



ASIA PACIFIC
ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY
SYMPOSIUM 2020

HILTON HOTEL, SYDNEY AUSTRALIA
19 – 22 MAY 2020



A Victim of COVID-19

By Mark Mifsud, SMIEE (EMC Society Chapter Chair, Victoria, Australia)



As the Chair of the APEMC 2020 EMC Symposium, I had the unenviable task to recommend to our organizing committee to cancel the symposium in early February this year.

The symposium organization was well advanced with the paper acceptance milestone having been reached. A month previous we were all excited about how smoothly things had progressed but slowly it emerged that trouble was on the horizon.

At the time international travel was still occurring to Australia but signs of the impending disaster were there. In hindsight, it was the correct decision, but it caused tremendous heartache for the organizer and our financial backers, the Australia Institute of Engineers.

As Technical Cosponsor, the IEEE EMC Society supported our decision. The assistance we received from the IEEE EMC Society Board of Directors was commendable, especially from Professor Alistair Duffy, Vignesh Rajamani, and Janet O'Neil.

Our other consideration, given the inevitable difficulty of travelling to the event was informing authors and prospective delegates to alleviate possible difficulties in obtaining refunds for travel and accommodation.

The organizing committee arranged alternative options for authors who had their papers accepted, given they needed to present to be eligible to be published in IEEE Xplore. Most of the authors have been accommodated.

The tremendous efforts of the organizing committee need to be

acknowledged. Working with members in five different time zones was a challenge, but with the wonders of technology and tremendous commitment, a great deal was achieved.

I take my hat off to the following individuals who put in a great deal of effort to organize APEMC 2020:

Technical Program Committee Chairs: Richard Gao and Kevin Goldsmith

Technical Paper Chairs: Xingchang Wei and Junwei Lu

Special Session Chair: Hui Min Lee

Workshop Chairs: Zaifeng Yang and Hongmei Fan

Finance Chair: Kingsley McRae

Finance Co-Chair and Web Master: Alice Wearne

Publicity Chairs: Janet O'Neil and Steve Offer

Exhibition Chairs: Vignesh Rajamani, Paul Payne and Steve Brine

Registration Chair: Tarryn Silver



Despite the current circumstances, APEMC will come back bigger and better. Next year the plan is to hold the event on the resort island of Bali (apemc2021.org). Please see the “Call for Papers” on page 59. It is hard to predict what the global situation will be like by May next year but be assured with the leadership of the noted Frank Leferink and Enxiao Liu, it will be a well-organized event.

Despite the disappointment of the cancellation there are some positives to be gleaned from the whole process. There are lessons to be learned for future organizing committees. For example, it cannot be assumed that a pandemic will never happen again. Planning for contingencies will make the process less painful than it was for our committee.

For now, the most important thing is to stay safe and practice good hygiene. **EMC**



Kingsley McRae (left), Finance Chair, and Mark Misfud, Organizing Committee Chair, for the Asia Pacific Symposium on EMC (APEMC 2020), attended the 2019 IEEE International Symposium on EMC+SIPI in New Orleans, Louisiana to promote their big event “down under”. Unfortunately, APEMC 2020 scheduled to be held in Sydney, Australia in May was a victim of the pandemic and cancelled. It was very disappointing news as this duo and their capable team organized a fantastic APEMC 2013 in Melbourne, Australia.