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INTERVIEW

Asia Pacific Region

Interview with Saewoong Bahk, Director of the AP Region

By Stefano Bregni, Global Communications Newsletter Editor in Chief, Vice-President for Conferences, and Saewoong Bahk, Director of the AP Region

This is the sixth article in the series of nine, started in May 2018 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 Vice-President and six Directors on the Member and Global Activities Council (namely: 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 Saewoong Bahk, Director of the AP Region.

Saewoong is a professor at Seoul National University (SNU), Korea. He is a member of National Academy of Engineering of Korea (NAEK). He is general chair of IEEE DySPAN 2018 and IEEE WCNC 2020. He was TPC chair of the IEEE Vehicular Technology Conference (VTC) Spring 2014 and vice president of the Korean Institute of Communications and Information Sciences (KICS). He is co-Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of *IEEE/KICS Journal of Communications and Networks (JCN)* and an associate editor for *IEEE Network Magazine*. He was on the editorial boards of *IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications* and *Computer Networks Journal (COMNET)*. Prior to joining SNU, he was with AT&T Bell Laboratories as a member of technical staff. He received the KICS Haedong Scholar award in 2012. He has led many industrial projects on 3G/4G/5G and IoT connectivity, and published more than 200 technical papers and holds 100 patents.

Stefano: Saewoong, let's begin with the AP Regional Chapter Chair Congress, which was held last December, co-located with IEEE GLOBECOM 2017 in Singapore. How was the Congress?

Saewoong: It was a great Congress. Actually due to various reasons, we could not have the Congress since 2014. The Congress was held in coordination with the IEEE ComSoc Sister and Related Societies Summit, and co-located with IEEE GLOBECOM 2017 in Singapore. It was a one and a half day Conference that was held just before the main conference. There were 34 attendees including 21 Chapter Chairs.

Prof. Takaya Yamazato, former APB director, served as General Chair, and Prof. Wei Zhang, APB Vice Director, served as Program Chair. I and Dr. Sumei Sun, APB Vice Director,

served as session chairs. ComSoc President Khaled Letaief gave a brief speech, and Vice President Stefano Bregni introduced the member and global activities of ComSoc. Dr. Zhensheng Zhang presented materials about membership development, and Mr. Adam Greenberg talked about technical activities and industry outreach.

Then, five APB Committee Chairs gave a presentation about each Committee's activities, followed by the presentation from Malaysia Chapter Chair, Prof. Aduwati Sali. The Malaysia Chapter was the winner of the Chapter of the Year (CoY) Award in 2016. Each Chapter Chair has a slot for introducing their activities. The meeting ended up with the wrap-up from Prof. Nei Kato, Vice President of Member and Global Activities. It was so fruitful since we were able to exchange and share each other's experiences throughout the Congress.

Stefano: Saewoong, what special characteristics in the Asia/Pacific Region would you like to share with us?

Saewoong: The Asia/Pacific (AP) Region, Region 10, is the Region with the largest number of members in IEEE ComSoc. The number of ComSoc members in the AP region is 7,864, which represents 28.9 percent of the 27,123 ComSoc members (as of December 2017).

Unfortunately, the overall number of ComSoc members in the AP region decreased from 8,771 in December 2016 to 7,864 in December 2017. Like overall ComSoc regions, the AP region is experiencing a gradual drop in membership, although the regional economy is growing quickly these days.

The AP region is the most popular region for ComSoc professionals to deliver Distinguished Lecturer Tours (DLT) and Distinguished Speaker Programs (DSP). In 2017, the total number of DLT/DSP in the AP region was 16, which is much higher than in the other regions. In 2018, as of May, there are 12 DLTs approved already.

Stefano: How is the Asia/Pacific Board organized?

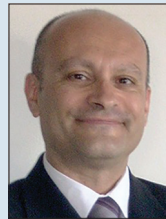
Saewoong: The IEEE ComSoc Asia/Pacific Board (APB) is one of the very best organized Boards within ComSoc. Its reputation mainly comes from the hard work of APB officers and volunteers over the last 20 years.

The mission of APB is to address all ComSoc activities and programs related to AP members and chapters, including fostering the provision of technical activities and information services to our members, expanding membership in the AP Region, and reflecting the interests of AP members in ComSoc policies and procedures.

APB has one Director, three Vice Directors, one Treasurer, and one Secretary, plus five Operation Committees. We have APB meetings, including the teering meeting and the general meeting, twice a year, at ICC and GLOBECOM. The steering meeting is to handle challenges in promoting APB activities and to explore new services for our members.

