



Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
Queensland Section Newsletter
 April 2006

IEEE Queensland Section Newsletter

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Professor Tapan Saha

Vice Chair

Dr. Vaughan Clarkson

Secretary

Mr. Andrew Thomas

Treasurer

Dr. Amoakoh Gyasi Agyei

Immediate Past Chair

Dr. Renate Sitte

Full list of office bearers is available on page 13.

Announcement

IEEE Computer Society Chapter Queensland Section will be holding an election on April 28 for its chapter chair. The chapter has approximately 260 members, and is the largest chapter in the Queensland Section.

From the Editor

Welcome to the first IEEE Queensland Section Newsletter for 2006. It is a privilege to be a member of IEEE, the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology. I am honoured to be the newsletter editor for the Queensland Section.

The aim of this newsletter is to provide a means of updating Section members with news and information of ongoing activities in Queensland. I have planned for three issues of the newsletter this year. I hope you find them useful and informative.

In this issue, you will find a report of the AGM held in November 2005. You will also find exciting information about the formation of the section's first IEEE affinity group – Queensland GOLD chapter. In addition, we are also in the process of forming a student branch at Central Queensland University.

I welcome any comments or suggestions for improvements. Selected comments and suggestions may be considered to be published in the next issue. If you have a word or two to share with us, please e-mail me at: yp.ong@ieee.org. Please keep your message short and concise, and within 100 words. In your e-mail, please include your full name and membership number.

Last but not least, the section's website is being constantly updated by our webmaster to provide you with the latest updates on the section's events and activities. So, don't forget to set up a link to it on your web browser.

Yong Peng Ong
Newsletter Editor, IEEE Qld Section

Find out about our GOLD function and other coming events on page 5.

From the Chair, IEEE Queensland Section

Dear IEEE Queensland Section members

On behalf of the Queensland Section Committee I would like to welcome you to the IEEE activities for 2006. During the last couple of months we have had a number of great events within the section. Our Section annual general meeting (AGM) was held on 21 November at QUT Gardens Point Campus. This year's attendance at the AGM was very good and interest from the members was encouraging. Also at the AGM a number of new volunteers approached the committee to participate in the Queensland Section activities. I like to thank and welcome those members for their interest to serve the Section Executive committee.



As you are aware IEEE activities are oriented with Chapters of Technical Societies and local Chapters organise technical seminars, workshops and conferences. Please keep yourself updated with your Chapter activities and your participation will help make IEEE more active. You will always find detailed information about the scheduled events in our newsletters and website (<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/queensland/>). Once again, your participation in your local chapter can make a big difference, please contact your Chapter Chair for further information. I would particularly like to encourage more volunteers from Queensland industry to take an active role within the section by organising an activity in your Chapter or by taking on a committee position. Recently, the IEEE Power Engineering Chapter organised a workshop on "Power Systems Stability" by an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Dr Prabha Kundur and more than 90 engineers attended the event. It is great to see that two third of the delegates were from the power industry. I would like to request other chapters to arrange such events to promote IEEE activities.

Recently I and Dr Vaughan Clarkson (Vice Chair IEEE Queensland Section) attended the IEEE Region 10 annual meeting at Chiang Mai, Thailand. IEEE Region 10 is geographically the largest section with more than 62,000 members. Australia is represented in the IEEE Region 10 by the Australia Council and ACT, New South Wales, North Queensland, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia Sections. Australia has more than 6,000 IEEE members with Queensland around 700 members. Australia has a longstanding relationship with IEEE and our sections are very active in the Region 10. This meeting was attended by most of the Region 10 Section Chairs and other delegates including a strong representation from the IEEE Headquarters. IEEE HQ attendees include the immediate past IEEE President, current IEEE President and two nominees for the President elect for 2007. A photograph of the delegates is attached here (next page).

