



MEMBER AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

Latin America Region

Interview with Carlos Lozano, Director of the LA Region

By Stefano Bregni, Vice-President for Member and Global Activities, and Carlos Lozano, Director of the LA Region

This is the eighth article in the series started in November 2016 and published monthly in the IEEE ComSoc *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 Carlos Lozano, Director of the Latin America Region.

Carlos A. Lozano Garzon is Head of the postgraduate degree in Information Security at the Universidad Catolica de Colombia, Colombia. He received his Ph.D. degree from both the Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia, and the Universidad de Girona, Spain, in 2017. From 2005 to 2012, he was an assistant professor at the Universidad de San Buenaventura, Colombia. As an IEEE ComSoc volunteer in the Latin-America Region,



Stefano Bregni



Carlos Lozano

Carlos has served as DLT/DSP Coordinator, Membership Development Coordinator, ComSoc Student Chapter Advisor, ComSoc Colombia Chapter Chair, and Technical Activities Coordinator at ComSoc Colombia. He served on the organizing committee of the IEEE Colombian Conference on Communications and Computing, the IEEE Latin-American Conference on Communications, and the IEEE Conference of the Andean Council. He was the Publicity Vice-chair for Latin-America for IEEE Globecom 2015.

It is my true pleasure to interview Car-

los, my friend for a very long time, and offer him the opportunity to outline his initiatives and plans in the LA Region.

Bregni: Hola Carlos! Welcome to the *Global Communications Newsletter*. Would you please introduce the IEEE ComSoc Latin America Region to our readers?

Lozano: In Latin America, ComSoc has a presence in 16 countries through 24 professional chapters and 43 student chapters distributed in Central and South America and the Caribbean. The number of ComSoc members in the LA Region is 933 in total (as of April 2017), distributed as shown in the Table.

Bregni: How is the LA Board organized?

Lozano: Our Latin America Board is responsible for stimulating, coordinating and promoting the activities of ComSoc members and chapters throughout the LA region. This Board is composed of the following volunteers:

- Secretary and Membership Development: Ignacio Castillo
- Technical Activities: José David Cely
- Awards: Lisandro Zambenedetti
- Global Communications Newsletter* Reporter: Carlos Martínez
- Social Networks: Ana Maria Ospina
- Industry Relations Committee: Pedro Aguilera
- Student Activities Committee: Maytee Zambrano
- DLT and DSP Coordinator: Carlos Eduardo Velasquez
- Advisory Committee: Nelson Fonseca
- Advisory Committee: Araceli Garcia
- Advisory Committee: Ricardo Veiga

In this two years we want to improve the board's communication with chapter chairs in order to provide better support for their local activities; propose strategies to enroll industry professionals to participate in these activities; encourage the grade advancement of our members; and finally to strengthen our regional conference, the IEEE Latin-American Conference on Communications.

Bregni: Every year, Regional Boards assign the Chapter Achievement Award to the best Chapter of the year in the Region, based on successful activities reported. How do you select the CAA Winner in the Latin America Region?

Lozano: In order to select the winner of the Chapter Achievement Award, we examined questionnaires of 19 Chapters, reporting their activities in the previous year. Among those, the activities of the Panama Chapter were considered outstanding.

Through a joint effort with IEEE local chapters and other organizations such as 5G Americas, the chapter succeeded in promoting the importance of ComSoc in the development and implementation of actual and future technologies.

The Panama Chapter Chair is Dr. Maytee Zambrano. She was invited to receive their award at the Awards Luncheon Ceremony at the recent IEEE GLOBECOM 2016 Conference in Washington, DC.

Bregni: Do you have any other significant LA Region Award?

Lozano: Nowadays, we have two Awards to recognize our regional members:

(Continued on Newsletter page 4)

IEEE current grade description	Count of members
Affiliate	9
Associate Member	10
Fellow	1
Graduate Student Member	70
Life Fellow	1
Life Member	17
Life Senior	17
Member	538
Senior Member	113
Student Member	157
Total	933

Table 1. Members by category in the Latin America Region.

Activities of the IEEE ComSoc Nanjing Chapter

By Professor Lianfeng Shen, Chair of IEEE ComSoc Nanjing Chapter

The IEEE ComSoc Nanjing Chapter was established in October 2009. Currently, the IEEE ComSoc Nanjing Chapter is responsible for the members and activities in three provinces of China, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, and Anhui, one of the most important and prosperous areas in China. The activities of the Chapter in 2016 were focused on the following main areas:

- Organizing or contributing to the organization of international conferences on communications.
- Organization of presentations, short courses, and seminars offered by world-class specialists from well known institutes.

