



ASIA PACIFIC REGION

AP Newsletter No. 20, November 2001
The official newsletter of ComSoc Asia Pacific Board

<http://www.comsoc.org/~apb/>

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things that I think I should have done. We are always trying to make our Newsletter more attractive to our AP regional members. Although the editor will change, I am sure that we keep trying to improve our Newsletter.

Now it is your turn to make our Newsletter more attractive. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Tomoaki Ohtsuki, Editor

Hot Topics

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Editorial Message by Tomoaki Ohtsuki

Welcome to the 20th issue of the COMSOC AP Newsletter. This newsletter is published twice a year for our regional members. The past issues are available from our AP Homepage: <http://www.comsoc.org/~apb>

In our newsletter, you can find much useful information on our activities, such as AP Best Paper Award, Student Travel Grant, Conference Reports, and so on.

This is the last issue that I edit. Now I have a lot of



1. APB Director's Message by Naohisa Ohta

Dear all,

It has been almost two years since I was appointed as the Director for Asia Pacific, COMSOC. I am very happy to have served as the Director and worked with you in this period. Indeed, AP regional activities in COMSOC have been quite successful. As you know, COMSOC itself is one of the most successful Societies in IEEE. In the last five years, COMSOC has increased its membership from 37 thousands to 61 thousands. About 1/3 of the total members are active in the Asia Pacific areas. Not only the number of membership but also technical contributions has been remarkable as well. At ICC2001, for example, 1/3 of accepted papers came from AP region.

COMSOC APB's major activities in 2000-2001 include; organizing Business Application Sessions in ICC2000 and 2001, coordinating 7 Distinguished Lecturer Tours (DLTs) in AP region, AP regional Chapter Chairs Congress (2000), Contribution to Global Chapter Chairs Congress (2001), APB Joint Award for Conference Best Papers in collaboration with APCC(2000 and 2001) , and newly established APB's " Best Young Researcher Award " (2001), in addition to Student Travel Grants (STG) and other APB committees activities for regional COMSOC members.

APB Committee chairs and AP office will cover the details of above major activities in this article. So, I would like to point out a few remarkable activities for your reference.

1. Global Chapter Chairs Congress (GCCC) 2001

All the Asia Pacific IEEE Communications Society Chapter Chairs were invited to attend and most of them are supposed to participate in the first ever GCCC held in San Antonio during GLOBECOM2001.

We believe that a good and informed relationship between the Society and its chapters is extremely important. We also recognize that the Chapter Chairs play an essential role in that relationship. COMSOC, therefore, has gone to great lengths to put together a first class congress to renew and strengthen that all important relationship. The contents of GCCC2001 will be available at <http://www.comsoc.org/gccc>.

2. Establishing APB's "Best Young Researcher's Award"

We had intensive discussions on this new proposal last year. COMSOC Headquarter gave us a green signal for establishing an Award in this direction. The basic idea is to encourage and recognize active young researchers in AP region. The call for nominations has been distributed by APB-TAC.

Questions and submission should be directed to: Naoaki Yamanaka, Ph. D.
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3. STG

As for students travel grants, we have given the grants to as many as 47 and 56 students in 2000 and 2001 respectively. This year, recipients are from 11 different countries/regions. As for conferences, one for IM2001, 22 for ICC2001 and 33 for GLOBECOM2001 were given STGs.

I would like to thank all AP COMSOC members and APB officers for their continuous support and voluntary work for successful COMSOC APB activities in this period.

Finally, I would like to point out that AP office's support is indispensable to accomplish APB objectives. I would like to give many thanks to Fanny and Jenny for their strong support.

I believe that the new appointed Director for Asia Pacific (2002-2003) will follow the current APB activities and improve them for better services.

Thank you in advance for your continuous support to APB directed by the new Director in 2002.

Sincerely,

Naohisa Ohta
AP Director, COMSOC (2000-2001)

2. Distinguished Lecture News by Fanny Su

As we wrap up the year 2001, the Asia Pacific took up the full allotment of 5 DLTs for each region. Recent events that restricted travel did not make it possible for Dr. Vijay Bhargava to follow through with a 6th DLT for our Region in early December.

