lumpur to visit the UTM Ericsson Innovation Centre for 5G (IC5G) in the afternoon.



Prof. Jamalipour during his lecture at UTM Skudai.



Prof. Jamalipour with some of the audience at UiTM Shah Alam.



Visit to UTM Ericsson Innovation Centre for 5G (IC5G).

On the following day, April 12, 2017, Prof. Jamalipour delivered his second lecture at MCMC, Cyberjaya. This lecture was held at the MCMC auditorium and co-organized with the Malaysian Technical Standards Forum Bhd (MTFSB) and MCMC. The lecture received overwhelming response and attracted more than 200 attendees. Prof. Jamalipour started his lecture by introducing IEEE, ComSoc and VTS to the attendees. He then elaborated on two topics, namely "Current and Future Research Challenges in Smart Grid Networks and the Internet of Things" and "Wireless Communications Techniques for Emergency and Disaster Situations." The lecture concluded with highlights on open research areas that generated a lot of interest among the attendees. The tutorial-style lecture helped attendees understand the content easily. Moreover, there was ample opportunity for question and answer after the lecture. The co-organizers were also generous to sponsor lunch for the speaker and all the attendees, where they took the opportunity for informal discussion and networking. The event ended around 1:45 pm, and Prof. Jamalipour went directly to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport for a flight to Johor Bahru (JB). In JB, he was welcomed by Chee Yen Leow, one of the ComSoc/VTS executive committee members, and later brought to The Pulai Springs Resort, Johor Bahru.

Prof. Jamalipour presented his third lecture on April 13, 2017, at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, UTM Skudai, Johor. This event was co-organized with the Wireless Communication Centre

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IEEE ComSoc Lebanon Chapter: Winner of the EMEA 2017 Chapter Achievement Award

By Dr. Sarah Abou-Chakra, IEEE ComSoc Lebanon Chapter Chair

The Executive Committee of the ComSoc Lebanon Chapter would like to convey their sincere thanks to the Regional Directors of IEEE ComSoc for considering the Lebanon Chapter as one of the winners for CAA–2017. We also would like to thank the past Executive Committee and in particular the past Chair, Professor Bachar El-Hassan, for initiating our 2016 achievements.

In 2016, the Chapter actively participated in several events in Lebanon, as detailed below.

On June 2, the Chapter technically sponsored a workshop held at the Doctoral school of the Lebanese University (EDST)–Tripoli. The workshop was on the topic “New Generation of Networks: Cloud Computing in 5G Networks.” The event included four sessions: the opening session, Introduction to 5G, Cloud Computing for the Internet of Things, and 5G Security and Enterprise Vision. Eight speakers participated in this workshop and about 80 persons attended this event.

The Chapter technically sponsored and organized the Radio-Frequency and Microwave tracks in the Middle East Conference for Antennas and Propagation (MECAP 2016) that was held in Beirut from September 20 to 22, 2016. More than 60 researchers and Ph.D. students attended the conference.

We participated in the IEEE Day held on October 8, 2016 where Dr. Sarah Abou-Chakra, who was the chapter Vice-Chair, presented the latest chapter activities. In addition, members of the Executive Committee participated in the jury evaluating the student branches. More than 160 IEEE members joined the event at the Lebanese International University (LIU)–Jdeideh.

The Chapter also technically sponsored and organized the communications tracks at the IEEE International Multidisciplinary Conference on Engineering Technology (IMCET 2016) that was held in Beirut on November 2 and 3, and which attracted 70 researchers.

The Chapter also organized several communications related activities, as detailed below.

The activities started with two Distinguished Lecturer Tours. In February, Prof. Mohamed-Slim Alouini from KAUST University, KSA presented two lectures on “5G, Evolution or Revolution?” These lectures attracted 70 attendees. Then in April, Prof. Andrei Gurtov gave two presentations on the topic “Software Defined Mobile Networks: Beyond LTE Architecture.” These presentations were attended by 80 professors and students.

On May 7, the Chapter organized the fourth Lebanon Communications Research Day (IEEE LCRD’16) at the Doctoral School

of Lebanese University (EDST)–Hadath Campus. The goal of this event is to allow Lebanese researchers and engineers working in the area of communications and networking to meet, present their work and exchange research ideas. Three invited speakers and 26 researchers contributed to IEEE LCRD’16. Sessions covered wireless sensor networks, future trends in wireless networks, network security, and cloud computing and networking. About 135 professors and students attended.

After five successful editions of IEEE LCRD, it will be upgraded to the Middle East and North Africa COMMUNICATIONS Conference (MENACOMM’18) at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) in Jounieh, Lebanon on April 18–20, 2018 (www.menacomm-conference.com). The objective of MENACOMM is to bring researchers from academic institutions and industry from all over the world to the shores of the Mediterranean.

The sixth Lebanon Communications Student Competition (IEEE LCSC’16) was held on June 4, 2016, at AUST, Zahle Campus. The competition attracted 23 communications related projects from 12 Universities in Lebanon. The projects were divided into three groups: Algorithms and Simulations, Mobile Applications and Smart Phones and Systems, and Devices and Hardware. The evaluation process involved 15 professors from different universities and telecom companies. Three winners were selected from each group and an amount of 3000 USD, offered by Electricity of Zahle, was distributed to the winners with certificates from the IEEE ComSoc Lebanon Chapter. Attendees numbered about 150.

