

Minutes, IEEE ComSoc Optical Networking Technical Committee Meeting
Globecom 2004
Moreno A/B, Hyatt Regency, Dallas, Texas
November 30, 2004

Attendees: Tarek El-Bawab, Ioannis Tomkos, Biswanath Mukherjee, Jason Jue, Vinod Vokkarane, Qiong Zhang, Ramesh Rajaduray, Hakki Candan Cankaya, Slobodanka Tomic, Jing Wu, Nim Cheung, Stamatios Kartalopoulos, G.S. Kuo, Wojciech Kabacinski, Andrea Bianco, Marco Tacca, Joel Rodrigues, Hussein Mouftah, Hideo Kuwahara, Stefano Bregni, Giji Oki, Naoaki Yamanaka, Paolo Monti, Isabella Cerutti, Rich Thompson, Xiaodong Huang, Nirwan Ansari, Gang Cheng, Mohammed Atiquzzaman, Jonathan Chao, Roberto Rojas-Cessa, Shengli Yuan, Andrzej Jajszczyk, Hanxing Shi, Kee Chaing Chua, Djafar Mynbaev, Oliver Yang

1. Biswanath Mukherjee opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.
2. Self-introductions.
3. ICC 2004 minutes were approved.
4. Conference updates:
 - a. Globecom 2004

Ioannis reported that ONTC sponsored an Optical Communications symposium chaired by Andrea Fumagalli and Naoaki Yamanaka, workshops organized by Tarek El-Bawab and Ioannis, and a tutorial given by Stamatios. Naoaki Yamanaka thanked reviewers for the symposium. 167 papers were submitted and one-third were accepted. All papers received more than 3 review, with the maximum receiving 11 reviews.

Biswanath suggested that for symposia that ONTC sponsors, ONTC could sponsor a best paper award. The award could be a plaque or a monetary award, with a plaque being preferred. The award would attract higher quality papers and recognize people in our community doing good work. The selection process should be up to the chair of the symposium. Hussein suggested that selection be done by taking the top 3 to 5 papers according to EDAS scores, with the final decision being made by an award committee of three members. Hussein also suggested that awards be presented during the technical committee meeting, since it is not feasible to present the awards during the conference luncheon. Other related discussions followed.

- b. OFC 2005

Ioannis reported on OFC 2005. Ioannis has participated on the networking TPC of OFC 2005 for three years. Biswanath and Chunming Qiao were also on the committee this year. 160 papers were submitted, out of which 50 were accepted for oral presentation, and 20 were accepted for poster presentation. There is another related OFC committee, the applications committee, which is also suitable for the presentation for some of our research in networking. The conference will be held in Anaheim in the beginning of March 2005. This year, NFOEC was combined with OFC. There were different committees for the NFOEC papers and the OFC papers.

Biswanath mentioned that OFC is one of three conferences where ONTC holds its meetings. OFC is also co-sponsored by ComSoc.

- c. ICC 2005

Hussein is the Chair for the Optical Networking Symposium for ICC 2005, which will be held in Korea. There were 159 papers submitted, out of which 56 papers were accepted. The papers were formed into 7 sessions. 5 of these were full sessions of 8 paper, and there were 4 half sessions. The acceptance rate was 35%. Tutorials have not yet been finalized.

- d. Globecom 2005

ONTC is sponsoring a symposium at Globecom 2005 on Photonic Technology for Communications. Ioannis and Jason are co-chairs for symposium. The call for papers is open, and the deadline is March 1, 2005. The acceptance notification date is July 1, 2005, and the camera-ready due date is Sept. 1, 2005. The conference will be held at the end of Nov. and the beginning of Dec. 2005 in St. Louis. Around 60 people were invited to the TPC. The TPC will have around 40 TPC members. There is a chair for Globecom 2005 who will accept proposals for workshops and tutorials. The deadline for submission of workshop and tutorial proposals is March 1. The notification of acceptance of workshops will be a bit later than for symposia papers.

e. OFC 2006

The submission deadline for OFC 2006 is Sept. 2005. Ioannis will not be on the committee, but Biswanath will be. The location of the conference is not known yet.

f. ICC 2006

ICC 2006 will be held in Istanbul, Turkey. ONTC will be sponsoring an Optical Networking symposium at ICC 2006, co-sponsored by the TAOS TC. The Co-Chairs for the symposium are Piet Demeester, Byrav Ramamurthy, and Stefano Bregni. The Vice-Chair is Nasir Ghani. The Switching and Routing TC may also cooperate on the symposium.

g. Globecom 2006

A proposal for a symposium needs to be prepared and submitted to the conference Technical Program Chair. The proposal should be ready by ICC 2005, with decisions being made in the following months. The conference will be held in San Francisco, and the General Chair for the conference is from Sprint.

