



January 2017  
ISSN 2374-1082

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

## Europe, Middle East and Africa Region Interview with Andrzej Jajszczyk, Director of the EMEA Region

By Stefano Bregni, Vice-President for Member and Global Activities, and Andrzej Jajszczyk, Director of the EMEA Region

This is the third article in the series of eight, started in November 2016 and published monthly in the *IEEE Global Communications Newsletter*, which covers all areas of IEEE ComSoc Member and Global Activities. In this series of articles, I introduce the six MGA Directors (Sister and Related Societies; Membership Services; AP, NA, LA, EMEA Regions) and the two Chairs of the Women in Communications Engineering (WICE) and Young Professionals (YP) Standing Committees. In each article, one by one they present their sector activities and plans.

In this issue, I interview Andrzej Jajszczyk, Director of the Europe, Middle East and Africa Region (EMEA). Andrzej is a professor at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow, Poland, and President of the Krakow Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He is the author or co-author of 12 books and over 300 research papers, as well as 19 patents in the areas of telecommunications switching, high-speed networking, network management, and reliability. He has held important positions in the IEEE Communications Society, such as Director of Magazines, Director of Europe, Africa, and Middle East Region, and Vice President-Technical Activities. He is an IEEE Fellow.

I had the honor to get to know Andrzej 20 years ago, when he was Editor-in-Chief of *IEEE Communications Magazine*. He was one of my best mentors in ComSoc when I first approached its Committees offering to serve as a volunteer. He was the founding editor of the *Global Communications Newsletter*, so it is a true honor and pleasure for me today to interview Andrzej and offer him this opportunity to outline his current activities and plans as Director of the Europe, Middle East and Africa Region.

**Bregni:** Andrzej, we might begin by outlining the main characteristics of the EMEA Region.

**Jajszczyk:** The EMEA Region covers a vast geographic area stretching from Cape Town, South Africa in the South, to Lisbon, Portugal, in the West, through Hammerfest, Norway, in the North, to Vladivostok, Russia in the East. The Region is served by 51 local chapters, together accounting for about one quarter of ComSoc members worldwide. The chapters provide a local connection for our society members. Their activities include talks organized within the Distinguished Lecturer Tour (DLT) or Distinguished Speaker Program (DSP) frameworks, social events, workshops, seminars, special events, etc.

**Bregni:** The Distinguished Lecturer Program (DLP) and the Distinguished Speaker Program (DSP) are particularly appreciated by our members. During my previous term as VP-Member

Relations, we increased the budget allocated to these programs, to allow more and better DLTs in all regions. What is your perception of these programs? How are they organized in the EMEA Region?

**Jajszczyk:** DLTs provide the means for ComSoc chapters to identify and arrange lectures by renowned experts on communications and networking related topics. ComSoc's DSPs enable current and past distinguished lecturers as well as ComSoc officers, IEEE Fellows, and prominent speakers to schedule lectures while traveling on business trips.

The DLTs and DSPs are coordinated by Charalabos (Harry) Skianis from Greece. In 2016, six DLTs were organized in the EMEA Region, and we have already approved three additional DLTs to be held in early 2017.

What is important, most of these tours were or are to be organized in areas with a rather low ComSoc membership, such as the Middle East or Africa. We do hope to encourage more professionals from these areas to join our Society. The four talks within the Distinguished Speaker Program held in 2016 involved such countries as Spain, Austria, Portugal, and Kuwait. To cope with the vast geographic area, and related travel costs, of the EMEA Region, we recently modified our Policies & Procedures for DLT/DSP.

**Bregni:** The EMEA Region Board assigns awards to recognize the contributions of its outstanding members. Please describe these awards in some detail?

**Jajszczyk:** An important facet of the EMEA activities, coordinated by Emilio Calvanese Strinati from France, is our Award Program, which includes the EMEA Young Researcher Award and the EMEA Region Distinguished Service Award.

In 2016, the recipients of three EMEA Young Researcher Awards were: Sheng Yang from Centrale-Supelec, Gif Sur Yvette, France; Daniel Enrique Lucani Roetter from Aalborg University, Denmark; and Claudia Campolo from the University Mediterranea of Reggio Calabria, Italy. The EMEA Region Distinguished Service Award was given to Fambirai Takawira from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. Every year, we also select a particularly active chapter to receive the Chapter Achievement Award. In 2016, this award was given to the Romania Chapter and presented at Globecom 2016 in Washington, DC, USA.

**Bregni:** What are the major challenges that you currently see in the EMEA Region?

**Jajszczyk:** We have two major challenges: one is membership growth in our region, and the other is increasing industry-academia cooperation.

