



February 2017  
ISSN 2374-1082

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

## Asia/Pacific Region

### Interview with Takaya Yamazato, Director of the AP Region

By Stefano Bregni, Vice-President for Member and Global Activities, and Takaya Yamazato, Director of the AP Region

This is the fourth article in the series of eight, 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 am introducing 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 Takaya Yamazato, Director of the Asia/Pacific Region (AP). Takaya is a professor at the Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Nagoya University, Japan. He received the Ph.D. degree from Keio University, Yokohama, Japan, in 1993. From 1993 to 1998 he was an assistant professor in the Department of Information Electronics, Nagoya University, Japan. From 1997 to 1998 he was a visiting researcher in the Research Group for RF Communications, Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, University of Kaiserslautern, Germany. In 2006 he received the IEEE Communication Society Best Tutorial Paper Award. He served as symposium co-chair of ICC 2009 and ICC 2011. From 2008 to 2010 he was the chair of the IEEE ComSoc Satellite and Space Communications Technical Committee and the editor-in-chief of the Japanese Section of IEICE Transactions on Communications. His research interests include visible light communication, intelligent transport systems, stochastic resonance, and open educational resources.

It is a pleasure for me to interview Takaya for this issue and offer him this opportunity to outline his current activities and plans as Director of the AP Region.

**Bregni:** Takaya, among all Regions, the AP Region is historically probably the one with the largest and most structured Board. Would you please introduce briefly the AP Region Board?

**Yamazato:** For over 20 years, the Asia/Pacific Board (APB) has been the premier network for ComSoc members in the Asia/Pacific (AP) Region. Our mission is to address all ComSoc activities and programs pertaining to its members and Chapters in the A/P region. In the AP Board, we have 45 officers who work tirelessly to provide value to our members by offering exceptional services. APB has five committees, and three of our vice directors take the initiative on each committee activities.

**Bregni:** What are the activities and scope of those five APB Committees?

The Technical Affairs Committee (TAC), which is led by vice director Prof. Saewoong Bahk and TAC co-chairs Prof. Jianwei Huang and Prof. Takahiko Saba, is responsible for two of our awards, namely the

Asia Pacific Young Researcher Award and the Asia Pacific Outstanding Paper Award. This year's awardees were honored at our last APB general meeting held during Globecom2016.

The Information Services Committee (ISC), which is guided by vice director Dr. Sumei Sun and ISC co-chairs Prof. Yao-Win Peter Hong and Prof. Hung-Yun Hsieh, is responsible for our APB homepage and APB Newsletter. They launched a new homepage in September, and the page is nicely done. Please visit our homepage at <http://apb.regions.comsoc.org>. You will find information such as the list of awardees, APB Newsletters, our meeting slides, and more.

The Meeting & Conference Committee (MCC), which is also guided by vice director Sun and MCC chair Prof. Jiming Chen, promotes participation of the A/P region in ComSoc conferences and meetings. The MCC records conferences held in the A/P region.

The Membership Development Committee (MDC), which is led by vice director Prof. Wei Zhang and MDC co-chairs Associate Prof. Youngchul Sung and Prof. Meixia Tao, work jointly with the ComSoc chapters to promote ComSoc membership in academia and industry by better serving regional needs.

The Chapters Coordination Committee (CCC), which is also led by vice director Zhang and CCC co-chairs Prof. Eiji Oki and Prof. Miki Yamamoto, collaborates with the A/P Office to run the Distinguished Lecturer Tours (DLTs) and Distinguished Speaker Programs (DSPs). Prof. Oki is the DLT/DSP coordinator. At the time of this writing, 17 DLTs and seven DSPs have been organized. The CCC also collaborates with Sister Societies in the A/P region, and Prof. Yamamoto is in charge of the Sister Societies. Currently, we have eight Sister Societies in the A/P region.

