

ONTC meeting at OFCNFOEC 2013

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Andrea Bianco, Franco Callegati, Xiaojun Cao, Mohit Chamanian, Vincent Chan, Xiuzhong Chen, Tom Darcie, M. Farhan Habib, Kyle Guan, Jason Jue, Pooi-Yuen Kam, Ken-ichi Kitayama, Hideo Kuwahara, Mohammad M. Hasan, Guido Maier, Biswanath Mukherjee, Kimio Oguchi, Eleni Palkopoulou, Ankitkumar Patel, Chunming Qiao, Byrav Ramamurthy, Galen Sasaki, Ken-ichi Sato, Dominic Schupke, Sunny Shakya, Qingya She, Massimo Tornatore, Christine Tremblay, Jorge Lopez Vizcaino, Rui Wang, Lena Wosinska, Yabin Ye, Yiming Yu, Qiong Zhang, Shuqiang Zhang, Yongli Zhao, Zuqing Zhu.

The meeting began at 10am, Thursday, 21st of March, 2013 in Room 204A.

Prof. Vincent Chan (MIT) chaired the meeting.

Approval of minutes from ONTC meeting at GLOBECOM 2012.

Jason moved and Galen seconded motion to approve GC2012 minutes. Motion was carried unopposed.

OFC/NFOEC 2013

Dominic Schupke, General Chair, reported that some important topics were Silicon photonics and Software defined networking. There were two subcommittees related to Optical networking in OFC. Subcommittee on core networks received 103 submissions of which 45 oral and 11 posters were accepted. 3 submissions for post-deadline papers were received and none accepted. For the subcommittee on access networks, 108 submissions were received of which 38 oral and 13 posters were accepted. 5 submissions for post-deadline papers were received and 2 accepted.

OFC/NFOEC featured double-blind review (regular and post-deadline). Double blind review for all IEEE journals is being considered (starting with Comm Letters).

OFC/NFOEC 2013 plenary speakers included Prof. Nick McKeown from Stanford University on Software defined networking; Representative from Telebras (incumbent Brazil operator); and Brian Optiva who spoke about state of industry, where we need to go, data centers, and wireless. Overall, networking was well represented in this year's OFC.

ONTC role in OFC program

Vincent emphasized that this committee (ONTC) is very important for OFC future. In terms of post-deadline papers, 3 years ago, none of the architecture papers got in. Preference for hardware/systems/device papers as opposed to network architecture papers. Last year the number of post-deadline network papers was zero again. Jane Simmons worked with Vincent Chan to help revise criteria for post-deadline papers to include novel network architectures. This year the number of post-deadline network papers was two (not zero!).

Dominic mentioned that he would appreciate receiving feedback about the OFC/NFOEC 2013 conference. He also announced that OFC 2014 would be held in San Francisco and that the Program Chairs were in the process of determining topics.

Lena remarked that papers accepted for OFC ended up in NFOEC sessions. Biswanath discussed the tracks in OFC and NFOEC and mentioned that thought needs to be put into merging tracks. Vincent mentioned plans for calling the conference OFC and having 3 program chairs. Dominic mentioned that subcommittees and tracks may change in the future. Subcommittees 1-3 were focused on near term and 5-13 were focused longer term topics.

Vincent discussed a related matter from OFC Long range planning committee. Hopefully, by OFC 2018, he hoped there would be 35% network architecture papers. OFC is perfect forum for architectures which take into account optical properties of devices and subsystems. Ideas discussed included expanding scope of this conference, bring new ideas for OFC of the future and invite new people (friends and colleagues) to attend.

ICC/GLOBECOM ONS Symposia and ONTC

Vincent discussed ICC 2013 in Budapest and GLOBECOM 2013 in Atlanta. He discussed ONTC nomination of TPC Chairs for the ONS Symposia at the ICC/GLOBECOM conferences.

Vincent proposed the following ACTION ITEM for ONTC officers: ONTC officers to coordinate with new director of IEEE Comsoc conferences on input for ONS Symposium

He mentioned that optical papers may end up in (3) different forums in the current structure of symposia. There are a small number of optical researchers (compared to wireless). However, average score of optical papers is higher, but there is a fixed percentage per discipline (symposium) enforced by ICC/GLOBECOM.

Vincent proposed the following ACTION ITEM for ONTC officers.

2. Ensure compromise in the number of papers accepted. ONTC Chair to work with New Director of Conferences.

Apart from the ONS Symposium, there are Fiber Wireless and Free Space Optical workshops at ICC/GLOBECOM. Vincent remarked that there needs to be more coordination across these forums and that "united we can be stronger."

JOCN

Vincent provided information on JOCN journal jointly managed by IEEE and OSA.