IEEE Region 10 meeting at Chiang Mai Thailand

This year the IEEE Queensland Section has taken a number of new initiatives. Among them, the formation of a GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) affinity group is a priority for us. Section Secretary Andrew Thomas is currently working towards forming this and your cooperation will be a valuable contribution for the formation of GOLD. I particularly request recent graduates working in the industry to come forward and join the GOLD activity in Queensland. The other important priority is to promote student activities and increase our student membership number in the section. A number of membership drive

functions will be arranged in the Queensland University campuses and we will be providing a subsidy for 1st year membership fees for a number of new members. Our next priority is to revitalise all technical society activities through their chapters and arrange Distinguished Lecture programs, seminars and workshops throughout the year.

I am looking forward to work with all of you for the rest of the year.

Professor Tapan Kumar Saha
Chair IEEE Queensland Section



Formation of an IEEE Student Branch at CQU

A successful IEEE Student Drive was organized by Dr Amoakoh Gyasi-Agyei at CQU on 5th April 2006. Among other things, 17 new student membership applications were received during the drive. A petition to form an IEEE student branch has been forwarded to the IEEE HQ.

Dr Amoakoh Gyasi-Agyei
Treasurer IEEE Queensland Section

A WORD FROM THE INCOMING VICE-CHAIR

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Vaughan Clarkson, and I am very honoured to have been offered the chance to serve as Vice-Chair of the IEEE Qld Section for 2006. In my professional life, I am a Senior Lecturer in the School of Information Technology & Electrical Engineering at The University of Queensland. Currently, I teach telecommunications and conduct research in telecommunications, signal & image processing and information theory. Previously, I was a lecturer at The University of Melbourne and before that a research scientist at the Defence Science & Technology Organisation in South Australia as well as a Ph.D. student at The Australian National University in Canberra. I'm a native of Brisbane, born & bred, and so I'm looking forward to serving my fellow Queenslanders in IEEE.



In March, I joined our Section Chair, Tapan Saha, in attending the IEEE Region 10 meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand. This was a very useful experience for me to 'learn the ropes' of the IEEE Region 10 organisation, to become appraised of the issues currently facing the IEEE, and to meet some of the other office-holders throughout Region 10 and the world.

Closer to home, my first task in IEEE is to revive the IEEE Undergraduate Thesis Prize. I look forward to making the prize a success this year, and thereby raising the profile of IEEE amongst the student body in Queensland's universities.

This year promises to be full of challenge as I am on a steep learning curve. However, I place myself at your service and if there is anything I can do to help in relation to IEEE matters, please don't hesitate to email me: v.clarkson@uq.edu.au.

Dr. Vaughan Clarkson
Vice Chair IEEE Queensland Section

Volunteers Wanted

IEEE Queensland Section is currently seeking volunteers to join us for the following roles in the Section committee. If you are already an IEEE member and is willing to volunteer your time, please e-mail your interest to Prof. Tapan Saha at saha@itee.uq.edu.au.

Educational Activities Coordinator

The main duties of the Educational Activities Co-ordinator are to plan and execute training programs. These training programs will focus on addressing the technical and professional development of the membership. This will also involve maintaining information about area educational and training opportunities and promoting these programs to the IEEE membership.

Professional/Career Activities Coordinator

The main duties of the Professional Activities Coordinator are to plan and execute programs that address the career development of the membership. This will involve keeping abreast of the latest IEEE member benefits relating to careers and also maintaining information about area job fairs and career expositions, promoting these to the IEEE membership.

From the Secretary

Dear IEEE Queensland Section members,

The IEEE Queensland Section is planning to create a GOLD (Graduates Of the Last Decade) chapter. What is GOLD? GOLD is an IEEE affinity group and if you have graduated with your bachelor degree (and are a member of IEEE) within the last decade, you are automatically a GOLD member. The purpose of GOLD is to connect young professionals in the fields of engineering and IT to help facilitate the advancement of their careers within their chosen areas. Within GOLD, this can be made possible through social interaction between members, to allow the sharing of experiences and ideas, and also through more formal 'activities' whereby expert speakers can present seminars relating to topics which are relevant to young professionals.