The coordination of the latter is the responsibility of Ali C. Begen from Turkey, supported by Peter Rost from Nokia Networks, Munich, Germany. The task is not easy in the current business environment, taking into account industry restructuring, growing competition, and changes in the overall markets. However, I do hope that we will be able propose working initiatives to strengthen cooperation between industry and academia within the EMEA Region.

(Continued on Newsletter page 4)



Stefano Bregni



Andrzej Jajszczyk

## Blaze of Glory: IEEE Communications Society and Vehicular Technology Society Malaysia Joint Chapter

### Winner of the 2016 IEEE ComSoc Chapter-of-the-Year Award

By F. Hashim, A. Sali, A. A. El-Saleh, W. Nurdiana, K. Anuar, K. Abdullah, M. Y. Alias, M. Roslee, N. Ramli, H. Mohamad, B. M. Ali, and M. Ismail, IEEE Malaysia Communications Society and Vehicular Technology Society Joint Chapter

#### 2016: THE YEAR IT IS

The year 2016 has been an exhilarating year for the ComSoc/VTS Malaysia Chapter. It is the year Kuala Lumpur, for the first time, hosted IEEE ICC. It is also the year the Joint Chapter won, for the second time in three years, the Chapter of the Year Award and the 2016 Chapter Achievement Award (Asia Pacific). Further, 2016 also marks 24 years of IEEE Malaysia Communication Society (ComSoc) Chapter and 10 years of the IEEE Malaysia ComSoc/VTS Joint Chapter. Over the past three years the Joint Chapter has received:

- 2014 and 2016 IEEE Communication Society Chapter of the Year Award.
- 2014 and 2016 IEEE Communication Society Chapter Achievement Award (Asia Pacific).
- 2013 and 2015 IEEE Vehicular Technology Society Chapter of the Year Award.
- IEEE Malaysia Section 2014 Chapter of the Year Award.

This is indeed a great honor for our Chapter, which started from a humble beginning in 1992 with about 60 members. The Chapter gradually grew until now we have more than 600 members, making our Chapter one of the largest chapters in the Malaysia Section. The recipe for success stems from the selfless commitment of successive groups of Executive Committees now led by Fazirulhisyam Hashim from the Universiti Putra Malaysia. The committee members are dynamic and dedicated people hailing from both academia and industry, making it an effective combination when conducting programs for the members.

#### ACTIVITIES

To highlight our 2015 activities, this Chapter organized 10 membership development programs at various universities and 68 technical, professional, and continuing education activities. Out of these, 11 are DLT/DSP talks given by six IEEE Distinguished Speakers from ComSoc and VTS. Apart from DLTs and DSPs, the Chapter organized and technically co-sponsored three



The Joint Chapter organized technical visits to TLDM, Media Prima Bhd, and Sapura Bhd.



The MICC 2015 Organizing Committee.



The ICC 2016 venue: Kuala Lumpur Convention Center (photo courtesy of KLCC).

conferences (TAFGEN, ICONSPACE and MICC), and a number of administrative and strategic meetings.

#### REACHING OUT TO INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY

One of the highlights of 2015 is our engagement in community service. In early 2015 many areas in Malaysia, especially in the East Coast region, were inundated by a huge flood caused by exceptionally heavy rain. More than 200,000 people were affected, and many houses were totally wiped out, as were crops and livestock. The Chapter participated in the national Flood Humanitarian and Relief Mission to provide support to the affected areas by providing clothes, food, and cash for the affected people. We also provided support to rebuild the houses of the victims as well as motivating the children.

The Chapter realized the need to enhance its visibility in technical activities as well as in professional, community, educational activities, etc. In particular, we did the following:

- Initiated new collaboration with industry, such as Sapura and the Royal Navy, by means of technical visits and discussions to enhance our reach to members in industry. We also held some of our IEEE DLTs/DSPs and other technical talks at industry locations.

- Increased visibility of IEEE among university management, industry, local and global organizations through collaboration and joint activities.

- Conducted meetings and social gatherings with members (e.g., Eid Celebration and social gatherings during IEEE Day).

We also organized a number of collaborative activities with the IEEE Malaysia Sec-

## International Conference on Localization and GNSS (ICL-GNSS 2016), Barcelona, Spain, 28–30 June 2016

By G. Seco-Granados, J. Nurmi, J. A. Lopez-Salcedo and E.S. Lohan, Spain, Chairs and Steering Committee Members, ICL-GNSS 2016

The sixth edition of the International Conference on Localization and GNSS was organized in Barcelona, Spain on 28-30 June 2016 jointly by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Spain and Tampere University of Technology (TUT), with the support of the European Commission DG Joint Research Center (JRC). The conference was chaired by Prof. Gonzalo Seco-Granados and Prof. J. A. Lopez-Salcedo from UAB. Assoc. Prof. Elena-Simona Lohan from TUT was TPC Chair, and José A. Del Peral Rosado from UAB was the Publication Chair. The conference was technically co-sponsored by IEEE through the IEEE Spain Section and the Spanish chapters of the IEEE AESS and SPS/ComSoc. The event brought together more than 70 participants from academia and industry for three days to the conference center Casa Convalescència, which is a historic modernist building located next to the historic site of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau.

