

## IEEE Queensland Section Report for 2005

### **PART A - SECTION SUMMARY**

#### **A.1 Executive Summary**

In general our section performed very well during 2005. With the formation of a new Chapter we now have 6 Chapters, with a total of 675 members. Most of the technical activities were held by the local chapters, ranging from seminars, workshops and presentations by professional scholars and Distinguished Lecturers.

From 2005, the term of office in Queensland Section is now extended to two years. This will allow the office bearers to plan for a longer term than just a one-year term. In June 2005 Professor Tapan Saha has taken the Chair position of the section after serving approximately one and half year as a Vice Chair of the Section. Dr Renate Sitte was the Chair till May 2005. Due to this transition arrangement, Dr Vaughan Clarkson was selected by the Executive Committee as the vice chair of the section for 2006 and he would take the Chair position for two years from January 2007.

In 2005, 10 executive committee meetings were held (plus the AGM). Most of the committee members made true efforts to attend the committee meetings with few exceptions. Because of the long geographical distances between the major population centres in the Queensland Section, this year's committee meetings were also organized through teleconference. Teleconferences took place in four locations: - University of Queensland (St. Lucia, Brisbane), Central Queensland University (Rockhampton), and Griffith University (Gold Coast campus and Nathan Campus).

#### **A.2 Financial Report**

Our finance condition has been very sound during the 2005 financial year.

- The financial report (L50) was sent to IEEE HQ in due time by the Section treasurer.
- Our balance has increased from A\$ 57,956 in January 2005 to A\$60,005 in January 2006.

#### **A.3 List of Section Officer and Executive Committee Members**

##### IEEE Queensland Section

<u>Executive</u>	<u>Committee</u>	
Chair Professor Tapan Saha SM 1152123	Newsletter Editor Mr. Ong Yong Peng M 80006922	Chair Professor Tapan Saha SM 1152123
Vice Chair Dr. Vaughan Clarkson SM 3558772	Webmaster: Mr. Sheng How Goh, Graduate Student Member	Vice Chair Dr. Vaughan Clarkson SM 3558772
Secretary Mr. Andrew Thomas Graduate Student Member 80098466	IEAust Liaison: Professor Tapan Saha SM 1152123	Secretary Mr. Andrew Thomas Graduate Student Member 80098466
Treasurer Dr Amoakoh Gyasi-Agyei M 40296568	Awards and Recognition Chair Mr. Michael Lees, SM 40065877	Treasurer Dr Amoakoh Gyasi-Agyei M 40296568
Immediate Past Chair Dr. Renate Sitte SM 1375682		Immediate Past Chair Dr. Renate Sitte SM 1375682

<b>Chapter Chairs</b>	
Computer Chapter	Vacant (Election in process) Interim Chair Mr. Peter McLarty
Power Engineering Chapter	Dr. Zhao (Joe) Dong M 40126858
Joint Chapter Control Systems / Robotics and Automation	Vacant (Election in process) Interim Chair Mr. Michael Lees SM 40065877
Joint Chapter Signal Processing / Communications	Dr. Bouchra Senadji M 4000865
Computer Intelligence	A/Prof. Joaquin Sitte SM 1268333
Joint Chapter Microwave Theory & Techniques / Antennas & Propagation	Professor David Thiel SM 4358065

<b>Student Branch</b>	<b>Position</b>
Griffith University - Nathan	Counsellor- Dr Yongsheng Gao, SM 41374072
Queensland University of Technology	Counsellor- Dr. Ed Palmer M 1783471
The University of Queensland	Counsellor- Dr. Peter Sutton M 1136969
Griffith University - Gold Coast	Counsellor- Dr. Renate Sitte SM 1375682
Griffith University - Gold Coast	Student Chapter Chair- Mr. Mark Livingstone Student Member 80185728

## **PART B - ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **B.1 Membership Development Programs**

- Every effort was made in all levels to attract new members and also to provide different programs for membership development. Non-IEEE members were invited to become members on all possible events such as seminars, conferences, workshops, etc.
- Evidence of retention of members: **a gain of 3.2%**

#### **Membership information**

	Life fellow	Fellow	Senior Member	Member	Student Member	Other membership	Grand total
Active Member on 29/10/2004	2	1	36	472	108	35	654
Active Member on 29/10/2005	2	1	41	483	113	35	675

A decision has been made to form a GOLD affinity group in Queensland Section. Mr. Andrew Thomas (Secretary of the Section) has been given the responsibility to conduct a first social event to discuss the proposal. Hopefully in next few weeks this initiative will take momentum.

### **B.2 Professional and Continuing Education Activities**

- A number of major initiatives were taken on Continuing Educational activities. Among them the following were highly successful.
  - i. Collaborative effort: The 4th Asia Pacific International Symposium on Information Technology - APIS 2005
  - ii. Workshop in Security and Home Banking

### **B.3 Students Activities**

A number of membership drive functions were organized at different University campuses to recruit new student members. Thesis and paper competitions were announced and we need to improve our performance in this area. We maintained our student membership number during 2005 and in fact we were able to increase it slightly. A member of the Section committee has now been given the responsibility to accelerate the process of thesis prize award among student members. This will possibly help to increase student membership.