In order to catalyse the creation of this GOLD chapter, the IEEE Queensland Section is planning to host an introductory social function on Friday night, 28th of April. All IEEE GOLD members are enthusiastically invited to attend. The function will be held at St Leo's college on the University of Queensland grounds and will begin at 5:30pm. Assorted finger food will be provided and a cash bar will be available for the purchase of drinks. Please RSVP by Friday 24th of April, by e-mailing me at andrew@itee.uq.edu.au. A reminder e-mail will be sent out closer to the function date.

This function will be a great opportunity to meet and greet fellow young technical professionals and also learn more about GOLD and the plan for the GOLD chapter in the future. We hope to see you all there.

Best Regards,

Andrew Thomas
Secretary IEEE Queensland Section

Calendar of Events

April 28, Friday

IEEE GOLD Chapter Function

5.30PM, Leo's College
University of Queensland
Contact: Andrew Thomas
andrew@itee.uq.edu.au

July 24, Monday (TBC)

IEEE PES Distinguished Lecturer Program

University of Queensland
Contact: Dr Zhao Yang Dong
zdong@itee.uq.edu.au

May 5, Friday

Access Grid Meeting 1

4.00PM, various locations (see page 14)
Contact: A/Prof. Joaquin Sitte
j.sitte@ieee.org

December 5–7

13th Annual Conference on Mechatronics and Machine Vision in Practice

Toowoomba
Contact: Michael Lees
michael.lees@ieee.org

Treasurer's Corner

We would like to take the opportunity to remind our honourable IEEE members in Queensland to renew their IEEE Memberships for 2006 and continue to enjoy the prestigious organisation. Also, please utilize the opportunity to get involved in the activities of your local IEEE branch, chapter and/or section.

Those IEEE members in Queensland who have been active in IEEE designated areas and have been members of the IEEE for ten years and above are encouraged to apply for an IEEE Senior membership. Our current section chair, Professor Tapan Saha at UQ, would be happy to help you locate appropriate referees that are required for the application should you experience any difficulty finding some. Besides other benefits, a senior IEEE member attracts a higher rebate to the IEEE QLD Section, which gives us more funds to sponsor more professional activities.

Please be encouraged to organise more professional activities to support your local IEEE branch. Please let us know if you would require an IEEE sponsorship (either financial or professional or both) to organise any professional activity that is of interest to the IEEE. At the moment the IEEE QLD Session is well positioned to sponsor professional activities.

Dr Amoakoh Gyasi-Agyei
Treasurer IEEE Queensland Section

Awards and Recognition

The immediate focus this year is to process the long overdue nominations for awards and recognition in the Queensland section. So far this year, eight candidates have been nominated for recognition awards for outstanding commitment and service to the IEEE Queensland section for the years between 2001 and 2004. The section committee has now approved these eight nominations.

I would now like to call for other nominations for recognition awards (including for 2005). If you know of someone who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the IEEE Queensland section during their term of office please forward the details to me. The section committee will review all nominations prior to approval.

This year the awards will be presented at the section Annual General Meeting (AGM) in December.

Historical records for the IEEE Queensland section

We are currently seeking details on the history of the IEEE Queensland section. In particular we are seeking details on all office bearers that have occupied all roles in the IEEE Qld section since its inception. If you have any details or information that may be of assistance could you please contact me: Michael.Lees@ieee.org.

Michael Lees
Awards & Recognition Coordinator IEEE Queensland Section

From the webmaster – Queensland Section

Dear IEEE members,

My name is Sheng How Goh and I have recently taken up the role of the webmaster in the Queensland section of the IEEE. Just a little information about myself, I received my bachelor degree in electrical engineering from the University of Queensland back in 2001. Currently, I'm pursuing my PhD in power engineering at the same university. The initial reason why I join IEEE is because IEEE provides many benefits to its student members. Despite charging very low membership fees for its student memberships, the support I got from IEEE, for example to attend overseas conferences, is marvelous. The reason why I volunteer now as a webmaster is to meet more fellow professionals, and also to understand how a large international organization like IEEE operates.

