GCN GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTER

IEEE ComSoc Malaysia Chapter
Winner of the 2023 Chapter Achievement Award for the AP Region

by Mohamad Yusoff Alias, Malaysia Chapter Chair

The IEEE Malaysia ComSoc Chapter was first founded on June 26th, 1992. Later, on May 9th 2006, the ComSoc Chapter was combined with the Vehicular Technology Society to form the Malaysia ComSoc/VTS Joint Chapter. The chapter has been organizing range of activities, including guest speakers, workshops, and seminars as well as social functions every year. The chapter takes pride in hosting the IEEE Malaysia International Conference on Communications (MICC) and International Symposium on Telecommunication Technologies (ISTT) during alternate years. The biggest achievement by the chapter is probably the success in hosting one of the major flagship conferences for ComSoc which is the 2016 IEEE International Conference in Communications (ICC) in Kuala Lumpur.

2022 can be considered as a transition year from the pandemic era to the post-pandemic era. As most activities were done online in 2021, 2022 has seen a mix of online, physical and hybrid events. In summary, the Malaysia Chapter has organized a total of 85 activities in 2022 consisting of the followings:
- 24 administrative and strategic meetings.
- 39 technical activities.
- 10 professional development and industry relation activities.
- 10 Pre-U STEM programs.
- 1 humanitarian activity.
- 1 non-technical (social) activity.
- 1 flagship conference.
- 2 technical co-sponsored conferences.

The biggest highlight of 2022 is probably the 2022 IEEE ComSoc School Series Kuala Lumpur, from June 20th to 23rd, 2022. The event was originally planned for a hybrid event, but due to a lot of uncertainties, especially with the traveling restriction, the event was conducted virtually instead. Nonetheless, the event saw a total of 172 registered participants coming from all over the world and the four-day virtual event with the theme of "Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on Communications" featured 12 talks and two hands-on sessions by speakers coming from eight different countries, including seven from the ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer Program (DLP). The event was officiated by ComSoc President, Prof. Xuemin (Sherman) Shen.

Opening of the IEEE ComSoc Summer School Series Kuala Lumpur 2022 by ComSoc President, Prof. Xuemin (Sherman) Shen.

Attendees of the 2nd National Colloquium on Internet of Things (NCIoT) at Multimedia University (MMU) on 10th November 2022.

The chapter has also collaborated with other parties to organize events. The major collaborator in 2022 was the Malaysian Technical Standards Forum Bhd (MTSFB) with whom the chapter has organized the Networking High Tea in Conjunction with the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2022 on May 17th 2022. During this event, an international forum on the topic of "Digital Technologies for Everyone" was also held with panelist from MTSFB, IEEE Malaysia ComSoc/VTS Joint Chapter, and the Telecommunications Standards Development Society India (TSDSI). There were also two Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed during the event, including one between MTSFB and IEEE Malaysia Section to further collaborate in future events.

The second event that was organized together with MTSFB was the second National Colloquium on Internet of Things (NCIoT) on November 10th, 2022. The event was held at Multimedia University (MMU) in Cyberjaya and was attended by around 80 participants coming from the industries, academia, and government. The theme for the second NCIoT was, "IoT for Smart City Applications." The keynote for the event was presented by Dr. Gopinath Rao Sinniah, who is the Chairman of Reference Panel for IoT Standardization in Malaysia from MTSFB. Following the keynote was an industrial forum entitled, "The application of IoT for Smart Cities: Challenges and Future." In the afternoon, the participants were taken for a short visit to the IoT Smart Farm that has been set-up at MMU.

The chapter has also collaborated with MTSFB and IEEE Computer Society Malaysia to co-organize a three-day Network Security Webinar Series from October 17th to 19th, 2022. The webinar was done on three separate days with three different speakers. The first day featured a speaker from the industry in Mr. Norzakimi, the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Nexagate, which is one of the cybersecurity companies in Malaysia with the topic, "Web Security Challenges & What Can We Do About It." The second day featured from the academic in Dr. Muhammad Faiz bin Mohd Zaki from Universiti Malaya (UM) on the topic, "Increasing Network

The industrial forum session during the 2nd National Colloquium on Internet of Things (NCIoT).

