

Agenda for the Optical Networking Technical Committee (ONTC) Meeting

Post-ICC 2024

Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Time: 13:00 GMT

Place: Remotely via Teams

1. Welcome and Introductions

Elaine welcomed and thanked everyone attending the ONTC meeting.

Elaine asked for a quick round of introductions among all attendees.

Elaine presents the agenda for the meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes from ONTC meeting from OFC 2024

https://site.ieee.org/comsoc-ontc/files/2024/06/OFC2024_ONTC_minutes_v1.pdf

Moved: George Rouskas

Seconded: Murat Yuksel

Minutes approved after votes.

3. 2023 ONTC Awards Announcement

Elaine presented the OTC awards for 2023. Special thanks to Massimo Tornatore for leading the award selection process, especially amidst changes requiring increased transparency and endorsement. The new subcommittee for the awards is composed of Maite Brandt-Pearce, University of Virginia, USA, Yusuke Hirota, NICT, Japan, Luca Valcarengi, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy, and Lena Wosinska, Chalmers University, Sweden, who will continue to serve through 2024 and 2025. The awards are crucial for recognizing the contributions of the OTC community and lifting the work of its members.

The OTC Outstanding Service Award was presented in memory of Professor Malathi Veeraraghavan. Dr. Shrikant Ramamurthy spoke about Professor Malathi's legacy and contributions to the community. The 2023 OTC Outstanding Service Award was given to Professor Zuqing Zhu of the University of Science and Technology of China for his exemplary service to the optical community. Professor Zuqing Zhu expressed gratitude for the support he received from the OTC team, especially during the pandemic. Elaine expressed pride in recognizing the award recipients and acknowledged Professor Zuqing Zhu's leadership and dedication to the community, particularly during challenging times like the pandemic.

Elaine invited Massimo, chair of the awards subcommittee, to present the 2023 OTC Distinguished Technical Award. Massimo Tornatore thanked Elaine for her help in the handover of the responsibility for the awards committee. The 2023 ONTC Distinguished Technical Award was given to George Rouskas for his pioneering research in the design, implementation, operation, and control of fiber optic networks. George Rouskas expressed gratitude to the selection committee and OTC officers for the recognition. George reflected on his 30-year career in optical networks and noted that this award was a career highlight. He encouraged younger members of the community to engage with ONTC and contribute to the promotion of optical networking research. Elaine Wong praised George for his contributions and noted his role as an ambassador for ONTC.

4. IEEE Comsoc Distinguished Lecturer Program

Elaine introduced the Distinguished Lecturer Program, with a QR code provided for those interested in applying. The program connects senior IEEE members with local chapters to share knowledge and promote research, focusing on inspiring future researchers. The lectureship typically lasts one to two years, with opportunities to visit and speak at local chapters. Elaine informed that ONTC can nominate up to four members for the program, with applications opening in July and closing on September 30, 2024. Elaine encouraged interested members to reach out for help with their applications.

George Rouskas shared his experience as both a past distinguished lecturer and chair of the Distinguished Lecturer Selection Committee. George emphasized the opportunity to visit places outside the normal conference circuit and engage with researchers at local chapters. He highlighted the professional and personal benefits, such as traveling to Sri Lanka and meeting new people. He suggested that applicants provide a video showcasing their presentation skills to strengthen their

applications. George encouraged members to apply and offered assistance with the nomination process.

Zuqing Zhu discussed his experience during his two terms as a distinguished lecturer, one before and one during the pandemic. He mentioned the benefits of sharing research ideas and receiving invitations to speak from around the world. Zuqing highlighted that being a distinguished lecturer increases visibility, which can be valuable for professional evaluations. Zuqing pointed out that having expertise in areas like optical networking, which may have fewer representatives, can be an advantage in the selection process.

In response to a question from Massimo Tornatore, George explained that lecturers are expected to give up to three tours, each involving 2-3 lectures at different institutions. George and Elaine discussed the requirements for the distinguished lecture program. George emphasized the importance of having excellent oral presentation skills and making presentations that are interesting and attractive to a wide audience. Members were encouraged to reach out to George or Zuqing for guidance with their applications.