Internet has become a necessity these days, and the section's webpage (<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/queensland>) can be the easiest way for members to get information. Since I have taken up this job, my aim is to keep members updated about the current news and events etc happening in our Queensland section through the webpage. So please do check out the webpage regularly, and feel free to contact me (sgoh@ieee.org) for any comments or feedback regarding the webpage.

Just to mention something interesting that many others might have missed out on. IEEE members can apply for a web account (<http://www.ieee.org/web/web/accounts/index.html#register>) which provides access to a variety of online services. Using the web account, one can login into MyIEEE (http://services35.ieee.org/portal/site/membsecure/index.jsp?pageID=main_secure), where you can easily manage your account details or to get access to the latest news of IEEE etc. Finally, remember to get your free IEEE personal email alias (xxx@ieee.org) which helps all members to stay connected (<http://elecomm.ieee.org/>).

Sheng How Goh
Webmaster IEEE Queensland Section

The New IEEE Website

The new IEEE website is easier than ever to access everything you need from IEEE. Inside, you will find reorganized information and a consistent style – along with everything you already expect to find at IEEE.org.

This new site is the product of extensive user testing and feedback, plus the most current web standards and best practices.

[Adapted from <http://www.ieee.org/>]



AGM 2005

Last year's IEEE Queensland section AGM was held at QUT on 21st November 2005. The AGM was a successful meeting with almost 30 attendees. The first report was from the chair of the Queensland section, Professor Tapan Saha, who discussed a number of general issues regarding the status of the section. These issues included:

- The Queensland section has seen an increase in membership of 3.2% for 2005.
- The section website has been completely redesigned.
- A Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) affinity group is planned to be created in the Queensland section next year.
- There is a need to encourage more industry involvement in section activities.

The treasurer reported the financial situation of the section, which showed that the section was in a good position financially, with adequate funds easily available to finance activities and initiatives in 2006. The chapter chairs also reported on their chapter activities for the year. Most chapters reported a vibrant year, with many well-attended activities and seminars. In other news, it was reported that the Queensland section has a new vice-chair, Dr Vaughan Clarkson, who has now actively taken on this role in early 2006. After the meeting, some attendees met for a dinner at Amici's restaurant at Southbank, with discussion regarding the IEEE Queensland section continuing there. Pictures taken at the meeting are found on pages 8 and 9.



Prof. Tapan Saha's (Chair) speech for AGM



Dr. Gyasi-Agyei's (Treasurer) speech



Mr. Andrew Thomas (Secretary) talking about dinner!



Mr. Peter McLarty's (Membership Coordinator) speech

Membership Coordinator's Report

We are off to a good start to the year with the task of boosting and retaining members in the section. There is a need to keep our section strong by maintaining your membership. I have noticed in the data from IEEE Headquarters that a number of members have failed to renew memberships. If this is you, then please do reconsider your decision to not renew as the IEEE provides a number of valuable resources. One of them being the network of like-minded people in your chosen profession of Engineering or IT.

Congratulations to all the new members at CQU Rocky, I am rooting for you to succeed with flying colours and best of luck with your petition to Headquarters for the student branch formation, as I am of the CQU alumni.

Some numbers for you to consider

Current IEEE Grade Description	Number of Members
Member	443
Student	107
Affiliate	48
Senior Member	44
Associate Member	21
Life Member	7
Life Senior	3
Life Fellow	2
Fellow	1
Total	676

We appear to have had a small drop in overall numbers so get out and promote the society and don't forget a new member gets reduced dues when he joins now, so encourage workmates to join. It is your society so if you think something is not satisfactory, please contact the committee with your issues and suggestions to improve the local section.

Peter McLarty
Membership Coordinator and SAMIEEE Recipient

Photographs: AGM 2005 ...continue from previous page



Some of the attendees

Computer Intelligence Chapter

The Computational Intelligence Society Queensland chapter invites you to its first Access Grid meeting for 2006 on 5 May 2006 from 16:00 to 17:30. All section members, and guests, are welcome. You may join the meeting at any of the AccessGrid teleconferencing rooms, but please let Joaquin Sitte (j.sitte@ieee.org) know by Wednesday 3 May where you will be attending.