### **B.4 E-mail and Newsletter Activities, Home Page**

- Three newsletters were published in 2005 and sent to all members through email.
- Section Web site was completely redesigned in 2004 by Mr. Craig Mills and Mr. Goh Sheng How has been appointed as new webmaster in 2005. He has already taken initiatives to update the website regularly. The website is now updated fortnightly with all new information from the chapters and Section.

### **B.5 Awards**

The Section is currently working to give a number of awards to its past executive members of few terms, who have provided outstanding service to the IEEE Section. This will be reported in 2007.

### **B.6 Chapter Activities**

A number of chapter chairs completed their second year term by the end of 2005. They have been advised to form a new committee at least with a vice chair to help the transition process. This is in progress with two Chapters. Most of the Chapters were very active with two exceptions.

- a) Signal Processing & Communications Chapter: - The chapter organised one technical meeting during the year. The meeting was jointly organised with Computer Society Chapter and was part of the IEEE distinguished lecturer series.
- b) Power Engineering Chapter: - The Power Engineering Chapter organised four seminars during the year 2005. Power Engineering Chapter was very active in all facets of activities.

c) Microwave Theory and Techniques (MTT) and Antennas and Propagation (AP) Joint Chapter: During 2005 the Chapter of MTT/AP hosted four events. This chapter was also very active in all facets of its activities.

d) Computational Intelligence Chapter: - During 2005 the Chapter organised three events during 2005. Like other chapters, CI chapter members are also spread over a wide area (from the Gold Coast to Rockhampton). To facilitate participation of members in the chapter meetings chapter chair trialled the Access Grid teleconferencing facilities and participation was made available by Griffith, CQU, QUT and UQ universities. This arrangement was well received by all attendees and the Chapter Chair should be congratulated for his effort.

e) Computer Chapter: - The chapter organised one technical meeting during the year. The meeting was jointly organised with the Signal Processing and Communications Chapter and was part of the IEEE distinguished lecturer series.

f) Control Systems / Robotics and Automation Joint Chapter: In 2005, two technical presentations were organised by the chapter. The technical presentations were organised in cooperation with the Institution of Engineers Australia, Queensland Division and held at their premises.

## **PART C - GOALS AND PLANS**

### **C.1 Goals**

- Increase the interaction with the industry and academia for the benefit of all members
- Invite industry to take part in the section committee and encourage them to provide new ideas in the operation of the section
- Increase the activities of some less active Chapters
- Form a local GOLD affinity group within the Queensland section and develop strategies to build a new group of IEEE Members

### **C.2 Implementation Plans**

One of my observations over the years as IEEE volunteer is the low participation in the section committee from the local industry. We planned to take a number of new initiatives to overcome this problem. A number of seminars/workshops are planned with specific interest to industry from a number of Chapters. This has already happened from the Power Engineering Chapter. Recently a workshop was arranged on “power systems stability” by an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer. Ninety people attended the day-long workshop with sixty attendees from the industry. This type of events will be arranged by all chapters to increase the industry involvement.

Our Section has more than 300 research higher degree students doing PhD and MPhil in Electrical engineering and IT areas. In the past, their involvement with the IEEE Section was very low. Last year, IEEE changed its policy on student’s membership. Now, a Graduate Student Member is allowed to hold section offices and also can vote. As a result, we have recruited a PhD student at the University of Queensland as the Secretary of the Section. We have taken a number of new initiatives, including subsidising the membership fee by half for twenty members in each academic institution in the section to increase our graduate student membership and also encourage them to be a part of GOLD.

The purpose of the GOLD affinity group is to allow connections to be made between young engineers, who are in the early years of their engineering career. We plan to organise our first GOLD event in a few weeks and then subsequently develop the programme through industry/academia joint meetings.

## **PART D - OTHERS**

We normally have very good communication with the local Institution of Engineers (IEAust) Electrical Engineering Branch. The chair of the section has joined the electrical engineering branch of the IEAust as a committee member for 2006 and has already started joint seminars and workshops with the IEAUST. We also work closely work with other professional associations, including IEE and CIGRE.

Some chapters have not been active due to lack of commitments from the respective Chapter Chairs. Some special initiatives will be required for this to make sure that all chapters are active and the section chairs are committed for planning and conducting technical activities. Two chapters are in this category and already some initiatives have been taken by the new and interim chapter chairs.

In the past, volunteers from industry were not very numerous. This year we have a number of active volunteers from industry and every effort will be taken to continue or to increase their number.

Professor Tapan K Saha  
Chair-IEEE Queensland Section  
March 2006