Usually more than 100 attendees participate in the general meeting, which aims to provide a good social platform for APB members to make friends, share and exchange information, dis-

(Continued on Newsletter page 4)



Stefano Bregni



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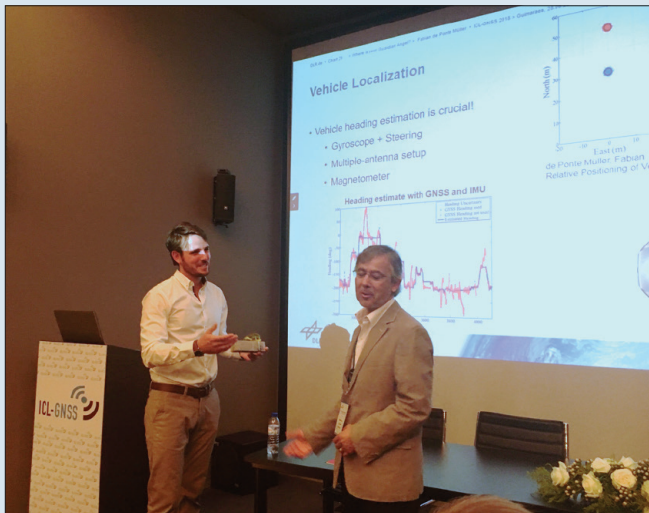
ICL-GNSS 2018 - International Conference on Localization and GNSS, Guimaraes, Portugal, 26-28 June, 2018

By Adriano Moreira, Filipe Meneses, Jari Nurmi, and Elena Simona Lohan, ICL-GNSS 2018 Chairs

Between 26–28 June 2018, Guimaraes city in Portugal hosted the eighth edition of the International Conference on Localization and GNSS. The conference was organized jointly by Centro de Computação Gráfica (CCG), the University of Minho, and Tampere University of Technology (TUT), and chaired by Prof. Adriano Moreira from the University of Minho and Professor Jari Nurmi from TUT. Dr. Filipe Meneses from the University of Minho and Dr. Estefanía Muñoz Díaz from DLR, Germany, were TPC Chairs. The conference was technically co-sponsored by IEEE through the Portuguese Section, the IEEE Communications Society and the IMS society (Portuguese Chapters), and by IEEE GRSS. The event brought together approximately 40 participants from the academy and industry for three days to the Conference Center in CCG, inside the University of Minho campus, located in the city of Guimaraes, in the northwestern part of Portugal.

There were four international keynote speakers, well known to the wireless localization and communication community. Dr. Kari Leppänen, the Director of 5G radio network technologies from Huawei Technologies (Finland) talked about the new positioning opportunities in 5G. Dr. Justyna Redelkiewicz Musial, the head of sector LBS and IoT from the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency (GSA) discussed the innovations around Galileo and GNSS receivers. Dr. Fabian de Ponte Müller, a senior researcher in vehicular applications at DLR, Germany raised the issue of safety in vehicular environments during his presentation entitled attractively: “Where is Your Guardian Angel? Locating and Protecting Vulnerable Road Users,” Jessica García Soriano from Ficosa international SA discussed the role and challenges of GNSS in autonomous driving.

Wireless localization research is nowadays tightly connected to the research on wireless communications, and this fact was also reflected in this implementation of ICL-GNSS. A special session on Industrial Internet, chaired by Dr. Helena Leppäkoski from TUT, emphasized several major current trends in the Industrial IoT, such as the 5G positioning and mmWave communications and reflected also the initial results of an ongoing Academy of Finland project on Positioning-aided



Discussion after presentation between Prof Adriano Moreira (right) and Fabian de Ponte Müller (left).



Professor Jari Nurmi giving the floor to one of the keynote speakers.



Discussion continues at the Gala Dinner.

Reliably-connected Industrial Systems with Mobile mmWave Access (PRISMA, <http://www.tut.fi/prisma/>). Another session focused on modernized GNSS algorithms, such as multi-frequency multi-system GNSS solutions, phase-screen models, or data-driven approaches in GNSS, and on indoor localization solutions via fingerprinting. Privacy and security aspects of the localization solutions were also discussed during the presentations at the conference. There were in total 18 oral presentations.

There was one award given at the event: the best paper award for the paper by Daniel Egea-Roca, Antonio Tripiñana-Caballero, José A. López-Salcedo, and Gonzalo Seco-Granados, entitled “GNSS Measurement Exclusion and Weighting with Dual Polarized Antenna: The FANTASTIC project.” This year’s edition of the conference covered not only indoor and outdoor positioning aspects, but also 5G-related aspects in both the communication and navigation domains.