Access Grid venues are:

- QUT: Seminar room V713 Library building, Gardens Point Campus
- Griffith University Gold Coast: G10_3.29 - Library Meeting Room
- UQ: Room 621, General Purpose South Building (Building #78)
- CQU: Rockhampton Campus, Building 19, Room G.14

The program for the meeting is as follows

- 16:00 - 16:30 "Analogue neural network chips". A/Prof. Joaquin Sitte, QUT, describes the design, fabrication and applications of the analogue version of Local Cluster Neural Net.
- 16:30 - 17:00 Chapter activities brainstorming session moderated by Dr. Marcus Galagher, UQ.
- 17:00 - 17:30 Discussion and other business.
- 17:30 Close

Please check the chapter web site

http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/queensland/CIS/CIS_home.html for updates.

A/Prof. Joaquin Sitte

Chair Computer Intelligence Chapter Queensland Section

Joint Chapter Control Systems/Robotics & Automation

After seven years at the helm, Ljubo has moved on from the position of Chair of the joint chapter on CSS/R&A. Ljubo was instrumental in the creation of this chapter in 1999 and has held the position of chair ever since. Congratulations Ljubo and thank you for leading this chapter from 1999 through 2005.

The start of 2006 saw Mr Toby Myers take the position of chair but unfortunately, due to personal reasons, Toby resigned from the position at the February IEEE Qld section meeting.

Following on from this we commenced the standard IEEE election process for the positions of chair and vice-chair. As a result of this Michael Lees is now the chair of the CSS/R&A chapter for the 2006-2007 term.

The position of vice-chair for this chapter is currently vacant. Please send any expressions of interest to me at Michael.Lees@ieee.org.

The thirteenth annual Conference on Mechatronics and Machine Vision in Practice December 5-7 Toowoomba

Call for papers due: May 1st 2006

(Please forward a two page extended abstract to johnbill@usq.edu.au)

Successful authors will be invited to submit full papers, which will be reviewed again to a standard that meets the DEST E1 criterion.

The topics of the conference are defined in its title, Mechatronics and Machine Vision in Practice- and the emphasis is on practical applications. Special encouragement is given to applications of robotics and machine vision in agriculture.

For further information see the conference website: <http://www.m2vip.com>

Call for Reviewers

Anyone who is interested in reviewing for the thirteenth annual Conference on Mechatronics and Machine Vision in Practice, please contact Prof. John Billingsley at johnbill@usq.edu.au

A number of activities for this chapter are currently in planning. However as timing and details are yet to be confirmed they are unable to be advertised in this newsletter edition. Special requests for specific seminar topics or speakers are also welcome. Please forward any requests to me at Michael.Lees@ieee.org

Michael Lees
Chair Joint CSS/R&A Chapter IEEE Queensland Section

From the Chair of the Power Engineering Society Chapter

I. Forthcoming technical meeting

The IEEE PES QLD Chapter is pleased to announce one coming technical meeting.

IEEE PES Distinguished Lecture Program

IEEE PES Distinguished Lecturer Tutorial - Professor Dr. Sivaji Chakravorti, Jadavpur University, Kolkata 700 032, India

Date: 24 July 2006 (t.b.c.)

Venue: The University of Queensland, St Lucia, Brisbane, Queensland 4072 Australia

Topic: t.b.c.

II. Technical meetings already conducted in 2006

The IEEE PES QLD Chapter would also like to report IEEE PES DL seminar and workshop by Dr Prabha S. Kundur, President and CEO Powertech Labs Inc. Dr Kundur visited Brisbane in 16 -19 Feb 2006, during which two IEEE events were conducted including a seminar and a one-day workshop.

