

Minutes of the teleconference meeting held on 28th May, 2007

Members present: Richard, Bob, Subhas, Duncan, Keith, Greg, Colin

Apologies: Murray, Mengjie, Edmond and Mansoor

Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed in principle.

Update on Section status:

Subhas reported that he has collected signatures of 52 full members and prepared the necessary paper-work to lodge the application for converting our Sub-section into a full Section. The complete application along with all supporting documentation has been posted to IEEE HQ Regional activities. (Hopefully they have received it!) We expect to hear from them by the end of June or the beginning of July. **ACTION:** Subhas will follow up to ensure progress on this matter.

Financial report:

Duncan confirmed that we currently have NZ \$649.00 in the bank. (This is unchanged from the previous meeting report.) It is expected that we shall receive a rebate of around \$1000-\$1200 US dollars from IEEE via IEEE NZ South. IEEE usually starts disbursement of these funds from about April - but so far we have not received any money.

Meeting activities

It has been agreed that Douglas Webb will be the speaker for a June 20th breakfast meeting. The funding/sponsorship part needs to be sorted out with IET and IPENZ. Discussions of this point lead to the expressing of concern about approaching Telecom NZ, Telstra Clear or Vodafone. It is likely that our speaker may say some controversial things and aligning him with one or other of these players could be a politically sensitive problem. Furthermore, it was surmised that Transpower could also be a politically sensitive problem, given that it also on-sells bandwidth and may need to be considered as biased in this debate. Two options were considered: 1) Douglas Webb could be discreetly approached to determine whether he could self-sponsor the talk. (Is there funds in the Commission to enable him to talk at such a forum?) 2) Massey and Victoria could be approached for some support as they would be seen to be more neutral players. Richard suggested that he may be able to find support via the ECDC Centre at Massey. **ACTION:** Richard to follow up with this information and liaise with IET and IPENZ concerning this breakfast event.

Prof. Gurvinder Virk will be contacted to give a presentation some time in July 2007 as originally suggested. **ACTION:** Richard to approach Gurvinder and locate a convenient date and topic for his presentation.

Duncan is planning to organize a seminar by James Moore, some time in the week starting from 13th August. James Moore is a well known figure in the area of Software Standardization. This would be a joint activity by IPENZ, IEEE and IET and will have seminars in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington.

Bob suggested Duncan to schedule the seminar in the early evening to enable Palmerston North members to attend as they are likely to be very interested in the talk. **ACTION:** Duncan to advise on the best way to proceed with this opportunity.

Student membership

The members have discussed many options but there still needs to be a concrete proposal for such an activity. Bob alerted the Committee to a forthcoming major event in Palmerston North, viz: Da Vinci Machines. This event, to be held at Te Manawa is likely to attract many visitors, including potential student members. The idea would be to develop an event associated with this exhibition where we could promote the IEEE and encourage student membership of our Society. **ACTION:** Bob to prepare a suggested activity associated with this event to be presented to the committee for consideration. **ACTION:** All committee members to give further consideration to a student event.

Newsletter

ACTION: Richard to sketch a text based Newsletter and the announcement concerning Douglas Webb's presentation (with RSVP form) would be included as a pdf attachment when circulated to members.

Web reports

Richard requested Keith to update the web site and upload few other activities. **ACTION:** Keith to incorporate the pdf file announcing the breakfast meeting on the site and add recent meeting minutes and make some minor corrections to the site.

Other Business

1) ATNAC 2007 Co-sponsorship:

Via an email poll of the committee members there has been support for the IEEE Central Sub-section's Technical Co-sponsorship of the ATNAC 2007 conference. **ACTION:** Subhas (with Richard's assistance) to prepare a letter of support to be forwarded to the ATNAC Committee confirming this Technical Co-sponsorship.

2) Fundraising activities:

Due to our ongoing lack of funds it has not been possible to organize a few activities in recent times. Subhas requested all members to come up with some different ideas as how to raise funds to make our sub-section or section more viable and financially independent. Some discussion took place and it is expected that there will be more in ideas at the next meeting. Some ideas such as organization of tutorials, workshops, or a seminar by an expert on a burning issue etc came out as possible suggestions. **ACTION:** Committee members to consider ways of strengthening our financial situation through the hosting of fund-raising events.

Next committee meeting

The members all agreed to have the next meeting on 25th June, 2007 at 4.30 pm. The meeting is planned to be conducted via the audio-link once again.