The social events complemented the interesting technical sessions and facilitated social networking of the participants. On the first evening, participants met together in an informal welcome reception held at the Centro Cultural Vila Flor. On the second day of the event, participants were guided on a tour around Guimarães city centre, an area classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage. A gala dinner followed the tour, where participants had the chance to taste local food while getting together for a relaxing time.

In 2018, the seventh edition of ICL-GNSS will be organized in Nuremberg, Germany. For more information, see www.icl-gnss.org

5th International Multi-Topic ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Conference (IMTIC'18) Held at MUET

By Anum Talpur, Mehran UET, Pakistan

Mehran University of Engineering & Technology (MUET) organized the 5th International Multi Topic ICT Conference 2018 (IMTIC '18) with technical collaboration and support from the IEEE Karachi Section, the IEEE ComSoc Karachi Section, Erasmus Mundus LEADER, Erasmus Plus CAPRIO, IEC MUET, and the Centre for Telecommunication Infrastructure (CTIF) GLOBAL CAPSULE, Future Technologies for Business Ecosystem Innovation (FT4BI), Aarhus University, Denmark.

Prof. BS Chowdhry, chief organizer of the Conference, spoke about how the IMTIC mission started 10 years ago and now has completed a decade of history to cherish. IMTIC gave a chance to organize collaborative conferences in other countries



Organizing team of 5th IMTIC Conference along with chief guest and keynote invited speakers.

such as Spain, Ireland, Denmark, and Nepal. Students at different stages in their research have an opportunity to present and discuss their problem statements, goals, methods and results. Moreover, students learn volunteering themselves. As an IEEE volunteer, they can take pride in participating in activities that interest them, while expanding their knowledge of IEEE, gaining valuable management and leadership skills, and connecting with others in their profession.



Prof. Dr. BS Chowdhry delivering his welcome address at the inauguration of the conference.

IMTIC'18 raised awareness of state of the art research, locally and internationally, and due to the technical sponsorship of IEEE and IEEE ComSoc, it provided the opportunity to publish research papers from the Conference in IEEE Xplore. The chief guest of the occasion, Prof. Dr. Hiroyuki Sato of the University of Tokyo Japan, talked about advanced technologies that had dramatically altered life. The guest of honor and keynote speaker, Prof. Samir M. El-Ghazaly from the University of Arkansas USA, said advanced technologies have dramatically altered life as they impacted the way people performed daily functions. IEEE Karachi Section Chair Prof. Dr. Shahid Shaikh appreciated the quality of the papers submitted to the Conference. Others who also spoke on various ICT topics included Prof. Dr. B.M.A Rahman of City University, U.K.; Dr. Tariq Masood of the University of Bath, U.K.; Prof. Dr. Mohammad Shafry Mohammad Rahim of Universiti Teknologi, Malaysia; Dr. Fauzia Abro, City University, U.K.; Dr. Nadia Yasir Qadri, COMSATS Taxila; Dr. Kashif Nisar, University Malaysia, Sabah, Malaysia; Dr. Lorenzo Luini, Politecnico di Milano, Italy; and general manager (technical) Dr. Mohammad Yasir Qadri.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President, ECO Science Foundation, Islamabad, was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony. On this occasion, Prof. Dr. Faisal Karim Shaikh, Conference Chair, shared the data of IMTIC18. Approximately 200

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ConnecTechAsia 2018, 26-28 June, 2018, Singapore

By Ewell Tan, Project Manager, IEEE Asia-Pacific Limited, Singapore

In collaboration with the IEEE Communications Society, the Singapore office staff helped at the exhibition booth at Connec-TechAsia 2018 (previously known as CommnucAsia), which is the region's latest mega technology event, combining the strengths of industry stalwarts CommunicAsia, BroadcastAsia and newly launched NXTAsia. This event was held at the Marina Bay



Ira Tan (on the right) and Ewell Tan shared with visitors about IEEE at the exhibit booth



At the Exhibit Booth: (from Left to Right) Singapore office staff: Richard Chandra, Leo Hwa Chiang, Ewell Tan and Nitcer Chong.

Sands and Suntec Singapore on 26-28 June, 2018, with approximately 40,000 professionals participating and over 200 thought leaders speaking at the ConnecTechAsia Summit. With the theme "Digital Business Transformation," this summit connects solution-based applications and technologies with real-life use cases presented at various sessions.

An opening speech by the Singapore Minister for Communications and Information, Mr. S. Iswaran, highlighted the competitiveness of Southeast Asia as one of the fastest growing regions in the world, with an average annual growth rate of 6 percent higher than the global average of 4 percent over the last decade. More significantly, ASEAN's digital economy has the potential to contribute an additional US\$ 1 trillion to the regional GDP by 2025. Thus, Connec-TechAsia provides a platform for companies that wish to adapt and transform themselves to take advantage of the ASEAN digital economy, an ideal place to start their journey.