(1) IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Seminar

“Sustainable Electric Power Systems in the 21st Century: Requirements, Challenges and the Role of New Technologies” Dr P Kundur, 16 February 2006, The University of Queensland, St Lucia, Australia

(2) IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Workshop

“Power System Stability and Control”

8:30am – 5pm, 17 February 2006, Building 50-3, The University of Queensland, St Lucia, Australia

This workshop provides a comprehensive overview of power system stability problems and describes measures that can be used to enhance secure operation of power systems in the new electric power industry environment.

Organizing Committee:

Dr ZhaoYang Dong, University of Queensland & Chair IEEE PES QLD Chapter
Prof Tapan K Saha, University of Queensland & Chair IEEE QLD Section
Mr Terry Miller, Manager Network Planning, Powerlink Queensland
Mr David Bones, Head of Power System Planning and Development, NEMMCO
Mr Frank Montiel, Principal Engineer Power System Planning and Development, NEMMCO

Two formal meetings were conducted followed by email/phone communications prior to the events.

Sponsors:

IEEE Queensland Section

IEEE Queensland Section Power Engineering Society Chapter

Powerlink Queensland

National Electricity Market Management Company Limited (NEMMCO)

The University of Queensland (UQ)

The events are organised by IEEE PES QLD Chapter & IEEE QLD Section. The sponsors contributed valuable support for these events. Particularly the IEEE PES DL program enables Dr Kundur's visit to Brisbane. Both Powerlink and NEMMCO had contributed significantly to the events. The University of Queensland provided seminar/workshop facilities as well as catering from St Leo's college of UQ. The support from the sponsors is gratefully appreciated by the IEEE PES QLD Chapter.

Attendance:

Advertisements of the events were sent out via all possible means. This include group email by IEEE to all IEEE PES, Power Electronics and Control society in Australia and New Zealand; group email through Australian Power Engineering email list; advertisement through Institute of Engineers Australia; advertisement through Powerlink and NEMMCO through the Interregional Planning Committee; and other contacts through industry. Specific websites were set up for these events through IEEE PES QLD chapter as well. Both events were very well attended.

48 participants to the seminar, including 30 IEEE members and 18 guests;
84 participants to the workshop with around 60 people from industry.

It is worth noting that the majority of the participants were from power industry, which includes utility companies and consulting companies from all over Australia and some parts of New Zealand. There were also a number of academia attendees.

Conclusions:

Dr Kundur's visit through the IEEE PES DL program turned to be a very successful one. IEEE members had the opportunity to learn from the very timely presentations. Local power industry showed great interest and support to the events as well. The seminar and workshop had significant benefits to the power engineering community. IEEE PES QLD Chapter and IEEE QLD Section had the great opportunity to demonstrate the value of IEEE / PES. IEEE PES QLD Chapter would like to express their appreciation for Dr Kundur, IEEE PES DL program, IEEE QLD section, Powerlink, NEMMCO and The University of Queensland.

Photographs of the above two events are found on the following page.

(3) IEEE QLD PES and Signal Processing Chapters Joint Seminar

Estimating Power System Electromechanical Modes from Measured Data

John W. Pierre, Professor

University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY, USA

Venue: School of ITEE, The University of Queensland

Time: 2-3pm, 4 Apr 2006

This research has been conducted at the University of Wyoming in collaboration with PNNL (Pacific Northwest National Laboratories) and BPA (Bonneville Power Administration).

Dr Zhao Yang Dong

Chair of Power Engineering Society Chapter Queensland Section

Photographs: IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Program



Photo 1. Dr Kundur presenting in the seminar, 16 Feb 2006



Photo 2. Dr Kundur giving tutorial on power system stability & control, 17 Feb 2006



Photo 3. The audience of the workshop, 17 Feb 2006



Photo 4. Concluding the workshop, 17 Feb 2006



Queensland Section – Office Bearers 2006

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Vacant

Membership Coordinator and SAMIEEE Recipient

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Professional Activities Coordinator

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Student Activities Coordinator

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Chair, Computer Chapter

Vacant

Chair, Computer Intelligence Chapter

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