Minutes of the ONTC meeting at OFC 2015

Los Angeles, California
Wednesday, 25 March from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., Room 512.

Attendees: Guido Maier, Krzysztof Walkowiak, Gangxiang Shen, Massimo Tornatore, Aysegul Yayimili, Xijia(Amy) Zheng, Henna Huang, Lena Wosinske, Jorge Finochietto, Carla Reffaelli, Jane Simmons, Anna Tzanakaki, Divya Chitimalla, Sifat Fendousi, Sedef Saros, Dominic Schupke, Hiroaki Harai, Ken-ichi Kitayama, Hiroshi Onaka, Hideo Kuwahara, Vincent Chan, Doug Zukherman, Harold Rohdo, Alessio Giorgetti, Andrea Sgambelluri, Koteswarama Kondepo, Josue Kuri, Fahim Khandaken, Jason Jue, Onur Turkcu, Abishek Gopalan, Byrav Ramamurthy, Adrian Lara, Qiong Zhang, Pulak Chowdlury, Juzi Zhao, Wei Lu, Zuqing Zhu

1. Welcome/Introductions/Additions to the agenda

The meeting starts with an introduction from Dominic Schupke, in substitution of Admela Jukan, and a quick overview of the agenda. The assembly conforms to accept the agenda. A round of introductions by all the attendees follows.

2. Approval of minutes of Globecomm 2014.

The assembly approves.

3. Conference updates

Dominic asks the assembly about updates on recent/incoming conferences.

   * ONDM 15 (Pisa, Italy)

Alessio Giorgetti: 75 submissions (50% acceptance ratio, 35 regular papers, plus 10 invited papers)
Vincent Chan: according to a new rule for IEEE sponsorship, acceptance ratio should be less than 50%, but invited paper and students papers are excluded.

    * ICC 15 (London)
No updates.

   * GLOBECOM 15 (San Diego)
No updates. April 1st is the deadline.

Other conferences and workshops (from IEEE and/or other societies)

   * ANTS 14 and 15
Byrav Ramamurthy reported a very good results of 125 submissions. Next year it will be held in Kolkata (July 1st deadline for paper submission)

* OECC 16

Hiroshi Onaka: overview of call for papers. Currently applying for technical co-sponsorship from Comsoc, IEEE and OSA.

*ICTON 15

Lena Wosinska: it will be held in Budapest, and she is currently organizing a workshop on 5G transport.

* HPSR 15

Lena Wosinska: To be held in Budapest beginning of July. Deadline extended to the end of the month.

* ACP 15

Steven Chen: it will be held in Hong Kong. For further details Steven referred to the website.

*DRCN 15

Dominic Schupke: good portion of submitted paper usually deal with optical networking. This year unfortunately there was an overlap with OFC. DRCN was organized in Kansas City in the same days.

Vincent Chan: There is a problem worth discussing about the assignment of best paper awards in ICC and GLobecom (it was apparent in 2014). All the papers are placed in a single rank, and then the best ones across all the symposiums are selected. This mechanism clearly tends to favor wireless papers, as they are supported by a much wider community nowadays. A change in the policy is needed, and, following Vincent's suggestion, the IEEE VP of technical activities has already asked the chairs to avoid this mechanism and go back to a best paper per symposium. *But ONTC needs to be more vocal on this point.*

On a different note, Comsoc has now also organized a best paper award for JOCN. Committee has decided a winner for 2009 to 2014, from next year it will be yearly and advertised in OFC. During the first year the prize has covered a 5 year window, next year the window will cover then 4 years and from then on, it will cover 3 years.

4. Publications - Journals / Update on best paper awards

Vincent Chan reported that IEEE/OSA Journal of Optical Networking and Communication (JOCN) is currently quite healthy on number of submissions. Invited papers from OFC went to less than 20 to 63 (the process of selection has been described). 133 days average reviewing time (more associate editors are being nominated to even decrease such figure).

Byrav Ramamurthy: Some notes on the status of Photonic Network Communication (PNET).

It is important to have such an additional forum for the optical networking community. Submission of good quality papers is encouraged. In 2015 there will be special issues following ANTS 14 and ONDM 14.

Hideo Kuwahara mentioned, IEEE Access, a new kind of online IEEE journal with free access. It can be of interest also for our community.

5. Other Business

Jane Simmons: ComSoc is sponsoring a 'Summer School' this year for 20 graduate students (one week in July, in Italy, expenses paid). There are no 'courses' related to optical networking in the program. If the program is held again in 2016, ONTC should consider:

1)   Sponsoring someone to teach a course on optical networking (ComSoc will not cover any expenses for the course instructors this year)

2)   Advertising the event through the ONTC email list (no one at the OFC meeting was aware of the program)

Doug Zukerman (as ComSoc represent): Not much knowledge on this topic, but somebody else in Comsoc (Khaled Katib?) might help gathering some information.

Dominic asked industry representatives in the meeting to describe some recent technological progress that they believe will be relevant in the next year and share their impression on OFC.
Onur Turku (Infinera): sliceable transponders is a rising important technology. Infinera had also a demo on Shared mesh protection in OFC.

Doug Zuckerman: There is a new ComSoc initiative called Future Direction committee whose main goal is to identify and provide coverage of new technology areas. What would a future direction of optical networking?
The assembly mentioned 5G optical transport and data center networking. It would be important to have people discussing/supporting these research line in the Future Direction committee.

6. Adjournment

List of attendees: by Dominic?

Minutes recorded by Massimo Tornatore