To commemorate the MOU signing between the IEEE Lebanon Section and the Order of Engineers and Architects (OEA)–Tripoli, the IEEE ComSoc Lebanon Chapter organized a workshop on November 2 at the OEA on the topic “The Mobile Telecommunication Evolution in Lebanon and the World.” Three speakers participated in this workshop: Dr. Rola Naja, associate professor at the Lebanese University spoke about “Beyond 4G Networks: Evolution or Revolution?”; Rami Assoum, Head of the VAS Department at Alfa, Lebanon, spoke on the topic “An Insight on the Future of Mobile Business”; and Dr. Charbel Fares, professor at USEK, discussed the “Readiness of the Lebanese Telecom Infrastructure to integrate the Internet of Things.” About 80 engineers from the OEA–Tripoli and IEEE members attended this workshop.

Last but not least, the Chapter celebrated the 10th Lebanon Communications Workshop (IEEE LCW’16), which has become the signature event of the ComSoc Lebanon Chapter and returned to its first location, the American University of Beirut (AUB), in November 2016. IEEE LCW’16 addressed “Tactile Internet”; extremely low latency in combination with high availability; reliability and security will define the character of the Tactile Internet. It will have a marked impact on business and society, introducing numerous new opportunities for emerging technology markets and the delivery of essential public services. We had a strong technical program with a highly distinguished group of speakers from Lebanon and abroad.

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Group photo of IEEE LCSC’16.

Workshop on Communications, Signals and Information Processing (ComSIP)

By Cesar Vargas-Rosales and Rafaela Villalpando-Hernandez, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico

The Monterrey Chapter of the IEEE Communications Society organized the workshop on “Communications, Signals and Information Processing (ComSIP)” on April 28, 2017 at Tecnológico de Monterrey in the city of Monterrey, Mexico. The main objective of the workshop was to gather academia and industry in one place to establish collaboration for future projects in the areas of ComSIP.

The first workshop on communications, signals and information processing put together 16 different presentations with research on the broad areas of signals, intelligent systems, information processing, and communications. There were presentations on topics such as signal propagation, vehicular communications, machine learning and its applications, sensor networks, digital signal processing, MEMS/NEMS, meta-heuristics, nanophotonics and adaptive algorithms. There was also a session with 15 different posters where everyone had the opportunity to discuss and looking into more topics with different authors. Some posters presented solutions to problems on MIMO systems, anomaly detection in networks, position location in sensor networks, ray launching for propagation prediction, silicon ion-channel sensors and mobile health monitoring among others. The opportunities to get involved in the research activities of ComSIP and these dynamic research areas were also introduced by interaction sessions between academia and industry.

More than 60 attendees included people from industry, undergraduate, graduate students and professors at Tecnológico de Monterrey. All attendees had the opportunity to listen to experts talk in different sessions and were able to explore different research areas in an intensive way.

International researchers that were invited as special guests in the workshop included Dr. Andreas Spanias (SenSIP, Arizona State University), Dr. Jennifer Blain Christen (SenSIP, Arizona State University), Dr. Emma Hart (Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland), and Dr. Gregory J. Gbur (University of North Carolina). Also among the attendees to the workshop were people from Axtel, AT&T and NIC México, which are telecommunications companies with a base in Monterrey.

Other groups were also involved in the organization of the event such as the research focus group on Telecommunications



The main room for the Workshop.



Organizers, volunteers and guests: Mahdi Zareei, Leyre Azpilicueta, Fausto Granda, Jennifer Christen, Rafaela Villalpando, Andreas Spanias, Jaime Zuñiga, and Cesar Vargas.

and Networks from the School of Engineering and Sciences at Tecnológico de Monterrey, and Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT) with financial support through the NSF/IUCRC-CONACYT/CoBI ComSIP project number 274733 where Dr. Cesar Vargas is the leader. The project ComSIP collaborates with Arizona State University through the SenSIP center led by Dr. Andreas Spanias.

Among sponsors, volunteers and organizers, we acknowledge CONACYT, NSF, the IEEE Monterrey Section, the IEEE ComSoc Monterrey Chapter, the IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu Lambda-Rho Chapter at Tecnológico de Monterrey and the SPIE Student Chapter.

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(WCC) UTM. Here, Prof. Jamalipour covered the topic of “Current and Future Research Challenges in Smart Grid Networks and the Internet of Things.” The event attracted 35 participants. In this lecture, the topic of Smart Grid networks was explained and the main challenges in such a network, including the security and privacy of grid customers, were highlighted. The lecture also included the new research and development direction toward the Internet of Things where the network connectivity extends its boundary beyond the usual digital devices to basically every device, appliance and “thing” around humans.

DLTs in Malaysia continues to be very successful and they will likely to be well attended in the future by academics, researchers and industry practitioners. Hosting such DLT events in various locations around Malaysia is an excellent way to encourage IEEE members and the technical community at large to participate in IEEE Comsoc/VTS technical dissemination programs. This surely helps improve recognition and generate growth for the IEEE ComSoc and VTS in Malaysia. The IEEE Malaysia ComSoc/VTS Joint Chapter would like to thank our speaker, Prof. Jamalipour, and our co-organizers and sponsors, UiTM Shah Alam, MTFSB, MCMC, and WCC UTM Skudai, for making this DLT a success. Above all, we would like to extend our special appreciation to IEEE ComSoc and IEEE VTS for arranging such a wonderful program.

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In parallel with IEEE LCW'16, the chapter co-organized with the IEEE Young Professional Affinity Group a STEP event that included the signing of three MOUs with three renowned telecommunications' companies in Lebanon.

The chapter is trying, with its limited resources, to organize fruitful events in all parts the country while encouraging different students to become society members and enhancing industry-academia collaborations.

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