5. ICC/GLOBECOM submissions and learnings

The meeting proceeded to review the submission statistics for the Optical Networks and Systems (ONS) symposia in both ICC and Globecom. Elaine Wong noted that since the last meeting, there has been an uptick in submissions, indicating a potential return to pre-COVID levels.

ICC 2024: There were 53 paper submissions and 21 paper acceptances (10 in networks, 11 in systems). The Best Paper Award went to "Secret Key Generation in Multimode Fiber Channels: Channel measurement and achievable rates", selected by the ICC committee. Elaine Wong thanked the organizing team, especially Luca and Lutz, for their hard work and noted the strong engagement of attendees during the sessions.

Globecom 2024: There were 63 paper submissions (24 in networks, and 39 in systems). Xiaoliang Chen shared that they were still awaiting reviews and would finalize acceptance decisions soon. Chen also mentioned that a deadline extension and proactive outreach to encourage submissions helped increase the number from 29 to 63. Francesco Musumeci, chair for ICC 2025, expressed interest in learning from the experiences of the 2024 organizers and asked for permission to contact them offline for further guidance. Xiaoliang shared that extensions, direct outreach, and contacting personal networks were effective strategies for increasing submissions.

Marco Ruffini noted that the ICC 2025 would feature a special section on front-haul communications, and ONTC offered to help socialize the call for submissions when the deadline is firm. Elaine Wong confirmed the ONTC's support in promoting the event.

Elaine Wong discussed upcoming conferences: GLOBECOM 2025 and ICC 2026. Nominations for the chair of ICC 2026 were submitted after an SOS email was sent out. A healthy number of nominations were received, and the list has been ranked and forwarded to the TPC Chairs of ICC 2026 for final selection. Elaine will notify everyone once the selection is confirmed for both GLOBECOM 2025 and ICC 2026. Nominations for the PONS Chair for GLOBECOM 2026 are expected to open in September, and more time will be given to submit nominations. Elaine thanked everyone for their prompt nominations for ICC 2026 and expressed her gratitude for the support.

6. Conference/Journal/Book Updates

Elaine Wong provided an update on upcoming conferences and encouraged members to submit their technically sponsored conferences to be included in the OTC list.

Lena Wosinska highlighted a symposium on future optical networks and communications she is organizing with Dan Kilper and Zuqing at the Future Network Forum, with a submission deadline at the end of July. The conference will be held in Dubai in mid-October.

Ben Naila Chedlia mentioned an upcoming Optical Wireless Communication workshop for 6G at VTC 2024 in Singapore. Elaine Wong confirmed that it could be included in future lists, especially for next year.

Massimo Tornatore added two mentions: IEEE Transactions on Networking welcomes submissions related to optical networking; IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management has a special issue on reliability, including optical networks, with a tentative deadline in November.

7. Any Other Business (AOB)

As there were no other points to discuss, Elaine adjourned the meeting. There was no time for in-depth discussion during this meeting, but members were encouraged to bring up any topics or concerns for the next meeting in November/December. Elaine invited members to contact her with any issues they would like to table for discussion at future meetings.

Attendees

Name
Raul Muñoz
Elaine Wong
Massimo Tornatore
Vincent Chan
Cao Chen
Piero Castoldi
Roberto Rojas Cessa
Suman Kr Dey
Francesco Musumeci
Carlos Natalino Da Silva
Arash Rezaee
BEN NAILA Chedlia
Fen ZHOU
Lena Wosinska
Borja Genoves Guzman
Ricard Vilalta
Mohammed Atiquzzaman
Mëmëdhe Ibrahim
Marija Furdek
Marco Ruffini
Lutz
George Rouskas
Murat Yuksel
Shrikant Ramamurthy
Zuqing Zhu
Xiaoliang Chen
Carlo Centofanti
Imran Ansari
Byrav Ramamurthy