There were four high-caliber keynote speakers. Dr. Ignacio Fernández from the European Commission, Belgium, spoke about GNSS authentication features and key management, and the combination of authenticated and non-authenticated signals and sensors in GNSS and A-GNSS. Prof. Danijela Cabric from UCLA, United States, explained the concept of cognitive radio (CR) in the context of wireless positioning, and explored a set of CR cooperative localization algorithms for single and multiple primary users. Assoc. Prof. Klaus Witrisal from Graz University of Technology, Austria, concentrated on location-aware communications and how the location information can benefit the network. Dr. Javier de Salas, Broadcom, Spain, focused on the carrier phase positioning experiences in consumer global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) devices.



Attendees at the conference venue, Casa Convalescència, getting ready for the technical sessions.

The session topics were security aspects in GNSS, GNSS receivers, cooperative and hybrid positioning, positioning via 5G & UWB, indoor navigation, RSS-based positioning, design, prototyping and testing of positioning devices, ionospheric, tropospheric and scintillation effects in GNSS, and a MULTI-POS special session on multi-technology positioning, resulting in 43 oral presentations. There was one award given at the event: the best paper award given to Josef Kulmer, a Ph.D. student from Graz University of Technology, Austria, for the work entitled “Cooperative localization and tracking using multipath channel information.” It is worth remarking that this year’s edition of the conference was focused almost equally on positioning with GNSS and positioning with terrestrial technologies, attracting participants from both communities and facilitating interaction between them.

The talks and the social events were compelling and of high quality. On the first evening, there was the welcome reception at the Noble Halls of the Barcelona City Council, where Dr. Miquel Angel Essomba, the Commissioner for Education and Universities of the Barcelona City Council, gave a warm-hearted speech. The Gala dinner took place on the second evening, in the La Gavina restaurant, after an exciting guided visit at Parc Güell, one of the best known and representative Barcelona landmarks and an example of the architectural genius of Antoni Gaudí.

In 2017, the seventh edition of ICL-GNSS will be located in Nottingham, United Kingdom. For more information, see [www.icl-gnss.org](http://www.icl-gnss.org)



Group picture on the visit to Park Güell.



Welcome reception at the Saló de Cent, one of the noble halls of the Barcelona city council.

## MALAYSIA CHAPTER/Continued from page 2

tion and other chapters in Malaysia. Through these collaborations, we gave motivational talks and activities to IEEE student members to engage and participate in community service as well as sharing experiences with IEEE student branches in managing their branches, membership drives, and organizing various successful IEEE events.

In addition, Final Year Project Excellence Award in Communications were also organized at several universities around the country. Apart from evaluating the students' project work and awarding the winners, our ExCom used this activity to meet our members and deliver short talks to promote IEEE and ComSoc/VTS.

In 2015 we also organized our very first ComSoc/VTS Awards, giving prizes to the Best Paper published in selected IEEE journals, Best Social Activity and Outstanding Dissertation Awards. These awards are intended to encourage IEEE members to produce high quality activities and projects, and to obtain recognition from IEEE.

Aduwati Sali, one of our ExComm member since 2014, was consulted by local authorities as well as appearing in a national satellite TV broadcast channel to give her expert opinion on the disappearance of flight MH370 in March 2014, highlighting the role of satellite communications technology in tracing the whereabouts of the missing aircraft. Apart from broadcasting media, she was also asked to conduct training and talks on satellite communications, as well as to explain how the data log helped the search and rescue operations.

The year 2015 was nicely concluded by the Chapter with the organization of our flagship Malaysia International Conference on Communications (MICC 2015) on 23-25 November 2015 in Kuching, Sarawak. This conference was officially opened by Rt. Hon. Datuk Sylvester Entri Muran, Deputy Minister of Public Facilities, Sarawak. The event was well covered by the local media.

### IEEE MALAYSIA COMSOC/VTS JOINT CHAPTER 10 YEAR CELEBRATION

As 2016 marks the 10th year celebration of the Joint Chapter, various activities have been planned to commemorate the event. Some of the key activities are:

**Reaching Out to Flood-Prone Areas:** This is a community project to educate the local community in flood-prone areas. A one-day event is being planned comprising a talk on amateur radio and how this communication technology can help the local community contact the flood control center and rescue workers.