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cover new research directions, and facilitate academic industry collaboration.

Stefano: What about the roles and responsibilities of each APB Officer?

Saewoong: The Director and the three Vice Directors oversee the provisioning of APB activities to all ComSoc members in the AP Region. The technical activities and service provisioning are organized into five Committees, each with one or two Chairs plus a few Vice Chairs: Technical Affairs Committee (TAC), Membership Development Committee (MDC), Information Service Committee (ISC), Meeting and Conference Committee (MCC), and Chapter Coordination Committee (CCC).

The volunteers come from academia and industry, considering the balance of geographical locations, gender, and seniority.

The mission and plan of each Committee are as follows: 1. TAC promotes technical activities and fosters award activities, including AP young researcher, outstanding paper awards, and IEEE GOLD awards, for ComSoc members in the AP Region. 2. MDC collaborates with ComSoc chapters in the AP Region to promote academic and industry membership, and works with sister and related societies for professional activities. 3. ISC develops and distributes APB newsletters, and maintains the APB webpage, Facebook, and manages on-line DLT/DSP programs to AP Region members. 4. MCC encourages AP Region members to organize, host, and participate in AP regional and ComSoc flagship conferences. 5. CCC coordinates with the IEEE ComSoc Membership Development Program (MDP) to run DLT/DSP programs and manages chapter activities in the AP Region.

Stefano: Can you tell us more about recent AP award activities?

Saewoong: The award ceremony for the Young Researcher and Outstanding Paper Awards is held at the APB general meeting in GLOBECOM. It has been 12 years since APB awarded the young researcher award, which is for researchers under the age of 35.

In 2017, this Award went to Xiangyun (Sean) Zhou (The Australian National University, Australia), and there are six more outstanding researcher awardees. The outstanding paper award ceremony is six years old. In 2017, the best magazine paper was authored by Hiroki Nishiyama, Masaya Ito, and Nei Kato, "Relay-by-Smartphone: Realizing Multihop Device-to-Device Communications," *IEEE Communications Magazine*, vol. 52, no. 4, April 2014. The best journal paper was written by Jemin Lee and Tony Q. S. Quek, "Hybrid Full-/Half-duplex System Analysis

in Heterogeneous Wireless Networks," *IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications*, vol. 14, no. 5, May 2015. There were tens of nominations for this award. The competition is so tough!

Stefano: What are your plans in the near future?

Saewoong: Our APB team will keep our good tradition, address new needs of our members, and tackle new challenges in the AP region. Currently there are eight well-organized Sister Societies in our Region, especially in East Asia, which are very active in academic and research activities.

Sometimes there exist conflicts of interest between the activities of ComSoc and the Sister Societies. One of my current concerns is how to harmonize ComSoc's interests with the Sister Societies. ComSoc wants to grow with the Sister Societies in terms of membership. There will be many opportunities for ComSoc members in the AP Region to exploit these.

IMTIC'18/Continued from page 3

papers were submitted by researchers through the online Easy-Chair system. The organizing committee was only able to accept 34 technical papers to maintain a high technical standard. This represents an acceptance rate of less than 20 percent. The Conference program has been structured with several parallel-track sessions for presentation of papers, a Ph.D. Symposium, and a Poster Session. The program also includes 22 keynote invited speakers and guest speakers who are renowned experts in the field, and eight parallel thematic session and seven tutorials. This event would not have been possible without the enthusiastic and hard work of a number of colleagues. He thanked HEC, the IEEE Karachi Section and other sponsors for their financial and technical support. On this occasion the cake cutting ceremony of IEEE PES (Power Energy Society) day also occurred.

The event participation was very huge. More than 500 participants including delegates, authors, researchers, postgraduate and undergraduate students, IEEE Executive Committee members, and industry professionals.

CONNECTECHASIA 2018/Continued from page 3

The IEEE Communications Society was one of the 1798 exhibitors from more than 60 countries in this mega show. This show is Asia's only B2B platform that covers the entire spectrum of communication, broadcast, and enterprise technology and services catering to the needs of industry in Asia and beyond.

The Singapore office staff is proud to promote IEEE membership, products and services to global leaders, decision makers, industry practitioners and influencers across the ecosystem in this show. As technology is changing the world around us rapidly, IEEE is playing a vital role to be the trusted source for engineering, computing and technology information, and to create an environment where all the players can collaborate in this world-changing technology.

**GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTER**

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