Visibility for Enhanced Network Security Monitoring," and the final day featured a representative from MTSFB in Mr. Thaib Mustafa, Chairman, Security, Trust, and Privacy Working Group MTSFB on the topic, "Cloud Security."

Apart from the technical programs, the chapter has also continued to contribute back to the communities by organizing pre-university STEM programs for school students. The program was conducted online through YouTube and Facebook Live during the school holidays. The program had received a very good response from the school children coming from all over the country especially on some of the general topics, such as 5G, Bluetooth, and Satellite. An average of about 1000 students joined each of the online sessions and the sessions have received positive feedback from parents and teachers.

As 2022 was a transition year back to normality, it is hoped that there will be more face-to-face activities to be conducted in 2023. For 2023, the chapter has planned to organize more events that will benefit the members and at the same time expose the importance of the telecommunication technology to the society. In order to attract more members to join the society, we have also planned to collaborate more with other higher institutions and industries.

CHAPTER REPORT

Conferences and Student Activities in Iraq in 2023

by Sattar B. Sadkhan, IEEE ComSoc Iraq Chapter Chair

IEEE ComSoc Iraq Chapter with cooperation with IEEE Iraq section have a great efforts in holding many scientific activities with the Iraqi Universities in all Iraq region (from South to North of Iraq, and Kurdistan Region)... Many Academical friends in these universities invite the Iraq ComSoc Chapter and Section volunteers to participate in making these activities hold in best manner. In this report I will summarize some of the important Activities hold within a part of year 2023. And I hope that any friend read this report will give us his/her opinion about our activities

One of activities was a meeting with (Imam AlKadhum College - Branch of Al-Qadisiya), to discuss the possibilities of holding International Conference in this college technically sponsored by IEEE represented by IEEE Iraq section, IEEE COMSOC Iraq Chapter and IEEE CIS Iraq Chapter at the (Dec. 2023), and we discussed with the dean of college many important aspects that must be considered in order to have a good organized and successful international conference.

Meeting with the Dean of Imam Alkadhum College — Al-Qadisiya Branch.

With the help of God Almighty, we participated in the Third AL-SADIQ International Scientific Conference on Communications and Information Technology, which lasted for three days, from 4-6 July 2023. The conference was organized by Imam Jaafar Al-Sadiq University, and technically sponsored

by IEEE represented by: IEEE Iraq section IEEE COMSOC Iraq Chapter and IEEE CIS Iraq Chapter. Participated in this conference many academics from many Iraqi Universities, and from outside Iraq. It was a great honor for the organizer to have this conference for the first time in (Al-Muthana City) in the South of Iraq region.

The chair of IEEE Iraq, Abbas S. Bader, in cooperation with IEEE Iraq section, organize Student Activities (September 2023) in Babylon City, Communication Institute of Iraq – Ministry of Communication. The second time, the communication Institute of Iraq supported the IEEE Iraq Activities, especially with for the students in Secondary Schools. One of the Universities in Babylon city, Al-Mustaqbal University, supports this event and many other students' scientific effects.

Many students from Secondary Schools were invited to participate their scientific activities within their education and learning different scientific topics. It was a very interesting activity because many students were participating in their talks and their ideas about how to think in the future and how they can offer acceptable future projects.

One of other important International scientific activities was holding the International Conference of Kerbala University- Pure Science College (Sept. 24-26, 2023), the fourth International Scientific Conference, and the seventh National Science Conference 2023- ISC-SNC-2023. The Conference technically sponsored by IEEE represented by IEEE Iraq section, IEEE COMSOC Iraq Chapter, and IEEE CIS Iraq Chapter.

The conference held in cooperation with the Hilla University College at Babylon City. The most important aspects related to this scientific conference is the submitted papers were more than 300 papers, and the final accepted were about 120. Most of the accepted papers were locally submitted by their authors, and just about 20 papers were submitted online. The conference was successfully organized by the organizer.