**Building Next Generation Workforce in Communication and Vehicular Technology:** This seminar is aimed at industry players and researchers as well as students, and is focused on how communications and vehicular technology have shaped the workforce in Malaysia.

**Defy Gravity—From Technical Expertise to Society:** This sharing session is a motivational talk for IEEE members and volunteers,

focused on how we can reach out to the society, using our technical expertise.

### 2016 IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIONS (ICC 2016)

The Chapter and the international Organizing Committee (OC) organized an extraordinary IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC 2016) on 23-27 May 2016 in Kuala Lumpur. The OC included the Executive Co-Chairs Hikmet Sari (Supelec, France) and Borhanuddin Mohd Ali (Universiti Putra Malaysia); the Advisory Executive Vice-Chair, Datuk Hod Parman (Malaysia); the Conference Operations Chair, Hafizal Mohamad (MIMOS Berhad, Malaysia); the Technical Program Co-Chairs, Stefano Bregni (Politecnico di Milano, Italy) and Nelson Fonseca (State University of Campinas, Brazil); the Industry Forums & Exhibition Chair, Khaled B. Letaief (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology); and the Exhibition Chair, Nordin Ramli (MIMOS Berhad, Malaysia).

The venue, the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), is a modern five-star convention facility situated strategically at the foot of the iconic PETRONAS Twin Towers, overlooking a spacious, well landscaped public park.

The conference attracted 1,839 attendees from 58 countries. IEEE ICC 2016 featured interesting and thought-provoking keynote talks from John Cioffi (ASSIA Inc.), Seizo Onoe (NTT DOCOMO), Henning Schulzrinne (Columbia University and the FCC), Mischa Dohler (King's College London), and San-qi Li (Huawei Technologies).

Technical Symposia consisted of 967 peer-reviewed papers highlighting the latest research and business policies surrounding communications advancements worldwide. CTO Forums were also held featuring six CTOs from Axiata, Celcom, Telecom Malaysia, PLDT, Vodafone, M1 and Idea, discussing the fast evolution of technology and challenges for emerging countries.

There were 14 Industry Panels with representatives from various industry giants such as Samsung, Nokia, Intel, Microsoft, NEC, China Mobile, and NTT Docomo, addressing issues related to 5G, IoT, and shared spectrum. Attendees had the opportunity for professional development by attending one or more of the 19 tutorials and 14 workshops on the latest breakthroughs in information and communications technology. We are grateful for all the patrons and supporters of the conference, which include Axiata, Huawei, National Instruments, the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, Keysight Technologies, the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia, the Malaysian Convention and Exposition Bureau, and Tenaga Nasional Berhad.

## MEMBERSHIP SERVICES/Continued from page 1

One of the issues that I would like to address as well is ComSoc's role in the current migration crisis in our region. I do believe that we have to find ways to help communication engineers from the Middle East and war affected countries of Africa who are currently trying to find refuge abroad, or are trying to survive in their countries. Frankly speaking, I do not have clear ideas on how to do that, so I would appreciate any input from our members.

**Bregni:** Besides those EMEA Board Members who you have mentioned already, would you like to acknowledge the contribution of others in particular?

**Jajszczuk:** I would like to mention here three other people who are playing very important roles within the EMEA Board. They are the past director, Hanna Bogucka, who serves as an advisor; Piotr Borylo, who is responsible for membership development and EMEA web visibility; and Carol Cronin, the staff representative whose role in running all our activities simply cannot be overestimated.

**Bregni:** Among the many activities that you are running, what will be the highlight next year?

**Jajszczuk:** At ICC'2017 in Paris, France, we will organize the EMEA Regional Chapters Chairs Congress. The Congress is intended to facilitate and encourage sharing, feedback, and networking among Chapter Chairs, staff, and ComSoc officers.

**GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTER**

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

**IEEE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY**  
STEFANO BREGNI, VICE-PRESIDENT FOR MEMBER AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES  
CARLOS ANDRES LOZANO GARZON, DIRECTOR OF LA REGION  
SCOTT ATKINSON, DIRECTOR OF NA REGION  
ANDRZEJ JAJSCZYK, DIRECTOR OF EMEA REGION  
TAKAYA YAMAZATO, DIRECTOR OF AP REGION  
CURTIS SILLER, DIRECTOR OF SISTER AND RELATED SOCIETIES

**REGIONAL CORRESPONDENTS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE**  
SIMONA LOHAN (elena-simona.lohan@tut.fi)



www.comsoc.org/gcn  
ISSN 2374-1082