ComSoc Membership Hits 30,000

by Ricardo Veiga, Director of Member Services

With more than 170+ Distinguished Lecturer events coordinated around the globe, two new contests addressing the Digital Divide and why ComSoc is a place for members to connect, the ComSoc community is providing opportunities to strengthen careers, knowledge, and career opportunities. The result of this transformational work is that the Society reached a milestone of 30,000 members.

Led by former Vice President — Member and Global Activities, Nei Kato, and ComSoc's Member Services Board Director, Ricardo Veiga, ComSoc Regions and Chapters drove recruitment and retention of the ComSoc communications engineering community for 2021.

One of the biggest drivers behind ComSoc's growth was the launch of 21 Student Branch Chapters in 2021. Students, professional faculty members, and local ComSoc members recognized the opportunity to learn from one another through programs and professional networking, allowing them to build critical skills outside of the traditional classroom environment. The growth in Student Branch Chapters was a global achievement with Region 10 (Asia Pacific) gaining 12 new Student Branch Chapters, followed by 7 in Region 8 (Europe, Middle East, and Africa), and an additional 2 from Region 9 (Latin America).

Chapter work is an important part of ComSoc engagement. Notably, a special recognition should also be given to Professor Saewoong Bahk of the Seoul Chapter. Professor Bahk won the Membership and Global Activities Achievement Award for bringing in 50+ new members in 2021.

Engagement is also critical to growth. Students were the center of engagement again in ComSoc's Student Competition with

Ricardo Veiga

more submissions than ever under the leadership of Stefano Bregni and Nelson Fonseca.

Another shining example of increased engagement was ComSoc's Young Professionals, led by YP Chair Shashank Gaur in 2020–2021. The YP team developed webinars, interviews, and countless events — online and offline — to bring together their peers, as well as veteran leaders. Most recently, the YP team partnered with the Women in Communication Engineering Committee, led by Maite Brandt-Pierce (2020–2021), for a five-part program at ICC including a Salary Workshop, and fireside chats from leading researchers in industry and academia. The results paid off as ComSoc's Young Professionals now represent nearly 30 percent of the Society's membership, and WICE membership is up to 2211 members!

Regions also provided new exciting sources of engagement with Hackathons (North American and LATAM regions), Industry-Student Panels (all regions), and more. Credit must be given to our four Regional Directors and their boards for these innovative programs that provided new opportunities for students, young professionals, and veteran members alike. In 2020–2021, Regions 1–7 (NA) were led by Fawzi Behmann, Region 8 (EMEA) by Christos Verikoukis, Region 9 (LA) by Nury Gabriela Ramirez Cely, and Region 10 (AP) by Sumei Sun.

For 70 years, ComSoc has served communications engineers as a growing global network. As a community, we believe that we are all called to communications technology. While our reasons and regions may be widely different, our goal is the same: to advance communications and networking technology for the betterment of humanity. At 30,000 strong, we are stronger than ever.

Trish Jaraicie, ComSoc's director of marketing and membership, contributed to this article.

40+ members of the Membership Value Research Congress joined together in Madrid to outline new product plans and services to bring to our ComSoc community.

Activities of the IEEE ComSoc Saudi Arabia Chapter in 2021 in Collaboration with the IEEE ComSoc ComSoft TC

by Mohammed S. Juaid, Chair of the IEEE ComSoc Saudi Arabia Chapter

In 2021, we in the IEEE ComSoc Saudi Arabia Chapter continued the practice of delivering our technical sessions over virtual meeting platforms. This year, we have been honored with a fruitful partnership with the IEEE ComSoc Communications Software Technical Committee where distinguished sessions were arranged on various subjects.

As a sort of reflection on what we encountered in 2020 and 2021 for virtual sessions, it became more challenging to attain considerably good number of attendees. From my perspective, attendees now have more viable options and plenty of recorded technical sessions that they can watch at their own convenience. Even for an advertised session, attendees may assume that the session will be recorded and published at a later time, so there is no need to commit to a certain date and time to listen to a technical session. On the other side, sessions that require physical presence might have their own advantages of encouraging attendees to commit and attend. Among these advantages are the establishment of personal networking with the speaker and other professionals from the same field. These are just some reflections from our side, and it will be enriching to hear reflections from other ComSoc Chapters.