One of the very active scientific Universities in the Kurdistan Region in North of Iraq – Erbil city, is the Ishik International University. In October, we have an invitation from the

Third AL-SADIQ International Scientific Conference – Al-Muthana City.

Student Activities in Babylon City.

Precedence of the university, to signing the MoU with Ishik International University, for organizing new IEEE Conference Scientifically sponsored by IEEE represented by IEEE Iraq Section. Also, the International Scientific (SSD) Group will be considered as organizer for this conference. The conference will be held in April 2024. The Signing of The Conference MoU was with the Main Chair of Ishik International University (Prof. Dr. Idress).

IEEE ComSoc WICE Event at IEEE Education Society Leadership Summit, Vizag, India

by Mallellu Sai Prashanth, Deputy Chair (Publicity), IEEE Comsoc WICE, India

The Event at IEEE Education Society Leadership Summit 2023 and IEEE COMSOC WICE track mainly focused on:
• Hands on workshop on cybersecurity and digital forensics.
• Coding contest for women coders.
• Mentor and mentee interaction workshop planning on mentoring activity plenary.
• Talk on advancements in 60 communication technologies.
• Panel discussion on Women in STEM and Engineering Career.

Workshops and mentoring sessions are invaluable for individuals and organizations looking to bolster their cybersecurity and digital forensics capabilities, as they provide both theoretical knowledge and practical experience in dealing with security threats and digital investigations. Introduction to digital forensics, its importance in cyber investigations, and an overview of cybersecurity concepts, importance, and the evolving threat landscape.

1. Practical exercises on setting up a secure environment.
2. Identifying vulnerabilities and potential threats.
3. Conducting network and system security assessments.
4. Learning to use various cybersecurity tools and software.

Hosting a coding contest specifically for women coders is a great way to encourage and support diversity in the tech industry.

The main objectives of this coding contest are:
• Promoting diversity and inclusion in the tech industry.
• Showcasing the coding talents of women coders.
• Providing a platform for networking and skill development.
• Encouraging women to pursue careers in technology.

A panel discussion like this can serve as a platform for sharing experiences, strategies, and insights to empower women in STEM and engineering, while also inspiring others to work towards greater diversity and inclusion in these fields.

The program's conclusion was marked by a Mentor and Mentee Interaction Workshop, where participants had the opportunity to reflect on their mentoring experiences. This event served as a platform for mentors and mentees to celebrate their achievements and to engage in discussions about their future plans. It was a moment to recognize and appreciate the growth and success that had been achieved through these meaningful mentoring relationships. The IEEE Education Society Leadership Summit provided an ideal

backdrop for this culmination, emphasizing the program's commitment to fostering professional and personal growth within the society.

The impact of the IEEE ComSoc WICE Track Event resonated deeply with its diverse audience. Participants, numbering 400 strong, left the event with a newfound confidence in their ability to secure digital environments. Practical exercises on setting up secure systems had a profound effect on their skill sets, empowering them to contribute to the defense of critical digital infrastructures. They departed with the knowledge and practical experience needed to identify vulnerabilities and potential threats, thereby making a tangible difference in the realm of cybersecurity.

For women in the tech industry, the coding contest was a source of inspiration and motivation. It showcased the incredible coding talents of female coders, proving that they are just as capable and innovative as their male counterparts. The event spurred a sense of empowerment, pushing women to pursue careers in technology with greater determination.

Networking opportunities and skill development platforms provided by the event fostered a strong sense of community and camaraderie among the attendees. This not only bolstered their professional connections but also left them feeling more integrated and valued within the tech industry.

In summary, the impact of the IEEE ComSoc WICE Track Event was profound. It left participants with enhanced cybersecurity skills, inspired a new generation of female tech enthusiasts, and provided them with a supportive network to propel their careers forward. The event empowered its audience to contribute positively to the tech industry and reinforced the importance of diversity and inclusion in the field.

Delegates at IEEE Leadership Summit 2023 & IEEE COMSOC WICE Support Activities.