We want to thank Dr. Justin Chuang, Dr. Vijay Bhargava and Dr. Salah Aidarous for the DLTs that they undertook for us in 2001. We are especially grateful for their patience and resolve to continue with the DLT during the difficult period immediately after the 11 Sept terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York when flights to and from the United States were disrupted. Dr. Vijay Bhargava was stranded in Australia for an additional 5 days and Dr. Salah Aidarous was on daily stand-by for flight departure from the United States.

30 June - 8 July 2001 DLT by Dr. Salah Aidarous

Dr. Salah Aidarous gave his lectures in Bangkok(Thailand), Kuala Lumpur(Malaysia) and Singapore. It was the first time that Thailand had hosted a ComSoc DLT. Participation throughout the DLT was very high with a good audience mix from academia, industry and students. Chapter chairs took this opportunity to recruit new IEEE members. It was a positive technical and social interaction for Dr. Salah Aidarous to enable intellectual discussions on common challenges faced in different parts of the world.

9 - 14 Aug 2001 DLT by Dr. Justin Chuang

The DLT hosted by the New South Wales Joint Signal Processing /ComSoc Chapter, the Queensland Section and the Malaysia ComSoc Chapter was attended by about 120 people from a mix of industry and academia. The audience at the University of Technology, Sydney and at the Queensland University were enthusiastic and posed a lot of questions. Hospitality extended by his hosts in Malaysia was exceptional and commended by Dr. Justin Chuang.

4-12 Sept 2001 DLT by Dr. Vijay Bhargava

Dr. Vijay Bhargava was hosted by 4 Chapters in Australia : North Queensland Section/Joint Chapter MTT/COMSOC, New South Wales COMSOC Chapter, ACT COMSOC/SP Chapter, and Victorian

COMSOC Chapter. His two topics of presentation entitled "Wireless Internet Access Using IMT 2000/Wireless Local Area Networks" and "Capacity Enhancement and Enabling Techniques for Third Generation Wireless Systems" was attended by over 130 people in Townsville, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. His DLT was the inaugural talk of the newly formed MTT/COMSOC joint Chapter in North Queensland. The hosting Chapters' hospitality was very much appreciated by Dr. Vijay Bhargava and his wife, Yolande during his travel there.

16-25 Sept 2001 by Dr. Salah Aidarous
Hong Kong/Melbourne/Adelaide

Dr. Salah Aidarous has kindly agreed to allow to reproduce his Distinguished Lecture Tour report for our AP newsletter. Please find below his report.

Introduction

It was a challenge to realize this tour after all the long planning during the last 5 months. Finally the date of departure came, September 11th, and I have to go to the airport in the morning. In the taxi to the radio announced the attack on New York, and the closing of all airports in the USA. After arriving to the airport, I realized that there will be no travel from/to the USA for undetermined time. Two days after, Dallas airport started flying and within the busy situation they found a seat to Hong Kong via Osaka on Saturday September 15th. I went to the airport at 8:00 AM (the flight was at 11:30 AM), and went through the checking procedure, which took 3 hours including security. There was also, the security checking procedures for the plane. The flight took off at 2:30 PM, the result I missed my connection from Osaka. This was the last connection to Hong Kong, and I have to spend the night in Osaka!

Hong Kong

After arriving to Osaka, I telephoned Prof. Paul Kwok from Osaka to inform him about my delay and change of arriving date. He informed the hotel and arranged my transportation from the airport accordingly. I arrived to Hong Kong on Monday 17th and went to the hotel. The presentation took place on Tuesday, September 18th, in the University of Hong Kong. It was well attended and the session was very interactive, specially dealing with business aspects as drivers for new services beside the technology. The subject "Challenges in Management of IP-based Networks" was very timely and generated a lot of questions. The talk discussed the current market trends, and the telecom technology evolution with a focus on services. It is unclear the impact of the current situation of the telecom industry on the progress of IP-based services. May be it is an area that needs more discussions in the ComSoc chapters. It is also of interest to the academic community to identify the priority problems for the telecom industry to focus some of their resources work. The day was completed with a typical Chinese dinner with the chapter.

