

EAME Regional Chapter Chairs' Congress

11-12 June 2001 at ICC 2001 Helsinki

Attending:

Trevor Clarkson (EAME Director and UK Chapter), Roberto de Marca (ComSoc President), Doug Zuckerman (VP Membership Development), Levent Onural (Region 8 Director).

Luc Vandendorpe (Belgium), Rossitza Goleva (Bulgaria), Jan Simsa (Czech Republic), Matti Latva-Aho (Finland), Ramesh Pyndiah (France), Athanasios Kanatas (Greece), Adam Livne (Israel), Francesco Vatalaro (Italy), Steinar Andresen (Norway), Andrzej R Pach (Poland, Krakow), Michael Piorro (Poland, Warsaw), Boris Kapilevich (Russia, Novosibirsk), Oleg Stoukatch (Russia, Tomsk), Dimitry Tkachenko (St. Petersburg), Sall Karr (Saudi Arabia), Marko Jagodic (Slovenia), Francisco-Javier González Serrano (Spain), Erdal Panayirci (Turkey), Yuri M. Poplavko (Ukraine), Djordje Paunovic (Yugoslavia),

Programme

Presentations were made by the following persons and this information is contained in the documentation supplied at the meeting, except (e & f).

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| a) The EAME Region | Trevor Clarkson |
| b) Overview of ComSoc | Celia L. Desmond |
| c) ComSoc membership services | Horst Bessai |
| d) Staff people and responsibilities | Carole Swaim and John Pape |
| e) Regional events and support | Jozef Modelski and Jacob Baal-Schem |
| f) ComSoc membership programs | Byeong Gi Lee (on Tuesday) |

Break-out sessions (Techniques for successful Chapters)

a) Volunteer issues for Chapters

The list below is not prioritised.

1. Recruit committee members; *personal contact is the only way, use national society contacts, plan ahead for replacement of officers every 2 years.*
2. Recruit new members; *mainly at student member level, use Comms Magazine to attract new members, special recruitment actions.*
3. Retaining members; *organise interesting activities for accompanying persons. Suggested that student members may join several societies and then move to a single area of interest on graduation - hence membership is lost.*
4. Keeping existing members active; *through topical seminars (must be held regularly), through employer involvement.*
5. Relationship with national societies; *a means of adding members*
6. Student membership; *active involvement, student branches*
7. Avoid the Chapter or members lapsing; *regular follow-up.*

b) What ComSoc support is required to help Chapters?

The issues were prioritised as follows:

1. Show the value of ComSoc membership for professionals and students. *A leaflet which contains this information was presented to the meeting on Tuesday.*
2. (a) Maintain an up-to-date email list for every Chapter, with an alias.
(b) Provide access to the email lists of major conferences for marketing events.
3. ComSoc to provide a certification program for communications engineers

4. Mechanism to bid for a conference at the Chapter site.
5. Provide educational material for other certification programs.
6. Provide SAMIEEE information to the Chapter Chairs

c) Formats for successful Chapter activities

1. Lectures: *e.g. mobile phone hazards, optical networking, IP networks and beyond, 3G, Bluetooth, e-commerce, WAP, GPRS, Security.*
2. Joint activities with other Chapters or the national society.
3. Breakfast meetings.
4. Student lunches (free) followed by a seminar.
5. Invite key speakers.
6. Advertise effectively.
7. Organise company events.
8. Local workshops and conferences, with awards.
9. Fee incentives.
10. Employment seminars.
11. Company-sponsored awards.
12. Student Project Prize.
13. Best-performance undergraduate prize.
14. Travel prizes (to IEEE/ComSoc events).
15. Free half-year membership programmes.

d) Recommendations to ComSoc for new or revised programs

Prioritised as follows:

1. Student support programmes; *modify regional assessment esp. for younger members in low-income countries, advertise the graduated dues program, paper prizes, project prizes, PhD support, student paper contest, summer schools.*
2. Joint Chapter activities; *invite an in-Region Chapter - 2 day meeting, social activities, industrial visits, long-term collaboration.*
3. Local EAME workshops: *support MELECON, EUROCON, AFRICON with ComSoc workshops (called ComSoc8), provide travel grants, subsidised conference registrations.*
4. Incentives to retain (senior) volunteers; *subsidised dues, travel grants, appoint a representative in university departments, make use of retired members.*
5. Fast delivery of publications; *improve on current mailing methods without requiring air-mail supplement. [Post-RCCC: this has been addressed by the Communication Society starting with the June 2001 Communications Magazine]*

e) Topics for GCCC or future RCCCs

1. New-idea sessions,
2. Update on progress of RCCC actions,
3. Effective email list
4. Facility to advertise major Chapter events to other Chapters in the Region by email; *announcement and post-conference report is free in Region 8 newsletter if written as editorial, advertisements are chargeable.*
5. Location of future GCCCs should not always be in the USA.