**Bregni:** Now, would you give us a brief overview of the membership of the AP Region?

**Yamazato:** The number of ComSoc members in the A/P region is 7,733, representing 24.86% of the 31,112 ComSoc members (as of Dec. 2015). Unfortunately, the overall number of ComSoc members in the APB region decreased from 13,178 in Dec. 2014 to 7,733 in Dec. 2015. Among them, 7,430 are higher grade members (graduate students are included in higher grade members, who have voting rights) and 303 are simple student members (147 or 49.5% are from India).

**Bregni:** Such a decrease in ComSoc membership from 2014 to 2015 has been significant. Has this problem been particularly serious in the AP Region? Do you see any specific issue related to AP Region membership?

**Yamazato:** This is not just an issue in the AP Region, but also in other regions, as made evident by Table 1. Moreover, as student members are potential researchers, technologists, and educators in the communication field, we need to retain student members as higher grade members.

Another issue is that there are some members who do not belong to any chapter/council (see Table 2). There are 42 Chapters in the AP region and 396 members (corresponding to 5% of the total, from Korea, China, and Pakistan) who do not belong to any Chapter. We need to work on this issue by setting up new Chapters in Korea, China, and Pakistan.

**Bregni:** In 2016, the IEEE ComSoc Chapter-of-the-Year Award has

*(Continued on Newsletter page 4)*



Stefano Bregni



Takaya Yamazato

## IEEE ComSoc Romania Chapter Winner of the 2016 Chapter Achievement Award; Highlights of Activities in 2015

By Vasile Bota, Chair of the IEEE ComSoc Romania Chapter

The IEEE ComSoc Romania Chapter has most of its members and activities concentrated in four major academic and industrial cities of Romania: Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Timisoara, and Iasi. The activities of the chapter in 2015 were focused on the following main directions:

- Organizing or contributing to the organization of international conferences on communications or related topics.
- Organization of scientific symposia dedicated to students' research activities.
- Organization of presentations, short courses, and seminars offered by specialists from well known companies, which are dedicated both to students and other communications specialists.

### IEEE BlackSea Communications & Networking 2015 and Other International Conferences

Chapter members contributed to the organization of international conferences on communications or to conferences organized jointly with other chapters of the IEEE Romania Section, by organizing sessions that pointed out the link of the respective field to communications.

The most important event of the chapter's activity in 2015 was the IEEE BlackSea Communications & Networking 2015 Conference (<http://blackseacom2015.ieee-blackseacom.org/>). Organized by IEEE ComSoc, chaired by Prof. H. Sari, vice president of IEEE ComSoc, and by dr. Al. Gelman, the conference was held at the Maritime University in the city of Constanta, the greatest Romanian city on the Black Sea coast. The conference patron was Orange Romania.

Members of the Romania IEEE ComSoc chapter had important roles in organizing this event. On the scientific side, Prof. V. Bota from Technical University of Cluj-Napoca was Technical Committee Program (TCP) co-chair, and twelve other members of the chapter were TCP members and reviewers. Moreover, Prof. O. Fratu was Operations Chair, coordinating the local organizing team from the Politehnica University of Bucharest (PUB) and Maritime University of Constanta.

The conference had three main tracks: regular technical papers, special sessions, and work-in-progress papers. Out of the 110 eligible papers submitted in the regular papers and special sessions tracks, 53 were for oral presentation, while another 15 papers were selected in the work-in-progress track.

The conference's technical program included two keynote presentations, the patron presentation, two tutorials, seven regular technical sessions, three special sessions, one poster session, and one demos session.

The keynote presentations, offered by Dr. M. Kontouris from Supelec (France) and Prof. A. Polydoros from the University of Athens (Greece), dealt with very hot research topics in the field, i.e., "Scientific Challenges of 5G" and "Opportunistically Cooperating Radios in Action", respectively.