IEEE VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE (VTC) 2016 SPRING

The 83rd VTC (VTC 2016 Spring) was held on 15–18 May 2016 in Nanjing. VTC Nanjing was organized by Southeast University and co-sponsored by the IEEE ComSoc Nanjing Chapter. The general co-chair Prof. Xiaohu You, the technical program co-chair Prof. Fu-Chun Zheng, and the publicity co-chair Prof. Xiqi Gao were from Southeast University in Nanjing.

As one of the top conferences on communications and vehicular electronics, VTC has a long history of over 60 years and a well-established reputation in both IEEE ComSoc and the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society (VTS). VTC 2016 Spring in Nanjing was historic, as it was the first time VTC was held in China.

VTC Nanjing attracted more than 600 academics, engineers, and students from around the world. The conference's technical program included one plenary panel, three keynote speeches, seven tutorials, seven workshops, more than 400 oral presentations, and more than 100 poster presentations. VTS president, Prof. Javier Gozalvez, praised VTC Nanjing as "one of the best VTC in history."

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS AND SIGNAL PROCESSING (WCSP) 2016

WCSP 2016 was held on 13–15 October 2016 in Yangzhou, China, organized by Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications and co-sponsored by the IEEE ComSoc Nanjing Chapter. WCSP 2016 brought together international researchers from academia and practitioners from industry to meet and exchange ideas and recent research advances on all aspects of wireless communications and signal processing.

Following the great success of WCSP 2009-2015, WCSP 2016 attracted more than 350 academics, engineers, and students from around the world. There were a total of 779 submissions, which were rigorously and independently peer-reviewed by 193 TPC members and many reviewers. Based on relevance, originality, technical contributions and presentation, 310 high quality papers were accepted (an acceptance ratio of 39.79 percent). Accepted papers were grouped into 49 sessions within seven technical symposia. Five keynote speeches were delivered by Prof. Nirwan Ansari, Prof. Wei Zhang, Dr. James Kimery, Prof. Rui Zhang, and Prof. Dan Schonfeld.

WCSP 2017 will be organized by Southeast University in Nanjing.

A QUICK LOOK AT OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE NANJING CHAPTER IN 2016

During 2016, the National Mobile Communication Research Laboratory at Southeast University



WCSP 2016: the general co-chair Prof. Zhen Yang gave the welcome speech at the opening ceremony.



IEEE VTC 2016 Spring. From left to right: Prof. Jae Hong Lee, Prof. Pingzhi Fan, Prof. Fu-Chun Zheng, Mr. Ganghua Yang, Dr. Wanshi Chen, Prof. Javier Gozalvez, Prof. Xiaohu You, Prof. Zhisheng Niu.



IEEE VTC 2016 Spring. Prof. Lajos Hanzo and Prof. Javier Gozalvez.



Photos from the Third Women's Workshop on Communications and Signal Processing at IEEE GLOBECOM 2016, Washington DC, US.

ty has hosted a number of lectures and seminars by distinguished experts in communications, listed below.

- Prof. Eric Klumperink provided a fresh look at cognitive radio transceiver chips on 1 March.
- Profs. Pascal Lorenz and Abbas Jamalipour spoke about architectures of next generation wireless networks and software defined dense cellular networks on 12 April.
- Prof. Geoffrey Ye Li gave the lecture "LTE on Unlicensed Band" on 11 May.
- Prof. Rui Zhang shared his broad knowledge of wireless communication with unmanned aerial vehicles on 19 May.
- Prof. Jianwei Huang gave a talk on crowd-sourced mobile video streaming on 3 June.

Amateur Radio Lectures In Poland and India

By Miroslav Skoric, IEEE Austria Section

To give some personal contribution to the IEEE ComSoc's activities 'in the field', I decided to make two conference tours in 2016, one in IEEE Region 8 and another in Region 10. The 24th International Conference of Computer Networks (CN2016) was held in Palac Brunow, a rural place in southwestern Poland, while ICRCICN 2016 was in Kolkata, India.

In Poland I performed my complete program (theoretical+practical) as a 'one-man-band' because in that area THERE were no radio amateurs. ThankS to ADI AF-16, my new portable VHF radio transceiver, I was able to reach an FM repeater located at Góra Szrenica, a mountain approximately 40 km away from the conference venue. It was also an opportunity for Piotr Gaj from Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, the head of the CN2016 organizing committee, to get the personal touch with the Taiwanese product.