Talking about our key sessions in 2021, the first session was conducted on February 23,2021 with the title "Getting Involved in Standardization in IEEE: Introducing IEEE COM/NetSoft Standards Committee." It discussed the IEEE standardization process, the importance of getting involved in standardization, an introduction of the IEEE ComSoc Network Softwarization and Virtualization Standard Committee (COM/NetSoft SC), and the standards projects overseen by this Standard Committee. The session was delivered by Professor Mehmet Ulema from Manhattan College, who is also the Chair of the IEEE COM/NetSoft Standards Committee.
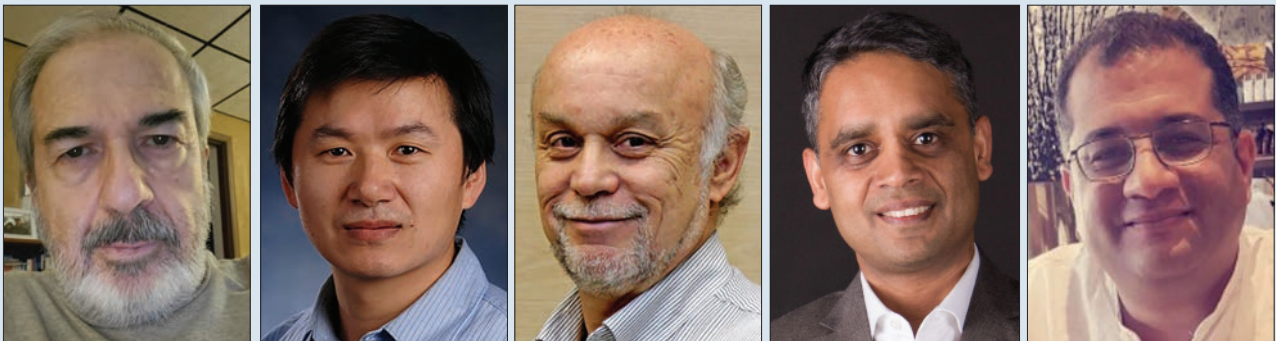
On April 28, 2021, Professor Xiaojun (Matt) Cao from Georgia State University gave us a session on "Applications and Challenges in Network Virtualization." This talk addressed network virtualization focusing on its applications and challenges. With network virtualization, network hardware resource and network functionality can be abstracted as logical entities. Delivery of a service on top of the different virtualization techniques in networks will be in the form of linking the network functions or abstract logical entities as the service function chain (SFC). A variety of SFC composition and embedding challenges may arise together with the benefits of the virtualization techniques. Such benefits and different flavors of function chaining processing including SFC deployment, hybrid SFC embedding, and dependence-aware SFC composition were also discussed.

Late in the Summer on September 1, 2021, we had a session about "Federated Learning: State of the Art, Current Trends and Challenges." It addressed an overview of the federated learning technology state of the art and discussed the challenges its advancement encounters. Our Distinguished Speaker for this session was Professor Nelson Fonseca from the State University of Campinas.

Our collaboration with CommSoft Technical Committee in 2021 was concluded by another interesting talk about "Computation Offloading and Activation of Mobile Edge Computing Servers Using Minority Game Models." In this talk, Professor Ekram Hossain from University of Manitoba presented minority game (MG)-based distributed methods for computation offloading and server mode selection for mobile edge computing (MEC) networks. The basics of a minority game model was also discussed.

I will take this opportunity to acknowledge the aforementioned speakers for the time they allocated for us and the knowledge they shared with our communities. Also, special thanks should go to our colleague Dr. Abd-Elhamid Taha from Alfaisal University for his outstanding contribution in the arrangement of these session. We are looking forward to keeping and expanding on such fruitful partnerships and collaborations.

The cycle for 2022 has started, and we envision having 2022 events be a mix of virtual events with some events that will be organized in physical venues such as conference rooms.

The speakers: Mehmet Ulema, Xiaojun (Matt) Cao, Nelson Fonseca, Ekram Hossain, Abd-Elhamid Taha (from left to right, from up to bottom)

Sami Al-Shuwair, IEEE ComSoc Saudi Arabia Chapter Vice Chair (left), and Dr. Mohammad AlMuhaini, IEEE Saudi Arabia Section Chair (right).

IEEE SIGHT Karachi
Engineering for Global Development (EGD) Community Engagement Workshop

by Umair Ahmed Korai, MUET, Secretary IEEE ComSoc Karachi Section Chapter; Bhawani Shankar Chowdhry, MUET, Chair IEEE Karachi Section; Parkash Lohana, UIT, Chair IEEE R10 Professional Activities Committee; Moiz Rahman Memon, LUMHS, Treasurer IEEE Karachi Section; Pakistan

From left to right - Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto (workshop Coordinator and Co-Director MUISTD, MUET), Prof. Dr. Tayyaba Zarif (Guest of Honour and Vice Chancellor GC University Hyderabad, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili (Chief Guest and Vice Chancellor MUET, Jamshoro), Prof. Dr. Aftab Ahmed Memon (Workshop Coordinator and Chairman Telecommunication Engg. MUET), and Engr. Parksh Lohana (Guest Speaker and HoD at UIT, Karachi).

IEEE SIGHT Karachi Chapter in collaboration with IEEE Communication Society Karachi Chapter, IEEE ComSoc Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) Student Branch Chapter, Mehran University Institute of Science, Technology & Development (MUISTD), and QS World Merit organized a one-day workshop on "Engineering for Global Development (EGD) Community Engagement" at MUISTD Auditorium, MUET, Jamshoro, Pakistan on January 13, 2022.