The submissions were over 20% compared to last year. This year the journal would break even and make profit. The journal submissions spent 161 days from the day of posting to publication. The ONTC members were encouraged to keep quality up. Dr. Ori Gerstel has taken over as new Co-Editor in Chief (replacing Vincent Chan). The other EiC is Keren Bergman (rotating out this year and voting to take place to replace her). Among the Editorial board, 38% of AE Industry, 52% of Academia, rest from non-profit research lab (Lincoln Lab, NRL). First IEEE review of JOCN was announced. IEEE appreciates Industry people on JOCN Board and women on JOCN Board.

In his role as ComSoc VP-Publications, Vincent announced 13 new publications in COMSOC (7 more journals). The journal topics included Cloud Computing, Big Data, Nanoscale Comm, Network Science, and Control Network Systems.

Biswanath mentioned that JOCN has significant staff support (through OSA) and enquired whether IEEE will have adequate staff support for new journals?

Vincent remarked that new journals were broad enough to ensure increased audience and that staff support and volunteer resources are concerns. Calling/Emailing was necessary to ensure people agreed to serve on Steering Committee/Advisory Board.

Vincent discussed the option for Open Access (\$1750 fee set by IEEE): Any one can read your paper free. Reviewers would not see the choice made by authors for Open Access.

Discussion on JOCN

Vincent mentioned that JOCN invited a number of papers for a special issue (on OFC). The OFC steering committee asked ONTC Tech Program Chairs to work with JLT and JOCN EiC and recommend good papers in two categories). JOCN will feature them in October (before ECOC) while JLT will wait until 2014 (as fast as possible). A third track run by JLT will deal with tutorials on web.

There was a question about the scope of JLT and JOCN.

JOCN features Network architecture, system-oriented, communication system papers

JLT features physics, transmission measurement, physical layer, and network component papers, and sometime has special issue on networks.

Funding for Optical networking research

Vincent opened discussions on the topic of funding for optical networking research. NSF/Whitehouse/NASA/DOD collaboratively supported a workshop on Heterogeneous networks two years ago.

Optical network workshop with NSF is being planned and will be announced shortly around June/July. Vincent invited ONTC members to bring ideas on what should be funded. The report would be due end of August/September in time for President's budget for 2015.

It is expected that NSF programs will encourage many other countries to fund optical networking research.

DARPA also offers opportunities and Vincent mentioned that ONTC members may consider serving in DARPA as Program Officer for 2 years (previous optical networking researchers who served in this capacity include Adel Saleh).

Industry activities

Hideo remarked that economic trends include IPTV and mobile terminals (requiring huge backhaul) and traffic demands growing.

Dominic spoke about OADA presentation (at OFC Market Watch). He mentioned the growth of Data center area (optical interconnects) and the increase in OFC Exhibitor space (many more system vendors than years before).

Vincent remarked that at OFC 600 companies rent space (next year: 10% ahead at this time). Cisco doubles floor space. Increase of network people attending the conference. 65% increase in income and 35% increase in attendance since 2010.

Huawei demonstrated flexible WDM (2 Tbps transmission) and SDN at this year's event. Vincent remarked that SDN has not exploited optical properties of medium and switches. An interesting problem would be to incorporate optical component part into SDN

ONTC website and mailing list

Byrav reported on the mailing list ontc@comsoc.org (which has around 500 subscribers) and the website <http://committees.comsoc.org/ontc>.

Optical conferences/workshops

IEEE ANTS 2013

Byrav announced IEEE ANTS 2013 conference to be held in Chennai, India in December 2013. Byrav serves as General Vice Chair. IEEE ANTS is the only IEEE COMSOC financial sponsored event in India.

Biswanath spoke about industry participation in ANTS 2013 and encouraged ONTC members to submit their work to IEEE ANTS.

IEEE LANMAN 2013

Byrav and Kris Steenhaut serve as General Co-Chairs for IEEE LANMAN 2013, in Brussels, Belgium. This year's workshop features papers on optical topics and a panel on SDN. There is a special Student-lite registration.

ONDM 2013

Lena reported on ONDM 2013 in Brest, France. The event focuses on Optical network design and modeling and the submission deadline is past. ONDM 2014 will be held in Stockholm, Sweden.

ICTON

Lena reported on ICTON which will be held in June this year. The event features optical networks papers (invited and contributed papers).

ACP

Lena also reported on ACP to be held this year in Beijing in November. There is a track on optical networks and is accepting submissions.

OECC

Hideo spoke about OECC conference, which is Asia pacific version of OFC. This year it featured 3 conferences co-located including Photonic Switching and one more. The event is in Kyoto, Japan, June 30-July 4 and received 1200 submissions. OECC applied for technical co-sponsorship from ComSoc which however rejected it.

Vincent mentioned that the approval process is not very smooth and encouraged conference organizers to work closely with ONTC officers before submitting the conference paperwork for ComSoc approval.