After the conference, I spent a few days in Wroclaw to visit local radio amateurs. The first correspondent was Mike SQ6WEM, who provided information on local radio clubs. The next day, Marcin SQ6POL organized my visit to the SP6PWS club location, where I exchanged experiences with local radio enthusiasts. The following day I was in touch with Robert 3Z6AET, who was active in dasr.pl (an emergency radio communication group in that part of Poland). Finally, a friendly meeting was made with Michal SQ6IYV from Politechnika Wroclawska (Wroclaw University of Technology). Polish amateur radio life seemed to be in good condition.

The India tour started with an extended lecture at ABES Engineering College in Ghaziabad, a city close to New Delhi. The lecture was split into two days because I had a plenty of slides. Each



Lecture at ABES Engineering College in Ghaziabad.



Ambarish Nag Biswas, secretary of the West Bengal Amateur Radio Club

day we had a hearty lunch, provided by the school. Everything was very well organized thankfully to Pankaj Sharma, associate professor at ABES (first from right in the photo).

The lecture attracted many female students. As I noticed, Indian schooling is not worried about any decrease of interest for technical education for young women. The workshop was combined with a practical session performed by a skilled radio amateur, Sandeep Baruah, VU2MUE, scientist-E with Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous body under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.

My next lecture was with the SSIT Chapter at the IEEE Kerala Section. The chapter's chair, Satish Babu, and his associate, Ranjit Nair, took care of everything. The session was held at the Science and Technology Museum in Trivandrum, collocated with the local radio club's office. There were approximately 30 participants, including a few members of the 'Trivandrum Amateur Radio Society' (TARS). The museum's director opened the event.

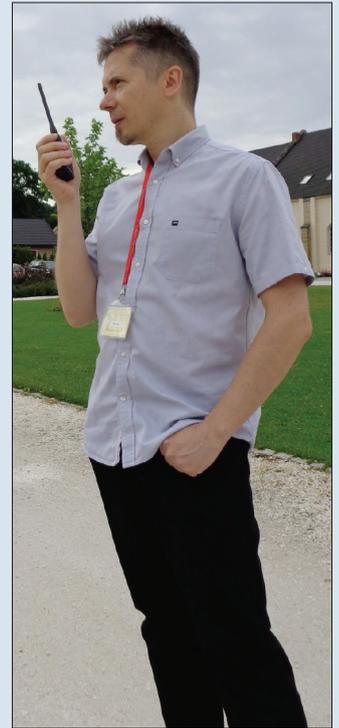
Unfortunately, due to a tight flight schedule, I spent only 24 hours in the beautiful southern tip of the Indian peninsula. So I continued to Hyderabad to visit the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR). They organized my next full-day session with the GMR Institute of Technology in Rajam, Andhra Pradesh state, where I was accommodated in a very nice guest house. Although the campus of GMR IT was almost three hours by car from the nearest airport, and a few kilometers away from the local village, it had all the needed facilities for students and employees. Back at Hyderabad, I had a nice dinnertime discussion with NIAR's director Mohan Ram, VU2MYH, and his deputy Jose Jacob, VU2JOS.

The main part of the travel was to the Kolkata Conference, organized by the Department of Information Technology, RCC Institute of Information Technology, and the IEEE Young Professionals Affinity Group. At the airport I was greeted by members of the 'West Bengal Amateur Radio Club,' led by its secretary Ambarish Nag Biswas, VU2JFA (Figure 3). He and his boys provided an ad-hoc demo of their radio skills during my tutorial session.

The conference was held at the hotel 'Stadel.' The leading person, professor Siddhartha Bhattacharyya, invited me to give another lecture for his students. The second session took place on the premises of the RCC Institute.

The final part of this journey was a full-day seminar at Thapar University in Patiala. Having a long tradition and pleasant campus environment, that was a good place to finish the educational program. Although it was yet another 24-hour travel segment, I took a chance to visit popular street-food stalls, escorted by my host, Professor A. K. Verma. Returning from Punjab state to New Delhi was via a five-hour car ride. As expected, the 'holy cows' appeared on the roads here and there, but it was all part of the fun.

Indian education has stayed wide open for the amateur radio. Having a good impressions, I can confirm that there will be more tutorials and workshop sessions in years to come. Our plans include starting an 'international conference on the amateur radio in education,' as well as events in the form of 'summer schools.' Should you want to collaborate, please get in touch with me.



Piotr Gaj, Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, head of the CN2016 organizing committee.

LATIN AMERICA REGION/*Continued from page 1*

- Young Professional Award, created with the purpose of rewarding a member with an outstanding and promising professional record in the field of communications.
- Distinguished Service Award, given to a member who made significant contributions to the development of our Society activities in the Region.

For 2016, the awarded members were Leandro Aparecido Villas and Carlos Martinez, respectively.

Bregni: What are the main challenges of the LA Region, in your opinion?

