ComSoc RCCC EMEA
June 15-16, 2009

Notes

June 15

Before starting the meeting we took pictures of the group. All attendees but Carole Swaim and Dmitri Tkachenko were available for the picture, as well as some of the ComSoc Executives

The chapter chairs and a few visitors from some Sister Societies introduced themselves before the formal program began.

Doug Zuckerman, ComSoc President, welcomed the group, and Byeong Gi Lee, VP Member Relations gave an overview of the membership structure in ComSoc at the executive level, and the relationship with the Sister Societies. Shri Goyal, Membership Services, gave details of the programs. Shri requested that people contact him if they are willing to assist with the Industry Relations work. Alex Gelman then spoke about the involvement of ComSoc in Standards under development in IEEE.

Chapters each presented information about their local activities. First **B**ulgaria (40 members and 15 students). They held a DLT this year. They are having problems attracting people to join IEEE. **Central Ukraine** has about 40 ComSoc members in their joint Chapter. They run one successful conference. **Croatia** has 142 members. The Past Chair represented the Chapter. They ran about 10 technical meetings and supported 2 conferences, with 3 DL tours over the past years. **Czechoslovakia** Chapter is a joint chapter with about 50 members of ComSoc. They supported 3 conferences this year and a journal. They also ran a student conference for people from 153 sections, and have been involved with a number of others. **Cyprus** Chapter is also joint with Computer, but they plan to split this year. **Finland** Chapter has 250 people on the mailing list, but some might not be active. They have sponsored DLT's and conferences. The **German** Chapter includes about 250 members, and they support 5 or 6 conferences each year. **Hungary** Chapter is a joint Chapter. There are about 200 members from ComSoc, with the next largest number being 60. They have supported two conferences in the past two years. **Israel** Chapter falls into a Section with 1800 members, with 206 members of ComSoc. The Chapter holds an annual conference, and they have also supported 2 other conferences. **Krakow** is one of 3 Chapters in Poland (Posnan, Warsaw and Krakow) They have held about 10 technical meetings in the past year, and supported a conference. They have a number of very prominent ComSoc members in the Chapter. They would like to increase participation locally. They

would like to be able to express more benefits that come with membership. **Poznan** Chapter joins east and west of Europe. They have about 100 members. They hold technical meetings and they have sponsored 2 DL's in the past 3 years. They also support a conference. **Lithuania** is also a joint Chapter, and they have members from 4 universities, 3 institutes and 2 companies. Many of their members are in senior positions so they are trying to encourage more to become senior members. They held 10 technical meetings this year, and they are working with Poland on a conference. They support 2 annual conferences. They also give awards to Young Scientists. They evaluated Masters Theses. **Nigeria** is a young Chapter. They created their vision and mission and they plan to provide networking opportunities to achieve these. They want to partner with industry, academia and student activities. They are planning technical, non-technical and professional meetings. **Portugal** Chapter has about 200 members. They have only operators and branches of manufacturers. They run monthly seminars this year which attract 50-100 people. **St. Petersburg** Chapter is one of 3 Chapters in Russia, and it is a joint Chapter. They have won ComSoc and Regional Achievement awards. They have supported 3 or 4 conferences. They opened an IEEE milestone relayed to telegraph. The city is a brother city of Dresden, and also of other European cities. **Serbia** Chapter is joint with Montenegro. Most events happen in Belgrade. They have 120 members in a 600 member Section. They are trying to increase their membership. All activities are shared with their Telecom National Society. They run 10-12 technical meetings each year, and they support 3-4 conferences each year. They run a large conference which is free for all participants, thanks to local sponsorship. **Slovenia** Chapter is one of 4 Chapters in Slovenia. They work with a local Society for Electronic Communication, including a workshop twice each year with 150 attendees. They sponsored two DL's over the past 3 years and an invited speaker. They run events with the student branch to increase that membership. They received $500 support from ComSoc this year. **South Africa** Chapter has the fastest growing telecom industry this year (Africa in total). The Section has 1000 full IEEE members, with 171 belonging to the joint chapter, 125 ComSoc. They hope to also sign a Sister Society agreement. They run technical seminars, some visiting lecturers and have supported AFRICON and a local industry oriented conference. They have good industry involvement. **Sweden** Chapter is also a joint Chapter with 693 members. They supported 2 workshops last year, as well as 3 DLT's, and they plan 2 more for the fall of 2009. **Turkey** Chapter has about 700 members. Membership jumped in 2006. They run 20-30 technical workshops each year, about half of which host international visitors. They also host 1-2 DLT's each year. They technically cosponsored two conferences. In 2007 they won the Chapter Achievement award.

