

This was led by Prof. Lyn Pemberton (University of Brighton, United Kingdom) and Sanaz Fakhair (University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom). It included a discussion on the subject after the presentation. Approximately 50 people attended.

One of the first meetings of the Chapter was in February 2012. This was a day of seminars and discussions regarding the policy for digital TV implementation. It was titled “Public Policy and Technologies for Digital Television” and was a very successful meeting.

Brazil is a large and diverse country. The South Brazil Section of the IEEE is based in the technological/industrial heartland of São Paulo. The CE Society Chapter is an active member of the Section, which has 15 Society Chapters and two Council Chapters, including those from the IEEE Computer Society, the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society, the IEEE Industry Applications



Celso Kurashima.



Gustavo Moreira Calixto.

Society, the IEEE Power & Energy Society, the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society, and the IEEE Electron Devices Society. The Section Executive Committee meets once a month, where Section and Chapter chairs engage in brainstorming and discussions on the experiences of running seminars and workshops.

The focus of the Chapter is to promote CE area activities around the state of São Paulo and South Brazil. A possible strategy being considered is to expand this Chapter to a joint Chapter, including

all sections inside Brazil (the Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, Minas Gerais, and Brasilia Sections) as there are not enough local members in these areas to form separate Chapters.

The year 2015 will be exciting for the South Brazil Chapter. The Brazilian Research Funding Agency has provided support for a Latin American Symposium on CE in November 2015. They are organizing the call for papers, and, of course, the support of all mem-

bers of the CE Society is welcome. This will be the first opportunity to promote CE Society activities in Latin America. The Chapter also plans to improve its visibility, providing more seminars, courses, and hands-on sessions.

For more information on the South Brazil Chapter or if you are interested in helping to promote its activities, please contact Gustavo Moreira at [CalixtoCalixto@ieee.org](mailto:CalixtoCalixto@ieee.org).

—Robin Bradbeer

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## One-Day Workshop at CE Malaysia Chapter

Embedded systems and Internet of Things.

**T**he IEEE Consumer Electronics (CE) Society Malaysia Chapter had a positive start for 2015. The

Malaysia Chapter planned several activities for this year, with a special focus on the Internet of Things (IoT). The IoT will be an open network in which self-organized objects are interoperable and able to act independently depending on the context. Embedded systems, as IoT core components, will have an important

role in this concept. These technologies will underlie relevant applications for CE and related areas.

Realizing the importance of this topic, the Malaysia Chapter organized a one-day workshop, “Embedded Systems and Internet of Things (IoT),” in association with the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FSKTM), Universiti Putra Malaysia, on 12 March 2014. The workshop was organized with an objective to introduce embedded systems as an enabler for consumer-centric IoT (CCIoT) projects. The idea for initiating the CCIoT workshop had

its genesis in conversations among CE Society members. This special workshop was part of the Malaysia Chapter’s initiative to encourage students to participate in the upcoming CCIoT Hackathon that will take place by the end of this year.

During the workshop, participants focused on bespoke embedded system projects that demonstrate various IoT services for CE. The participants were encouraged to design, innovate, and improve their bespoke IoT projects using the available tools. During the workshop, the participants were exposed to various nuances of the theory as well as the

hands-on process of building CCIoT projects via embedded systems, thus enabling them to link theory and practice. There were 30 participants, including students of FSKTM and CE Society members, enrolled for the workshop.

All sessions were conducted by Thinagaran Perumal from the Department of Computer Science and T. Ramachandran and Muhamad Syafiq Mohd Pozi from SEGi University. In the morning session, the participants were introduced to technologies related to CCIoT and various frameworks were discussed so that participants could familiarize themselves with the range of technologies

to be deployed. In addition, the participants were also introduced to Arduino, Raspberry Pi, and bespoke embedded boards as well as IoT data analytics using various frameworks. By the end of the session, the participants demonstrated their mini projects with brief presentations on their project usability. The mentors did a good job by being supportive and encouraging the participants to think outside the box.

The workshop served as an excellent event for participants to listen to the experts and improve their embedded system development skills. With efforts from the CE Society Malaysia Chapter,

Universiti Putra Malaysia, and the participants, the workshop proved to be a great success and an ideal platform to nurture interest in embedded system project development for CE. The Malaysia Chapter plans to organize a series of similar CCIoT sessions in the near future. A very engaged discussion progressed among the participants, especially on IoT visions for CE, which concluded the workshop as the closing agenda.

—Thinagaran Perumal  
IEEE CE Society  
Malaysia Chapter

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## IEEE Consumer Electronics Society Sponsors the Smart Village Program

In March 2015, the IEEE Consumer Electronics Society Board of Governors voted to become a sponsor of the IEEE Smart Village Program. This program was organized by the IEEE Foundation and is cosponsored by other IEEE organizational units. In April 2015, the IEEE Smart Village initiative received prestigious high-level recognition from the Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF), Finance for Resilience (FiRe) initiative.

The IEEE Smart Village's proposal was selected as one of eight finalists for the BNEF FiRe initiative with its submission, "Scalable DC Microgrids—Scalability and Sustainability Through Standards." The proposal highlighted IEEE Smart Village's charge to create connectable, scalable, dc microgrids that leverage new standards to advance the spread of electrical goods and communications access for developing countries.



Students in Muhuru Bay, Kenya, have had their lives changed by IEEE Smart Village.

FiRe is designed to identify the best proposals to spur increased investment for clean energy, climate, sustainability, and green growth. As a finalist, IEEE Smart Village was invited to the BNEF Future of Energy Summit—Opportunities in Transformation in New York to pitch the proposal. The summit gathered over 1,200 major decision-makers intent

on shaping the future of energy. Attendees from diverse sectors, including investment banking and finance, corporations, governmental entities, and nonprofits, learned about the IEEE Smart Village mission and vision.

Being named a FiRe finalist represents an incredible opportunity for the IEEE Smart Village program to achieve