This workshop was funded by IEEE R10 Humanitarian Sustainable Project & Volunteer Training Support Fund. The objective of the EGD Workshop was to develop the skills needed to conduct successful SIGHT projectss. The total number of participants in this workshop was 67 of which 28 were IEEE members and 39 were non-IEEE members. The workshop formally started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and the national anthem of Pakistan. Afterward, Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto, Co-Director of MUISTD, welcomed the Vice-Chancellors, Guest Speakers, Coordinators, Organizers, and Participants. The Vice Chancellor of MUET Jamshoro, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili, attended the workshop as the Chief Guest and delivered his speech, and appreciated the Speakers for taking time from their very busy schedules to motivate the participants regarding community engagement. The Vice Chancellor of Government College Hyderabad, Prof. Dr. Tayyaba Zarif, also attended this workshop as Guest of Honor.

The first session was delivered by Engr. Hanan Daudpota, and Engr. Murtaza Hanif delivered a talk on IEEE SIGHT, its Benefits, and Guidelines for Preparing a Strong IEEE SIGHT Group Petition. They encouraged the participants to establish an IEEE SIGHT Group at MUET. It was agreed that Dr. Umair Ahmed Korai, Assistant Professor, Department of Telecommunication Engineering, MUET Jamshoro will be the Group's Advisor at MUET.

The second session was delivered by Engr. Parkash Lohana, Chair IEEE R10 Professional Activities Committee, Associate Professor & HOD (CS) at Usman Institute of Technology, Karachi, and Engr. Moiz Rahman Memon, Broadcast Engineer at

Community Health FM Radio, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences, Jamshoro and Treasurer, IEEE Karachi Section, and IEEE Karachi SIGHT Chapter, respectively. In the session, Engr. Parkash conducted the EGD Community Engagement Workshop. Furthermore, Engr. Moiz facilitated activities related to the workshop with the participants.

The next session was delivered by Mr. Ali Akbar, Executive Director of Association of Water, Applied Education and Renewable Energy (AWARE) — an NGO — that has been the implementation partner of IEEE SIGHT Karachi Chapter's projects in the past. He shared the humanitarian issues of the districts when AWARE operates. He also identified areas where engineers can contribute through humanitarian technology, which can result in changing the lives of the people living in those districts.

Vice Chancellor of GC University Hyderabad, Prof. Dr. Tayyaba Zarif, gave the concluding remarks of the workshop. In her speech, she acknowledged the efforts of guest speakers, organizers, and volunteers. She encouraged the participants to explore IEEE SIGHT in more depth and showed interest in hosting such activity at GC University. At the end, Prof. Dr. Aftab Ahmed Memon, Chairman, Department of Electronic Engineering, gave a vote of thanks to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honor, speakers, event organizers, collaborators, volunteers, and participants, followed by shield and certificate distribution, and lunch.

Participants attending the EGD workshop

Group Photo taken at the end of the workshop with guest of honour, guest speakers, workshop coordinators, organizers, volunteers, and participants

IEEE Turkey ComSoc Members Met for the Masters Thesis Awards Ceremony

by Tuncer Baykas, Suayb Arslan, Omer Faruk karakus, IEEE ComSoc Turkey Chapter

We came together as the IEEE Communications Society Turkey Branch after face-to-face education started in universities in our country with the change in the course of the coronavirus epidemic, which has affected the whole world for more than two years.

The event was hosted by Kadir Has University on Saturday, October 30. It started with Tuncer Baykas's presentation of ComSoc Turkey. In his presentation, Baykas explained the structure of IEEE ComSoc Turkey. After the ComSoc Turkey presentation, IEEE ComSoc Turkey Secretary Omer Faruk Karakus informed the audience about the IEEE ComSoc Turkey Student Branches. Subsequently, IEEE Turkey ComSoc M.A.Sc. Thesis awards were presented. Ali Tugberk Dogukan, who won the first prize in the field of experimental applications, and İbrahim Yildirim, who received the first prize in the theoretical field, shared their experiences during the thesis writing process with ComSoc Turkey members. After the ceremony session, Associate Dr. Suayb Arslan made his presentation on Quantum Communication. In his presentation, Dr. Suayb Arslan talked about basic quantum physics and what awaits us in the future for communication technologies. After Dr. Arslan's presentation, IEEE Turkey SIGHT President Asım Koroglu presented the IEEE Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Activities. In his presentation, he detailed the work of IEEE Turkey SIGHT, and its goals and plans for the next period. After the SIGHT presentation, IEEE Turkey Educational Activities Student Representative Sedanur Karabayram made the IEEE professional development presentation. In her presentation, she talked about its plans for the period 2021–2022 and asked for volunteers.

Finally, the event came to an end with the award of Ömer Faruk Karakuş, who was selected as ComSoc Turkey Hero for his work in the past, his contribution to IEEE Turkey ComSoc, and his will and determination.

Attendees of Comsoc Kavustay

Ömer Faruk Karakus received Hero of the IEEE Comsoc Turkey Chapter award