Biswanath mentioned that Chairs and Vice-Chairs for Symposia should be responsible for coming to conferences and attending the planning meetings. The Vice-Chair of one event may be promoted to Chair of the next event in order to provide continuity. Biswanath also suggested larger Technical Program Committees for Symposia in order to spread the workload and to groom people for future events. The Technical Program Committee should have a balance in terms of geographic representation as well as a balance between members from industry and academia. Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Symposia are selected by ONTC officers. Suggestions and input from ONTC members are welcome and appreciated.

4. Other conferences

Jason Jue reported on Broadnets 2004, which was held in San Jose, California, in October. Attendance was good, with over 200 participants. Next year's BroadNets conference will be held in Boston in October 2005. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2005.

Stefano Bregni reported on ONDM-05, which received about 90 papers, out of which approximately 50% were accepted. The average quality of papers was high. The lowest score on EDAS of accepted papers was about 3.2 to 3.3. Most papers had 3 reviews, and some had 2 reviews. It was ensured that papers with 2 reviews did not have conflicting reviews. The conference is technically co-sponsored by ComSoc and IFIP. The ComSoc sponsorship was endorsed by TAOS, ONTC, and a local chapter. The conference will be held in February 2005 in Milano. There will be a special social event at the conference - a visit to The Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci. There are 2 slots for 50 people each.

Ioannis Tomkos reported on ECOC-05, which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, at the beginning of September. The deadline for submissions is mid April. There is one ECOC committee on networking and applications that is relevant to ONTC. Another committee is related to TAOS. More involvement of ONTC in ECOC is needed.

K.C. Chua raised the issue of having a flagship conference for ONTC. Biswanath mentioned that other TCs have their own flagship events, and that there was a proposal for ONDM to have full ComSoc sponsorship with IFIP, but the proposal wasn't accepted. Hussein mentioned that OptiComm could have been our flagship conference, but that it became BroadNets, which includes wireless as well as optical.

5. Poster papers for future ICC and Globecom conferences

Poster papers will be included in future ICC and Globecom conferences. The model that is expected to be implemented is as follows: 1) posters should be an option, 2) authors should indicate preference for poster or oral presentation, 3) papers corresponding to posters should be fully published in the proceedings and the IEEE digital library, 4) the selection process should be the same for both poster and oral presentations, and 5) posters should be counted in the acceptance rate. The motivation for posters is that there are more and more high-quality paper submissions, but that the conference venue typically has limited capacity. The goal is to ensure that all good papers are published. Globecom 2005 and ICC 2006 will implement posters. The quality of posters should be equal to the quality of oral presentations. A discussion involving posters followed.

6. Standards

Our ONTC standards forum liason is Doug Zukerman. Ideas on how to have more of an effect on standards are welcome. Hussein mentioned that submitting standards is time-consuming and requires big organizations. ONTC should find people members who are participating in standards activities and encourage them to organize workshops. Stamatios mentioned that the IEEE Communications Magazine supplement has a column on standards. People involved in standards work are encouraged to submit columns.

7. Publications

Stamatios reported that the IEEE Communications Magazine Optical Supplement just concluded its second year in November.

Nim reported on the JSAC optical series. In its first year, there were two issues. In the second year, there were more than two issues prepared, but JSAC has a huge backlog and only allowed one issue. This issue was published in November, and was larger than average. The same will happen in 2005. IEEE is a bit reluctant to issue new journals.

Ioannis reported that there is a special issue of JLT on optical networks. The deadline is December 1, but they have requested to extend deadline by two weeks to December 15.

There is a new journal published by Elsevier on Optical Switching and Networking. The editors are Fabio Neri and George Rouskas.

Andrzej reported that IEEE Communications Surveys and Tutorials may be a good place to publish papers. The journal accepts long tutorials and surveys. It is available on-line and free of charge.

8. ONTC web site

Our web site is maintained by Byrav Ramamurthy. Byrav also maintains our mailing list. If anyone knows of other people who would be interested in participating in ONTC, please let Byrav or the other ONTC officers know.

9. Other business

Nim reported on the merger of NFOEC and OFC. An agreement has been signed and papers have been decided. The conference is still in transition mode. The Telcordia people are still running the NFOEC conference. They took papers and moved them to OFC. 90% of the authors agreed to have their papers moved. In future years, Telcordia will give up management of conference.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Minutes recorded by Jason Jue