Lozano: We have many challenges in our region, but I think right now the most relevant are the following:

- Declining membership
- Lack of interest of practitioners in the ComSoc activities
- Need for programs to directly support ComSoc Student Chapters. Coping with these three issues is the base of our plan for this year.

Bregni: What are the best programs in the LA Region?

Lozano: In order to provide more benefits to our members, we are developing a webinar series program. In the past two years, we worked in conjunction with the LA Computer Society on a webinar series pilot program that included 16 sessions. The lectures were presented in Spanish, Portuguese or English¹.

Through this pilot we could impact many young professional and student members, as well as many people who were not yet members of IEEE or our Society.

For this year, we are involving the chapter chairs in order to include more lecturers and more attendees. We are currently working on the topic list and the schedule for the webinars that we plan to develop in the next semester.

Bregni: Can you speak about the DLT in the LA Region? Is it very important in particular for the LA Region?

Lozano: In our region, one of the most successful programs is ComSoc's Distinguished Lecturer Tour (DLT). Through this program our members have access to top-of-the-line lectures delivered by premier lecturers. Also, it is important to note that the chapters use these lectures to attract more members. All the lecturers, using their own style, act as ambassadors who encourage the attendees to join our Society.

In 2016 we organized four tours for eight different sections and 14 cities; for 2017 we have already developed three tours for eight different sections and 10 cities.

Bregni: Can you say something about the IEEE Latin-American

Conference on Communications (IEEE LATINCOM)? Why is it important for the LA Region?

Lozano: IEEE LATINCOM is a series of international conferences organized by the ComSoc Latin America Region, which was created in 2009. LATINCOM has been held in Medellin (Colombia, 2009), Bogota (Colombia, 2010), Belem do Pará (Brasil, 2011), Quenca (Ecuador, 2012), Santiago do Chile (Chile, 2013), Cartagena de Indias (Colombia, 2014), Arequipa (Perú, 2015), and Medellin (Colombia, 2016). This year, the conference will be held in Guatemala City on 8–10 November 2017.

IEEE LATINCOM covers the scope of all ComSoc Technical Committees and has a broad technical program that includes renowned keynote speakers and comprehensive tutorials presenting the state of the art in communications. Its prime goal is to provide a platform for researchers and practitioners in Latin America to share research and development results, to meet and to network.

This conference is an attempt by our society to reach out to the members and to offer them a venue that meets the specific needs of our region.

Bregni: How was the last Latin America Regional Chapter Chair Congress?

Lozano: The 2016 Latin America Regional Chapter Chair Congress (LA-RCCC 2016) was held in Medellin, Colombia on 14–15 November 2016, in conjunction with IEEE LATINCOM 2016.

The LA-RCCC was a very successful meeting that had the participation of 17 Chapter Chairs, five LA ComSoc Board members, three Distinguished ComSoc Volunteers (Vice President of Member and Global Activities, Director of Membership Services, and Director of the North America Region), the ComSoc Executive Director, and the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society President.

As a result of this meeting we proposed an ambitious plan for the next few years, focused on increasing membership engagement, especially for young members and practitioners; qualification of our members; promoting member elevations and regional candidates to the Distinguished Lecturer Program; and a joint effort with other Societies in our region to promote projects with a higher social impact.

Bregni: To conclude, can you say anything else to our readers?

Lozano: We encourage our members to be involved in our committees with the aim of strengthening them and being able to develop the programs and projects proposed for the years to come.

¹ <http://sites.ieee.org/r9/computer-society-webinars/>

**GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTER**

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IEEE Communications Society

www.comsoc.org/gcn
ISSN 2374-1082

NANJING CHAPTER/*Continued from page 2*

- Prof. Koichi Asatani introduced network science and its applications to future networking on 6 June.
- Prof. Lu Gan delivered the talk “Structured Random Matrix Theory” on 27 June.
- Prof. Ying Cui kicked off the technical talk “Joint Caching and Multicasting in Large-Scale Cache-Enabled Wireless Networks” on 30 June.
- Prof. Sheng Yang gave a talk on fading broadcast channels with channel uncertainty on 12 August.
- Prof. Xiaodai Dong shared her knowledge about hybrid processing in massive MIMO for 5G on 19 September.
- Prof. Chengshan Xiao discussed the key problems in underwater acoustic MIMO communications on 10 October.
- Prof. Liuqing Yang gave a lecture on energy-harvesting relay networks and Prof. Rui Zhang presented a paradigm shift of wireless security on 17 October.
- Prof. Tony Q. S. Quek gave an overview of fundamentals and recent advances in 5G on 27 October.
- Prof. Hua Qian shared his broad knowledge of 5G IoT on 24 November.