



APB Office Report - Distinguished Lecture Tours in 2001 by Fanny Su

As we wrap up the year 2001, the Asia Pacific took up the full allotment of 5 DLTs for each region. Recent events that restricted travel did not make it possible for Dr. Vijay Bhargava to follow through with a 6th DLT for our Region in early December.

We want to thank Dr. Justin Chuang, Dr. Vijay Bhargava and Dr. Salah Aidarous for the DLTs that they undertook for us in 2001. We are especially grateful for their patience and resolve to continue with the DLT during the difficult period immediately after the 11 Sept terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York when flights to and from the United States were disrupted. Dr. Vijay Bhargava was stranded in Australia for an additional 5 days and Dr. Salah Aidarous was on daily stand-by for flight departure from the United States.

30 June - 8 July 2001 DLT by Dr. Salah Aidarous

Dr. Salah Aidarous gave his lectures in Bangkok(Thailand), Kuala Lumpur(Malaysia) and Singapore. It was the first time that Thailand had hosted a ComSoc DLT. Participation throughout the DLT was very high with a good audience mix from academia, industry and students. Chapter chairs took this opportunity to recruit new IEEE members. It was a positive technical and social interaction for Dr. Salah Aidarous to enable intellectual discussions on common challenges faced in different parts of the world.

9 - 14 Aug 2001 DLT by Dr. Justin Chuang

The DLT hosted by the New South Wales Joint Signal Processing /ComSoc Chapter, the Queensland Section and the Malaysia ComSoc Chapter was attended by about 120 people from a mix of industry and academia. The audience at the University of Technology, Sydney and at the Queensland University were enthusiastic and posed a lot of questions. Hospitality extended by his hosts in Malaysia was exceptional and commended by Dr. Justin Chuang.

4-12 Sept 2001 DLT by Dr. Vijay Bhargava

Dr. Vijay Bhargava was hosted by 4 Chapters in Australia : North Queensland Section/Joint Chapter MTT/COMSOC, New South Wales COMSOC Chapter, ACT COMSOC/SP Chapter, and Victorian COMSOC Chapter. His two topics of presentation entitled "Wireless Internet Access Using IMT 2000/Wireless Local Area Networks" and "Capacity Enhancement and Enabling Techniques for Third Generation Wireless Systems" was attended by over 130 people in Townsville, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. His DLT was the inaugural talk of the newly formed MTT/COMSOC joint Chapter in North Queensland. The hosting Chapters' hospitality was very much appreciated by Dr. Vijay Bhargava and his wife, Yolande during his travel there.

16-25 Sept 2001 by Dr. Salah Aidarous

Hong Kong/Melbourne/Adelaide

Dr. Salah Aidarous has kindly agreed to allow to reproduce his Distinguished Lecture Tour report for our AP newsletter. Please find below his report.

Introduction

It was a challenge to realize this tour after all the long planning during the last 5 months. Finally the date of departure came, September 11th, and I have to go to the airport in the morning. In the taxi to the radio announced the attack on New York, and the closing of all airports in the USA. After arriving to the airport, I realized that there will be no travel from/to the USA for undetermined time. Two days after, Dallas airport started flying and within the busy situation they found a seat to Hong Kong via Osaka on Saturday September

15th. I went to the airport at 8:00 AM (the flight was at 11:30 AM), and went through the checking procedure, which took 3 hours including security. There was also, the security checking procedures for the plane. The flight took off at 2:30 PM, the result I missed my connection from Osaka. This was the last connection to Hong Kong, and I have to spend the night in Osaka!

Hong Kong

After arriving to Osaka, I telephoned Prof. Paul Kwok from Osaka to inform him about my delay and change of arriving date. He informed the hotel and arranged my transportation from the airport accordingly. I arrived to Hong Kong on Monday 17th and went to the hotel. The presentation took place on Tuesday, September 18th, in the University of Hong Kong. It was well attended and the session was very interactive, specially dealing with business aspects as drivers for new services beside the technology. The subject "Challenges in Management of IP-based Networks" was very timely and generated a lot of questions. The talk discussed the current market trends, and the telecom technology evolution with a focus on services. It is unclear the impact of the current situation of the telecom industry on the progress of IP-based services. May be it is an area that needs more discussions in the ComSoc chapters. It is also of interest to the academic community to identify the priority problems for the telecom industry to focus some of their resources work. The day was completed with a typical Chinese dinner with the chapter.

Melbourne

After flying 11 hours flying from Hong Kong, I arrived to Melbourne and my visit to the Victorian Chapter started on Thursday September 20th. The presentation was arranged in State Library Theatre, in downtown Melbourne. That increased the participation by making the talk accessible to a large number of people. Participants were representing a good mix of academia and the industry, which generated a good environment for discussion. The focus of the presentation was on the impact of the new technology on the business of telecommunication and how IP technology can introduce new directions. It was clear from the discussions the important role of research in the telecom industry and how to manage expectations on both sides. It looks like the fast pace of technology evolution and the resulted short life cycles have created a gap between academia and industry. The audience recommended more interaction between the two worlds. The day was ended with a nice gourmet dinner organized by Enn Vinnal. It was interesting to know that the power supply adapter in Australia is different from the British adaptor, which I brought with me. I was trying to be prepared, but!

Adelaide

The short flight from Melbourne to Adelaide was very nice and relaxing. It was interesting to fly across the eastern coast of Victoria. Arriving to Adelaide as scheduled and moved to the hotel. Miro Kraetzl and Peter Shoubridge organized the meeting in the Institute for Telecommunications research, University of South Australia. The audience was from the staff of the institute plus some people from the industry, mainly the department of defense. There were a lot of interactive discussion about the type of broadband services that can be successfully introduced by service provider, and generate profit (e.g., killer application). It is apparent the need to have a business model that is acceptable for service providers, equipment vendors, and software supplier that can sustain the new service.

Conclusions

It is very importance for ComSoc to have DLT tours extended to the different overseas chapters to maintain and promote membership. It is not easy to organize such tours due difficulties in telecommunications and long travel time, which needs months in advance to schedule a tour. Thanks to Fanny Su, who has done a great job of coordinating this tour. This made my travel easier with the events in New York last month. Finally, I would like to thank Byeong Gi Lee, Naohisa Ohta, and Carole Swaim for their support. I wish also to thank the Chapter Chairmen for making my stay pleasant.

Dr. Salah Aidarou

We hope to be able to encourage our Asia Pacific Chapters to take up the full allotment of 5 DLTs for the region in 2002. The continuing success of the DLT program is credited to our dedicated ComSoc Chapter chairs and their committees in providing the local arrangements and extending their kind hospitality to visiting Distinguished Lecturers. Please do not hesitate to contact us or the AP ComSoc Chapters Coordinator Committee chair for your interest and information on DLTs in the Asia Pacific.