Melbourne

After flying 11 hours flying from Hong Kong, I arrived to Melbourne and my visit to the Victorian Chapter started on Thursday September 20th. The presentation was arranged in State Library Theatrette, in downtown Melbourne. That increased the participation by making the talk accessible to a large number of people. Participants were representing a good mix of academia and the industry, which generated a good environment for discussion. The focus of the presentation was on the impact of the new technology on the business of telecommunication and how IP technology can introduce new directions. It was clear from the discussions the important role of research in the telecom industry and how to manage expectations on both sides. It looks like the fast pace of technology evolution and the resulted short life cycles have created a gap between academia and industry. The audience recommended more interaction between the two worlds. The day was ended with a nice gourmet dinner organized by Enn Vinnal. It was interesting to know that

the power supply adapter in Australia is different from the British adaptor, which I brought with me. I was trying to be prepared, but!

Adelaide

The short flight from Melbourne to Adelaide was very nice and relaxing. It was interesting to fly across the eastern coast of Victoria. Arriving to Adelaide as scheduled and moved to the hotel. Miro Kraetzl and Peter Shoubridge organized the meeting in the Institute for Telecommunications research, University of South Australia. The audience was from the staff of the institute plus some people from the industry, mainly the department of defense. There were a lot of interactive discussion about the type of broadband services that can be successfully introduced by service provider, and generate profit (e.g., killer application). It is apparent the need to have a business model that is acceptable for service providers, equipment vendors, and software supplier that can sustain the new service.

Conclusions

It is very importance for ComSoc to have DLT tours extended to the different overseas chapters to maintain and promote membership. It is not easy to organize such tours due difficulties in telecommunications and long travel time, which needs months in advance to schedule a tour. Thanks to Fanny Su, who has done a great job of coordinating this tour. This made my travel easier with the events in New York last month. Finally, I would like to thank Byeong Gi Lee, Naohisa Ohta, and Carole Swaim for their support. I wish also to thank the Chapter Chairmen for making my stay pleasant.

Dr. Salah Aidarou

We hope to be able to encourage our Asia Pacific Chapters to take up the full allotment of 5 DLTs for the region in 2002. The continuing success of the DLT program is credited to our dedicated ComSoc Chapter chairs and their committees in providing the local arrangements and extending their kind hospitality to visiting Distinguished Lecturers.

Please do not hesitate to contact us or the AP ComSoc Chapters Coordinator Committee chair for your interest and information on DLTs in the Asia Pacific.

Fanny Su (Manager)
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3. Technical Focus CDMA Aloha by Takaya Yamazato

Please refer to attached PDF file.



4a. TAC (Technical Affairs Committee) Report by Haruhisa Hasegawa

1. Status of APB Best Paper Award

(a) Final Decision of the Best Paper Award Committee.

According to “APB Best Paper Award Guidelines”, the best paper was selected from the papers submitted for APCC2001. The final decision of the best paper award committee is to give the award to the paper entitled “100Mbps/1Gbps asymmetric bandwidth wide-area access network” by Dr. Jun-ichi Kani, Dr. Koji Akimoto, Dr. Masaki Fukui, Dr. Mitsuhiro Teshima, Dr. Masamichi Fujiwara and Dr. Katsumi Iwatsuki (NTT Japan).

(b) Evaluation Process & Selecting Committee Meeting

The award committee members are as follows:

From APCC 2000 TPC: Prof. T.Aoyama, Prof. Dan Keun Sung, Dr. Katsumi Iwatsuki
From APB TAC: Dr. Naohisa Ohta, Dr. Naoaki Yamanaka, Dr. Haruhisa Hasegawa
First, APCC2001 TPC selected top seven papers from papers evaluated in terms of general quality, originality, subject matter, and timeliness. Each award committee member read all papers thoroughly and sorted the nominated papers in order from the first place to the 7th place. The paper that got the best score was selected as the best paper. After the vote, the committee discussed the result and agreed that the paper should get the APB best paper award.

