

Minutes
IEEE ComSoc Optical Networking Technical Committee (ONTC) Meeting
at ICC 2003, Anchorage Room, Marriott Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska

Attendees: Pramod Verma, Arun Sen, Subir Bandyopadhyay, Stamatios Kartalopoulos, Jason Jue, Vinod Vokkarane, Canhui (Sam) Ou, Krishna Sivalingam, Doug Zukerman, Seung-Woo Seo, Mark Karol, Jose Marzo, Dominic Schupke, Daviv Harle, Mohsen Guizani, Gangxiang Shen, Tee-Hiang Cheng, Andrzej Jajszczyk, Wojciech Kabaciuski, Narendra Singhal, Keyao Zhu, Jing Zhang, Nim Cheung, Zheng Qin, Jing Wu, Oliver Yang, Nirwan Ansari, Kejie Lu, Hussein Mouftah.

Hussein Mouftah opened the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Self-introductions.

Minutes from OFC 2003 and Globecom 2002 were approved.

ICC 2003

Mohsen Guizani, the TPC co-chair of the Optical Networking Symposium, reported that some session chairs did not show up. Otherwise, the Symposium was doing well. There were 12 sessions, and the acceptance rate was the same as for the other symposia. Hussein Mouftah thanked those who reviewed papers.

OFC 2004

OFC 2004 will be held in Los Angeles in March. Hussein mentioned that OFC works a bit differently than ICC and Globecom. In addition to an open call for papers, OFC has nominations for invited speakers, tutorials, or workshop.

It was also noted that the attendance at the OFC 03 ONTC meeting was lower than the attendance at today's ONTC meeting.

ICC 2004

ICC 2004 will be held in Paris in June 2004. Hussein Mouftah is the Chair of the Optical Networks Symposium, and Mounir Hamdi is the Vice Chair. The TPC for every symposium has been finalized. The submission deadline is at the end of August and reviews will begin around the first week of September.

Anyone having ideas for a half or full day workshop should contact Hussein or one of the other symposium organizers. The workshop can be on a specific issue or a hot topic in optical networking.

Globecom 2003

Globecom 2003 will be held in San Francisco in December. Ibrahim Habib is the Symposium Chair for the Optical Networking Symposium. Doug Zukerman reported that the TPC has approved a workshop on optical networking standards. Six people will serve on the workshop. The format will be three hours panel plus interaction. The panelists represent a range of groups, including carriers, equipment manufacturers, and standards bodies.

Workshops

Workshops should focus on one issue or topic. An example is the OptiComm 03 workshop on OBS. Other possible topics are metro networks, optical standards, and survivable optical networks.

Nim mentioned the Infocom sessions on optical networking. Hussein said that for Infocom, all we can do is provide services to review papers and suggest workshops, as the sessions are not based on sponsorships from individual technical committees.

Globecom 2004

Globecom 2004 will be held in Dallas. A tentative technical program is out. There is a symposium on Optical Communications, Networks, and Systems. The Chairs are Andrea Fumagali from The University of Texas at Dallas, and Naoaki Yamanaka from NTT. The Technical Program Chair of the conference is Ted Rappaport, and the Vice-Chair is Tom Chen.

Late self-introductions

Standards

Doug Zukerman reported on OIF. Meetings are quarterly, with the last meeting about a week ago at Scottsdale, AZ. The booth and demo at OFC were successful. OIF covers issues related to UNI, NNI, tunable lasers, and interfaces. Based on the OFC demo, updates are being made to the UNI specifications, and features for UNI 2.0 are being proposed. Ideas for new projects were also discussed at the OIF meeting. One important issue is security requirements for optical interfaces. The next meeting will be in Ottawa at the end of July, and the 4th quarter meeting may be in Berlin, but it is not confirmed. An OIF press release will come out some time this week, possibly in LightReading.

There was a strategy session regarding the role of OIF. The emphasis of OIF is internetworking rather than new standards. OIF also covers new implementations for internetworking.

Nim asked about the OFC OIF demo at OFC. Doug couldn't attend OFC, but

referred to the OIF website (oiforum.com). Nim mentioned that it is important for researchers to keep track of what OIF and industry are doing.

Publications

Nim reported on the launch of the JSAC optical series. Vincent Chan is the editor in chief of the series. The call for papers was issued at the end of 2002, and there was a good response. 100-120 papers were received in four months, and reviews are almost complete for the first issue. The first issue will come out near September. Based on number and quality of submissions, there will be 2 or 3 issues per year. Submissions are continuous. In a few years, if the series is successful, it may get its own transactions.

Stamatios reported on the status of the IEEE Communications Magazine Supplement and Optical Series. The lightwave series has four issues per year and is embedded in IEEE Communications. The Optical Communications quarterly supplement to IEEE Communications is a stand-alone magazine with its own cover and editors. The first issue came out in February and the second came out in May. The supplement has been very successful. There have been several submissions for the August and subsequent issues. The editors are looking for good papers. The papers will be reviewed and be at the same level of IEEE Communications Magazine, with the same restrictions. Articles are limited to 7 figures, 10 references, and very little or no math. Good tutorials are welcomed.

When asked about the difference between the Optical Communications supplement and the lightwave series, Stamatios mentioned that the supplement covers all types of optical networking, while the lightwave series focuses more on technology.

Communications Magazine also has separate special issues in the area of optical networking. There are opportunities for guest editors for these special issues. Potential editors should come up with a proposal and send it to one of the Editors-in-Chief, Roch Glitho or Tom Chen.

Other Business

Elections for the ONTC executives will be held at Globecom 2003 at the end of the year. Typically elections are held every two years, and the current ONTC executives have been serving since Globecom 2001. Also the current executives were assigned rather than elected. The ONTC needs to come up with some procedure for the elections. These procedures are usually administered by the three most recent chairs. However, since the ONTC is relatively new, it has only had one chair. Hussein offered that senior people should serve on an election committee to run the elections. Suggested members would be Hussein Mouftah, Nim Cheung, and Doug Zukerman.

It was mentioned that traditionally, technical committees only elect the secretary, and the other positions are filled by shifting up the current executive positions, i.e., the vice-chair becomes the chair, and the secretary becomes the vice-chair. Other chairs, such as workshops chair and OIF liaison are usually appointed positions. The current officers for ONTC are as follows: Chair: Hussein Mouftah, Vice-Chair: Mounir Hamdi, Secretary: Byrav Ramamurthy.

Stamatios mentioned that since the current executives were appointed rather than elected, the ONTC should start with an open slate in which all three positions are elected. Terms would be for two years, after which the positions would rotate.

Mark Karol suggested having open elections every time. Stamatios agreed, mentioning that the rotation could still be done unofficially in a silent manner.

The procedure for nominations should be announced two to three months before the election, and it should be stated how long the floor is open for nominations. Typically one person can nominate one other person, but there is no hard rule regarding multiple nominations. Voting should be done in person at Globecom. Electronic votes will not be accepted and no proxies will be accepted.

Hussein will send out an invitation for nominations along with the members of the election committee. There was a motion for approving the election committee that was suggested by Hussein. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

It was mentioned that officers should be members of IEEE, ComSoc, and the ONTC. A person should also be a member of these groups in order to vote in the election.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.