The two half-day tutorials, namely "Green Heterogeneous Networks" offered by Dr. M. Z. Shakir, Texas A&M University at Qatar, and "Network Infrastructure for IoT and M2M Communications", offered by Dr. B. Sikdar, National University of Singapore, also covered current research topics. The keynote speeches and tutorials were highly appreciated, being watched by local and remote attendees, due to their broadcasting to PUB.

The seven regular technical sessions contained 42 high quality papers, while the three special sessions included another 11 selected papers. The poster session, and the demos session, with eight presenters, completed the program.

The TCP offered two awards: the Best Paper Award, which went to G. Montorsi and F. Kayhan from Politecnico di Torino, Italy, and the Best Student Paper Award, which was won by G. Ricciutelli, M.



IEEE BlackSea Communications & Networking 2015 Chairs, prof. H. Sari and dr. A. Gelman offering prof. A. Polydoros a diploma at the end of his keynote presentation.



Dr. F. Kayhan receiving the Best Paper Award from the TPC co-chairs of the IEEE BlackSea Communications & Networking 2015.

Baldi, N. Maturo, and Fr. Chiaraluce from the Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy.

The technical program also included two panels, discussing "5G Mobile System: Is It Just New Frequency Bands or Did We Miss Something Crucial in Earlier Generations?" moderated by Prof. M. Latva-Aho, University of Oulu (Finland), and "Internet of Things: How to Break the Barriers for Business Development?" moderated by prof. R. Verdone, University of Bologna (Italy).

The conference was attended by authors from 22 countries, from Europe, Asia, North America, Africa, and by some 150 attendees, specialists, and students, and by the remote attendees at the Politehnica University of Bucharest, which shows the interest aroused by the conference.

The chapter members also contributed to two other conferences organized jointly with other chapters of IEEE Romania Section. Chapter members from the PUB, coordinated by Prof. V. Coitoru, contributed to the "9th International Symposium on Advanced Topics in Electrical Engineering: ATEE 2015" held in Bucharest on May 7-9, 2015, by organizing a seven-paper special session on "Communications and Information Technology & Electric Circuits". They also contributed to the organization of the "8th International Conference on Speech Technology and Human-Computer Dialogue 2015", which took place at the Politehnica University of Bucharest between 14 - 16 October.

### Organization of Scientific Symposia for Students

The second direction of activity was the organization of scientific symposia dedicated to the research activities of the students in telecoms. Such symposia were organized in the academic centers. As an example, the yearly one-day Symposium of Electronics and Telecommunications organized by the Communications and Applied Electronics Departments of the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (TUCN) was an opportunity for the students to present the results of their research or of graduation theses. It had a section on communications that is structured on two levels: research results of M.Sc. and Ph.D. students, and the graduation projects for bachelor students. The 2015 edition offered best paper awards and prizes, and the best papers were published in the TUCN review "Novice Insights". The symposium was of great

## A Quick Look at ComSoc San Diego Chapter in 2016

By Liangping Ma, InterDigital Communications, Inc., IEEE ComSoc San Diego Chapter Chair, USA

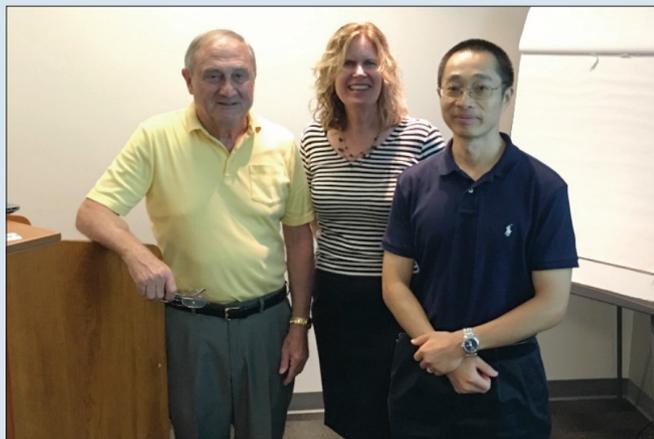
Serving the greater San Diego area, a wireless communication hub of the world, the IEEE ComSoc San Diego chapter has been very active in bringing in world-class researchers and professionals to its members. Since the start of 2016, we, in collaboration with our sister chapters, including the Vehicular Technology Society (VTS) Chapter, Signal Processing Society (SPS) Chapter, Broadcast Technology Society (BTS) Chapter, Aerospace & Electronic Systems Society (AESS) Chapter in San Diego and other ComSoc Chapters in California, have invited seven distinguished lecturers (DLs), prominent researchers, or professionals to give technical talks to our members, in an effort to help our members stay up to date with the latest advances in wireless and related technologies. We have seen excellent turnout for these talks.

