Around the Globe

Distinguished Microwave Lecturer in Central Europe and Balkan Countries

■ **Jan Machac and José Carlos Pedro**

Our trip started in Prague, where Prof. José Pedro, Distinguished Microwave Lecturer (DML; http://www.mtt.org/dmls.html), arrived on Monday, 1 June 2015.

The next day he delivered his lecture "The Wonderful World of Nonlinearity: Modeling and Characterization of RF and Microwave Circuits" for the Czechoslovakia Joint Chapter of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S), Antennas and Propagation Society, Electron Devices Society, and Electromagnetic Compatibility Society (Figure 1). The lecture, held in the Department of Electrical Engineering building at Czech Technical University in Prague, was attended by approximately 20 people, including Chapter members and nonmembers.

Figure 1. *José Carlos Pedro delivers his lecture "The Wonderful World of Nonlinearity: Modeling and Characterization of RF and Microwave Circuits" in Prague.*

Serbia and Montenegro Chapter

On Wednesday Prof. Pedro and Prof. Jan Machac, Region 8 MTT-S coordinator, traveled to Nis in Serbia, where the next day they attended a meeting of the Serbia and Montenegro MTT-S Chapter with the faculty of Electronic Engineering at the University of Nis. At opening the meeting, Prof. Zlatica Marinkovic, a chair of the Chapter, summarized the scientific activities of the working group. It was satisfying to see that, contrary to what is common in our field, most of the participants attending were women (Figure 2).

After these opening remarks, Dr. Pedro presented his DML lecture. Then

Figure 2. *Attendees of the Serbia and Montenegro MTT-S Chapter meeting. Zlatica Marinkovic and José Pedro are second and third from left, front; Jan Machac is third from left, top.*

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Dr. Machac offered a presentation, "Introduction to the IEEE and the MTT-S," followed by his lecture "Substrate Integrated Waveguide–Base for Leaky Wave Antennas." Twenty-two people attended these presentations.

Afterwards, the meeting continued with a pleasant lunch at a nearby restaurant. There, Dr. Machac talked with officers, including Chair Marinkovic, about ideas and possibilities for managing the Chapter, their duties, and how the Chapter can benefit from the MTT-S. Dr. Pedro talked with interested people about nonlinearities in electronic circuits.

RFIC Summer Camp in Iasi, Romania

On Friday June 5, Dr. Pedro and Dr. Machac traveled to Iasi in Romania. The following day, they attended the RFIC Summer School (http://sites.ieee.org/romania-rfic) organized by the Romanian Chapter of the IEEE Solid-State Circuits Society. The event coordinator was Prof. Cristian Andriesei from the Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iasi. Here, Dr. Pedro and Dr. Machac again delivered their lectures, in slightly modified versions so as to explain the basic technical subjects in more detail to help the student attendees gain a deeper insight on these new topics. The students received the lectures quite well, pleasing both lecturers with a number of interesting questions (Figure 3).

Romanian Chapter in Bucharest

On Sunday June 7, Prof. Andriesei drove Dr. Pedro and Dr. Machac to Bucharest, where Dr. Pedro caught a plane home. Dr. Machac stayed in Bucharest to attend the Romanian MTT-S Chapter meeting on June 8. Before the meeting, which was held in the Department of Electronics, Telecommunications, and Information Technology at the University Politehnica of Bucharest, Dr. Machac was officially received by the faculty dean, Prof. Cristian Negrescu.

Figure 3. *Participants at the RFIC Summer School in Iasi.*

Figure 4. *Jan Machac presents his introduction to the IEEE and MTT-S at a meeting of the Romanian MTT-S Chapter. Prof. Teodor Petrescu, a chair of the Romanian Chapter, is first from left.*

Then Dr. Machac presented his program introducing the IEEE and the MTT-S, focusing on the programs offered for Chapters, what Chapters can get, and what they have to do (Figure 4). He followed this with his lecture about leaky wave antennas on substrate integrated waveguide. During a pleasant lunch, Chapter officers discussed with Dr. Machac ideas about Chapter management, activities, and work.

Discussions in Serbia and Romania revealed an avid interest in the MTT-S.

A Successful Trip

The discussions held in Serbia and Romania revealed an avid interest in the IEEE MTT-S and the activities it can promote. Chapter chairs and other members showed a strong motivation to learn more about the opportunities for education and networking with international colleagues that our professional organization can provide, so that they can improve their teaching institutions and attract more attention to the meetings and small local conferences they are organizing. While the latter motivates established scholars and practitioners, the former will certainly contribute to counteracting the lack of interest towards science and engineering we are all facing among young people.

With this, Chapter chairs are increasing the visibility of the IEEE MTT-S, and our Society is helping them promote microwave engineering and develop their countries. It is highly rewarding to see how the volunteering work of these IEEE members is, indeed, "advancing technology for humanity." It is with these experiences that we feel the IEEE is doing its job well.