(c) Award Ceremony

The award ceremony was held during the APCC banquet on Sept.18. In front of a big audience, the authors of the above paper were awarded the prize of \$500 (each) and received the certificate.

2. Business Application Session@ICC2001 (Helsinki)

Business Application Session (BAS session) sponsored by APB was held in ICC 2001 as follows. The session was so successful that the audience, a few hundred, listened carefully with special interest.

Date & time: June 12 (Tue) 11:00-12:30

Title: “Mobile Internet Technologies and Services”

Chairman: Prof. Takeshi Hattori (Sophia University, Japan)

Organizer/Co-chair: Dr. Naoaki Yamanaka (NTT, IEEE ComSoc. APB, Japan)

Speakers: Dr. Takeshi Natsuno (NTT DoCoMo, Japan), Dr. Pekka Keskiivari (Sonera, Finland), Dr. Toshirou Suzuki (Hitachi, Japan), Dr. Shuntarou Yamazaki (NEC), and Dr. Pertti Lounamaa (Nokia Mobile Phones, Finland)

3. APB Young Researcher Award

We’ve opened the call for applicants for “IEEE ComSoc APB Young Researcher Award”. The award was established to benefit young researchers who have achieved extraordinary research activities as discerned from ComSoc journal papers and conferences. The information was distributed to chapter chairs of APB by Mr. Onoda in July and has been jointly announced in the APB homepage. (Please refer to the Appendix: IEEE ComSoc APB Young Researcher Award or URL: http://www.comsoc.org/~apb/Misc/apb_award20010705.doc)

Haruhisa Hasegawa
APB TAC secretary

4b. Information Service Committee News by Hideo Kuwahara

Call for Article

Please consider a tutorial paper submission to our AP newsletter. The AP newsletter is distributed at every ICC and GLOBECOM, and also at our AP website. We are looking forward to getting your interesting articles.

Hideo Kuwahara
ISC Chair

4c. News on the Chapter Coordination Committee by Borhanuddin Mohd Ali

Coordinating the activities of the ComSoc chapters over the vast span of this region is not an easy task. This is the task that the CCC is expected to undertake.

Over the past two years I have been entrusted with this ominous task. Over that period of time we have managed to establish the foundation for a more closer contacts between the chapter chairs and the APB, and among the chapter chairs themselves. This is an important milestone for us even though there are more to be desired.

The Regional Chapter Coordination Committee (RCCC) was first incepted in Beijing, China, in 1999 in conjunction with the APCC99. Even though there were only 5 or 6 chapters represented then, it nevertheless represented a giant step forward for the AP region. The subsequent meeting in Seoul, Korea in 2000 saw a more concerted program to get the chapter chairs to sit down together and share their aspirations and problems and air it directly to the APB.

The next giant step for the Chapter Chairs is the forthcoming Global Chapter Chair Conference (GCCC) which will be held in San Antonio, Texas, 24th to 28th Nov. This is held in conjunction with the Globecom 2001, believed to be the first ever event of such magnitude organized by ComSoc. To date about 80 chapter chairs have registered. AP region constitutes a quarter of that which is an excellent record if there is no further attrition. The objective of the GCCC is, among other things, to bring together the Chapter Chairs from all over the world and share with them their problems, concerns, and aspirations, for the promotion of ComSoc in their respective regions.

A packed 4-day program has been planned for. These programs will give the Chapter Chairs a good insight of the organizational aspects of ComSoc and its machineries in order to understand its functions better. Several Chapter Chairs have been selected to present their experiences on selected aspects of the ComSoc affairs. With these inputs the Chapter Chairs are expected to draw on their invaluable experiences in order to come out with meaningful resolutions for the attention of ComSoc.

The AP region has also been fortunate this time round in that we have been able to fully benefit from the 5 DLTs that have initially been approved to us, and more. The DLTs have been introduced in order to enable the chapters closer access to the ComSoc vast pool of subject experts, at low cost. The IEEEAPO office, and in particular Fanny Su, has been providing effective support to coordinate these tours which is not an easy task. We hope that AP region will see continued activities in DLT in the coming years. The only thing we lack is suitable speakers from this region who are able to play the role of Distinguished Lectures. We hope to see more experts from this region coming forward to provide their services in the future.