On January 29, Dr. Zhensheng Zhang kicked off the technical talks for 2016 with a comprehensive overview of the latest cognitive network technologies. On February 19, Dr. S.R. Subramanya led us to dive into public key cryptography. On March 21, Mr. David Layer and Mr. Paul Shulins gave us a fresh look at broadcast radio technologies. On May 2, Dr. H. Anthony Chan gave a talk on 5G and the future wireless Internet, and a second talk on Software Defined Networking (SDN) and Network Function Virtualization (NFV). That was double service—thank you, Dr. Chan! On August 26, Dr. Touradj Ebrahimi talked about the nitty gritty of Quality of Experience (QoE) and Quality of Life (QoL). On September 21, Dr. George T. Schmidt shared his broad knowledge of navigation sensors and systems in GPS degraded or denied environments.

Success would be impossible without the help of corporate sponsors, in particular, InterDigital, whose CTO, Dr. Byung K. Yi, has been very supportive of such events, and whose employees (Dr. Tianyi Xu, Wei Chen, and Dr. Anantharaman Balasubramanian) are regular volunteers.

Moving forward, we would like to complement our technical events with additional interactive technical training sessions. To that end, one of the events that we are planning is a workshop on antenna design in collaboration with ANSYS Inc.

We are confident that 2016 is going to be another great year for the ComSoc San Diego chapter and our members!



From left to right: Dr. George T. Schmidt (DL for AESS), Dr. Kathleen Kramer (AESS Chair), and Dr. Liangping Ma (ComSoc Chair).



Dr. Zhensheng Zhang was discussing with IEEE members. The left most was Dr. Anantharaman Balasubramanian, a regular volunteer.



Dr. S.R. Subramanya presenting.



Dr. H. Anthony Chan was receiving a certificate after TWO talks from Dr. Byung K. Yi (CTO of InterDigital, VTS Chapter Chair).



Dr. Touradj Ebrahimi was presenting.

Region	Higher grade 2015	Higher grade 2014	Reduction ratio	Student member 2015	Student member 2014	Reduction ratio	Total 2015	Total 2014	Reduction ratio
AP	7,430	11,168	33%	303	2,010	85%	7,733	13,178	41%
US	12,686	17,443	27%	137	1,102	88%	12,825	18,545	31%
Europe	6,270	8,539	27%	144	478	70%	6,414	9,012	29%
Total	26,386	37,150	29%	584	3,590	84%	26,972	40,735	34%

Table 1. Reduction ratio in number of members in the Asia/Pacific, US, Europe Region from Dec. 2014 to Dec. 2015.

## MEMBERSHIP SERVICES/Continued from page 1

been assigned to a Chapter of the AP Region: Malaysia. Would you please highlight the Malaysia Chapter and its achievements in 2016?

**Yamazato:** The Malaysia Chapter won the IEEE ComSoc Chapter-of-the-Year Award for the second time in three years, after 2014! This is a great accomplishment, because all the ComSoc chapters worldwide are considered for this Award. The Malaysia Chapter has also been chosen as the winner of the AP Region Chapter Achievement Award in 2014 and 2016.

