

## 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 Pioro (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).

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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.