There are no doubt many other activities that ComSoc chapters in this region have organized past couple of years, too many to fit in this short article. Perhaps special avenues in this newsletter should be allocated for reporting of such events in the future. See you in San Antonio.

Best regards,
Borhanuddin Mohd Ali,
AP ComSoc Chapters Coordinating Chair
1999-2001

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**5. Office News by Fanny Su**

The recent terrorist attack at the World Trade Center in New York and the subsequent difficulties on travel for our ComSoc executives and other delegates has caused the postponement of the TAB Colloquia 2001 and the 2nd Asia Pacific ComSoc Sister Society Summit. The TAB Colloquia to Kuala Lumpur(Malaysia), Singapore and Taipei(Taiwan) is tentatively postponed to Jan 2002. The 2nd Asia Pacific ComSoc Sister Society Summit to be held in Seoul(Korea) and hosted by KICs(Korea) is now postponed to 1,2 Dec 2001. It will be attended by delegates from IEEE ComSoc, IEICE(Japan), CIC and CIE(China), CIEE(Taiwan), IETE(India), REV(Vietnam).

We are pleased that more than 90%(20 out of 22) of our Asia Pacific Chapter chairs have registered for the Global Chapter Chairs Congress(GCCC) at San Antonio 25-28 Nov, 2001. We will have the highest percentage of attendance of Chapter chairs from within a region participating at the GCCC.

We welcome the reactivated ComSoc Chapter in Indonesia, and the newly formed Chapters in Karachi(Pakistan) and North Queensland into the AP ComSoc community and look forward to meeting the Chapter chairs or their representatives at the GCCC.

We would like to encourage Chapters that have not hosted DLTs to take up the DLT program. Sections/Chapters interested in the DLT program should refer to this web site for the list of ComSoc Distinguished Lecturers and Policies & Procedures for the DLT program.  
<http://www.comsoc.org/socstr/dlprog/index.html>

This is the list of ComSoc DLTs coordinated through our office since 1997. In place of the DLTs in 1998, we coordinated Executive visits before and after GLOBECOM '98 in Sydney.

David Goodman - 1997  
Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane(Australia)  
13-28 May 1997

Executive Visits - before and after GLOBECOM'98(8-11 Nov 1998)  
Byeong Gi Lee: Singapore  
Ron Horn: Auckland, Christchurch(New Zealand), Perth  
Celia Desmond: Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia  
Tom Plevyak: Beijing(China), Melbourne

Manu Malek - 1999  
Singapore, Melbourne(Australia), Auckland(New Zealand)  
21-31 Jan 1999

Nelson Sollenberger - 1999  
Seoul and Cheju (Korea), Taipei (Taiwan), Kuala Lumpur(Malaysia),  
Singapore, Hong Kong  
11 -28 Sep 1999

K.K Ramakrishnan - 2000  
New Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai  
8-17 Aug 2000

Vijay Bhargava - 2000  
Kuala Lumpur(Malaysia), Singapore  
11-12 Dec 2000

Vijay Bhargava - 2001  
Hong Kong  
8 Mar 2001

Salah Aidarous - 2001  
Bangkok(Thailand), Kuala Lumpur(Malaysia), Singapore  
30 June-8 July 2001

Justin Chuang - 2001  
New South Wales(Sydney), Queensland(Brisbane), Kuala Lumpur(Malaysia)  
7-14 Aug 2001

Vijay Bhargava - 2001  
Townsville( N. Queensland Section), Sydney( New South Wales),  
Canberra(ACT), Melbourne(Victorian)  
4-12 Sept 2001

Salah Aidarous - 2001  
Hong Kong, Melbourne(Victorian), Adelaide(South Australia)  
16-25 Sept 2001

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**THANK YOU ALL FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS ISSUE OF THE AP NEWSLETTER**

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