As the Director of the AP region, I examined questionnaires of 19 Chapters, reporting their activities in the previous year. Among those, the activities of the Malaysia Chapter were deemed excellent. They held 10 membership development seminars, 24 educational or public relations programs and student activity meetings, 12 activities for young and student members, and 13 activities that involved the local communications industry. Furthermore, they organized nine full day/half day seminars, symposia or conferences, hosted four DLT series with a total of nine talks and two DSPs, and conducted 31 technical meetings. What an accomplishment! Outstanding! The Malaysia Chapter makes us really proud.

In 2016, moreover, they planned to conduct 15 membership development programs and four paper awards: Best Paper Award, Best Ph.D. Thesis Award, Best MSc/MEng Thesis Award, and Best Undergraduate Final Year Project Award. We all know the success of ICC 2016 in Kuala Lumpur. The officers and many volunteers of the Malaysia Chapter worked tirelessly, in tight cooperation with the international Organizing Committee, to provide value to the participants by offering exceptional services.

I invited the Malaysia Chapter Chair, Prof. Fazirulhisyam Hashim, to give us a talk at our AP Board general meeting held at GLOBECOM 2016, Washington, DC, USA. I asked Prof. Hashim to enlighten us about the secret of their success and he said "learning from the best practice." He searches the homepages of other Chapters for activities that are worth doing, and he tries to organize them in their chapter as well.

**Bregni:** The next AP Regional Chapter Chair Congress is planned in 2017, co-located with IEEE GLOBECOM 2017 in Singapore. At that meeting, it will certainly be fruitful to share the experience of the Malaysia Chapter with all Chapters.

Area	Country	Higher grade membership	Student membership	Total	Total per country
Wuhan	China	46	2	48	48
Changwon	Korea	18	1	19	200
Daejeon	Korea	124	6	130	
Kwangju	Korea	19	1	20	
Taegu	Korea	31	0	31	50
Islamabad	Pakistan	50	0	50	
Others		18	0	18	18
Total		382	14	396	396

Table 2. List of areas WITHOUT ComSoc Chapters.

**Yamazato:** Yes, absolutely. We are planning to hold the 2017 AP Regional Chapter Chair Congress in coordination with the IEEE ComSoc Sister and Related Societies Summit, which is also planned to be co-located with IEEE GLOBECOM 2017 in Singapore. It will be a two-day event just before the conference. We will announce a "call for topics" to all AP chapters and coordinate interesting sessions for Chapter support and membership development. The presentation of the Malaysia Chapter will certainly be one of the highlights of the Congress.

**Bregni:** To conclude, is it possible to join the AP Board and collaborate on some of its activities?

**Yamazato:** The AP Board is open to any IEEE ComSoc member from the AP region. Please attend our APB meeting, which is usually held on the first day of the Technical Sessions of GLOBECOM/ICC. I hope that as many of our members as possible will get involved and serve on one of our Committees, as the best networking often occurs when you are working toward a common goal.

## ROMANIA CHAPTER/Continued from page 2

interest among students, academic staff, and representatives of the local IT&C industry.

### Activities Aimed at Local Industry

Another area of the chapter's activities was to build liaisons with industry. To this end, the chapter members from the technical universities of Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Timisoara, and Iasi, organized seminars, presentations, and intensive courses for students and staff that were offered by telecomm companies. Such a seminar on "Satellite Communications" offered by Dr. Jens Krause from SES Communications, Luxembourg, took place at PUB. A workshop on "Wireless Communications & Real Time Concept" with participation of Rohde & Schwartz Romania, was organized at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca.

The telecom companies are also involved in the students' development by means of training courses and support for the elaboration of the graduation projects or M.Sc. dissertations. As an example, we mention the Orange Educational Program at PUB, where students in communications are offered training stages and internships to develop their graduation projects.

# GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTER

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www.comsoc.org/gcn  
ISSN 2374-1082