Hideo mentioned that there was a requirement that acceptance ratio should be less than 50% (a guideline which was very strict), whereas including posters the ratio may reach 75%.

Ken-ichi Kitayama mentioned that JOCN approved to have special issue of OFC 2013. The scope included network, core and access and optical switching.

Guido discussed 2014 European conference on Network and Optical Communications, NOC/OC&I to be held in Graz, Austria, July 2013.

Chunming offered his remarks on OFC and ONTC. He mentioned that there is clearly a lot of synergy with a number of people attending. He mentioned Brian Protiva's (ADVA CEO) remarks that "optical networking is driving the industry." However, among the Technical committee members at OFC/NFOEC were not many ONTC members (subcommittees on Core networks and Access networks).

He encouraged more optical networking workshops at OFC (organized by ONTC members)

He proposed an ACTION ITEM: Argue for ONTC representation at OFC/NFOEC.

Biswanath mentioned that this depends on people running the conference, Gen Chair, TPC Chair and Subcommn Chairs. Under his watch, many people from ONTC community were involved in OFC organization. He recruited a lot of people from ONTC for Subcommittees. But he also remarked that members invited to serve on these committees cannot take the commitment casually (attendance is critical in planning meeting, review meeting, etc.).

Dominic posed a question for Jason on the subcommittee activities.

Jason responded that the committee does handle networking topics and was a good fit to ONTC interest areas. He spoke of the need for mechanisms for ONTC input into subcommittees.

Chunming mentioned that ONTC members need to have greater involvement in OFC. There is a need to engage more active members into ONTC. In particular, TPC chairs and Subcommittee chairs need to be part of ONTC and the OFC/ONTC outreach goes both ways.

Vincent said that he agreed with everything discussed and emphasized the need to recruit new members. He said current members need to be more aggressive and visible (in a nice way) by organizing workshops. This will ensure Optical networks remains in a favorable trajectory at OFC.

Vincent proposed an ACTION ITEM for ONTC officers to rally the troops and improve representation in the conferences.

He submitted the following AGENDA ITEM at upcoming ONTC meeting in ICC 2013.

ONTC Officers to devote 1/3 time on Strategic Planning (1 year and beyond)

Chunming encouraged ONTC members to discuss with Ken-ichi Sato (OFC Steering Committee) on workshop/symposium at OFC. This will improve our presence and impact.

Ken-ichi Sato remarked that he welcomed the ideas. He spoke of the need for strongly dependent individual activities at the conference. He also reiterated, as Vincent pointed out, the need to strategize at the next ONTC meeting.

However, he mentioned that the program committee was set for OFC 2014 and no drastic change was possible year to year.

Vincent emphasized that all of us need to advocate for change for more optical networking at OFC and requested the ONTC officers to conduct a strategic planning session at Budapest during ICC 2013.

Special issues of journals

1. Shuqing announced Special issue on IEEE network: Optical networking in Cloud computing (April 15 deadline)
2. Dominic mentioned Advances in Network planning. CommMag: current/future technologies; advances in cloud integration in network planning. (June 1 deadline)
3. Lena mentioned JSAC: Energy efficiency in networks (September)
4. Galen mentioned JSAC special issue on Optical topics.

Vincent encouraged nomination of Co-EIC from Industry (and to rejuvenate Editorial Board). ONTC members interested in serving on Magazine and Journals Editorial Board may contact Steve Gorshe, Dir of Magazines and Katie Wilson, Dir of Journals. Special issues for IEEE Journals and magazines can be proposed on optical networking topics. ONTC members can coordinate topics.

Photonic Network Communications journal

Byrav spoke about the Photonic Network Communications (PNET) journal published by Springer. This year, Krishna Sivalingam (IIT Madras, India) and Byrav took over as Editors-in-Chief. The journal's Editorial Board is being revamped and Byrav encouraged ONTC members to submit their papers to PNET as well to propose Special issues on optical networking topics. The journal submission website is <https://www.editorialmanager.com/pnet/>.

Discussion on Special Issues

Vincent mentioned that JSAC was looking for new areas to incubate for new journals. Cognitive networks and SDN are under consideration.

Lena mentioned that JSAC has focused issues while JOCN doesn't have too many special issues, which could result in greater visibility.

Vincent responded that journals with special issues were under severe scrutiny (invited and special). This year, however, the number of special issues is increasing. The severe scrutiny includes Topic suitability, Editorial team (breadth), etc. However, JOCN is very healthy in this respect.

Biswanath discussed recent Special issue such as that of the Proceedings of the IEEE. The centennial issue May 2012 issue featured Optical networking and featured important topics providing comprehensive coverage.

Biswanath thanked Vincent on behalf of ONTC members for chairing the meeting in the absence of the ONTC officers. It was noted that the meeting was well attended even at such short notice.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Byrav Ramamurthy.