Dinner for this group will be held on site tonight.

June 16

The morning sessions were interchanged to fit the on-site schedules of the speakers. Jacob Baal Schem provided much good information on the policies, rules and possibilities for running conferences.
John Pape spoke about marketing and Carole Swaim gave the info on admin and support.

Andrzej Jajszczyk provided information on all the ComSoc technical committees and their programs. David Alvarez showed the ComSoc web site and encouraged people to become involved in the communities, and possibly start web sites. Celia Desmond spoke about WCET, and encouraged Chapters to help sell the program, and to offer training for people to prepare for the exam. Shri Goyal invited 4 Chapter Chairs to participate in a panel addressing increasing ComSoc membership. Croatia, Slovenia, Turkey, and Hungary each spoke about different things they have been doing to increase membership. Gabe Jacobsen spoke about the need for engagement of volunteers and our motivation for this, and ways in which ComSoc can assist. There was quite a bit of discussion about certain offers such as free membership for one year for a student who pays full price for a conference, and the problem of no-shows at conferences, which is quite disturbing to the Chapters. Chapters would like to be consulted more for their suggestions on how programs could be run so that local inputs could be incorporated. Roberto Saracco gave the information about the ComSoc Sister Societies.

In the afternoon Costas Stasopoulos spoke about Region 8,with many statistics on IEEE overall as well. Region 8 has 70,000 members, 56 Sections 450 Chapters. Region 8 has the 56 Chairs, 8 admin members and 15 non-voting members. Joseph Modelski is the current Director. They run 4 technical conferences, plus the administrative meetings such as Student Branch meetings and GOLD congress. There have been 2 student branch congresses. Peter Magyar spoke about the Chapter activities in Region 8. Most of these are single Society Chapters and single section, but about 25% are joint across Societies, and 5% joint across Sections. Most are in Europe and Siberia (86%), with 8% in middle east and 6% in Africa. ComSoc has more Chapters than any other, if you take multiple Society Chapters, but if you look at single Chapters there are only 26 while Computer and Power Electronics both have more. The region has a chapter coordination committee with 16 members in 2008, but a new structure in 2009 of 6 members. They coordinate the information and communication amongst the Chapters and other entities such as MGA and Societies. This RCCC is one of 5 such meetings to be held in Region 8 this year. They have a Chapter of the Year Award which they present each year. They received 12 nominations foe this in 2008, with Ukraine and Germany winning. Hermann Rohling gave information about the activities of the Communications Chapter in the German Section. The section hosted 7 large

conferences in the past year, with 2 planned for the next months as well. They held a Germany student conference in 2009, which was supported by industry as well. Meetings are held in English (and even some university classes are held in English!). Jacob Baal Schem spoke about IEEE History and life members.

The final session was an opportunity for feedback and expression of needs by the Chapter Chairs. Appreciation to ComSoc for the meeting was expressed. The attendees would like to receive the information presented at the meeting. The presentations will be provided (by the presenters) to Carole Swaim so that these can be posted on the web. Two concerns did come forward either during this session or during other discussions. There was concern that the selection of EIC's and some other significant ComSoc positions (such as DL) does not seem to represent regions outside North America, and appears in many cases also not result in the filling of positions by the most qualified people. One suggestion was that calls for such positions be posted and distributed to the Chapters in addition to any current distribution, so that they can submit names of people they know who might be qualified. A second request was that ComSoc hold the RCCC's at a time and place that would enable the ComSoc executives, at least those from the membership area, to attend at least the presentations of the chapter presentations. They were disappointed that no one attended their presentations at this meeting. Overall the impression of the meeting was very positive.