The Joint IEEE Electron Devices Society/Circuits and Systems Society/Power Electronics Society (EDS/CAS/PELS) Venezuela Chapter hosted two events in 2017. On 11 July, Ramón Salazar from Global Foundries presented the lecture “Modeling Tunnel Effect, from Feynman to Wentzel–Kramers–Brillouin (WKB) to Fowler–Nordheim.” This interesting lecture unambiguously clarified what the tunneling effective mass is that must be used in the well-known WKB and Fowler–Nordheim equations as carrier tunnels between conduction and valence bands (band-to-band tunneling). The event’s ten attendees held lively discussions with interesting questions and answers.

On Thursday, 7 December, the first workshop on technologies, trends, and prospects of renewable energy projects took place at the Universidad Simón Bolívar, Venezuela. The event consisted of a series of seminars related to ongoing research and practical challenges on the topic of renewable energy. Prof. Orlando Trejo gave the first tutorial, “Dependence of the Conversion Efficiency of PV Cells with the Manufacturing Semiconductor Band Gap.” Next, Prof. Raúl Barroso presented his lecture, “Potential of Metamaterials in Solar PV Cell Fabrication,” followed by Prof. Victor Guzmán and his tutorial, “Power Electronics in Renewable Energy Applications.” Finally, Prof. Miguel Díaz closed the session with his presentation, “Communication Systems for Smart Grids.” The audience included 20 professionals from different disciplines who engaged in dynamic discussions with the presenters (Figure 1). The informal meetings after the conclusion of the workshop served as a starting point for further collaboration aimed at integrating expertise from multiple fields to tackle current challenges relevant to renewable energy technology.

The joint Venezuela Chapter congratulated Andrea Sucre González, Ph.D. degree candidate with the Solid-State Electronics Research Group at the Universidad Simón Bolívar, for being awarded the 2018 Biennial Region 9 Outstanding Student Paper Award by the IEEE EDS.

For additional information, visit http://gsiep.labc.usb.ve/eds-cas-pel-joint-chapter-ieee/ or contact Prof. Orlando Trejo at orlandotrejo@ieee.org.