



# A U R U M

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The Canadian Newsletter for IEEE GOLD  
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## Editor`s Corner

Hello

As we say hello to 2010 let's wave goodbye to a very successful 2009 by recapping some of the year's highlights and thanking Dan for reinvigorating the Canadian GOLD.

Canadian GOLD came back to life in 2009 in a big way under Dan Coode's strong leadership as IEEE Canada Gold Chair. His major accomplishments include holding the Gold Congress in September, reviving Aurum and reestablishing affinity groups in Southern Alberta and South Saskatchewan.

Holding Gold Congress was a major undertaking and it was organized and conducted exceptionally well. A vision for Canadian GOLD and a number of key initiatives were developed along with providing much needed training for new Gold chairs. Thank you Dan for setting GOLD back on track and saving it from becoming a dysfunctional unit.

I like to welcome April Khademi – our new Canada GOLD Chair. She is a very capable and accomplished person, I am confident GOLD will continue to flourish under her leadership in 2010.

This is my last issue as Editor. If you are interested in this role please contact April.

Lastly, I like to thank Christian Pepin and his team for providing timely French translation of Aurum.

**Ahsan Upal**  
**Publisher, Aurum**

## GOLD Canada Chairs

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### **GOLD Canada Chair**

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## About Aurum

"Aurum" is Latin word for "gold" and is where the periodic symbol Au originates. The Aurum newsletter is published biannually each year, with the next issue being in June 2010. The next deadline for submissions is April 30, 2010.

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## IEEE Canada GOLD Chair's Farewell Address

Dan Coode, IEEE Canada Gold Coordinator

As 2009 ends, so does my tenure as the IEEE Canada's GOLD Regional Coordinator / Chair. This has been a terrific year, in which I have learned a great deal, made new friends and feel a sense of accomplishment. My goal this year was to generate interest in GOLD across Canada and engage volunteers to become more active with the IEEE.

Notable achievements in 2009 were the revival of the IEEE Aurum - many thanks to Ahsan for his work here. Our second ever IEEE Canada GOLD Congress where we 18 participants representing sections across the country attended. And the many events, especially STEP events that were held at sections across the region.

IEEE Canada or region 7 has 3,446 GOLD members as of the end of the year and 16 GOLD affinity groups. If your section does not yet have a GOLD Affinity Group, I encourage you to get involved and start one. If your section has an affinity group and you're not actively involved, I encourage you to attend or volunteer at their next event. The IEEE and GOLD can be a rewarding experience that gives you leadership training, teamwork skills, networking, continued education, and of course lots of FUN!

As I stay involved with the IEEE, I hope to continue working with all the volunteers I worked with this year. To all the 2010 GOLD volunteers and especially April Khademi, the incoming IEEE Canada GOLD Chair, I wish the best of luck. I wish everyone a warm and successful new year.

## Free E-book Titles and Access to Archived Webinars to All IEEE Members

In response to Section Congress recommendation, the IEEE is offering e-books and webinars free to all IEEE members.

Check out the free e-books and archived webinars at:

<http://www.ieeeusa.org/careers/gpa/>

## IEEE Canada GOLD Congress - September 2009

Dan Coode, IEEE Canada Gold Coordinator

On September 19 & 20, 2009 the IEEE Canada GOLD Congress was held in Mississauga, Ontario. The Congress was very well attended with 12 section affinity groups represented by 18 delegates. Joe Lillie, MGA Vice-President, also attended to provide guidance and training to the attendees.

The Congress consisted of a day and half of training and group activities. Joe provided a professional development presentation on the leadership skills learned from the IEEE. Luc Matteau, gave a presentation on the IEEE Canada Foundation. I provided training on the IEEE & IEEE Canada organization, GOLD Affinity Group requirements and best practices. A presentation on IEEE membership and one on the STEP program were also provided along with a presentation on Aurum by Ahsan Upal. Group activities included discussions and brainstorming on GOLD affinity group events and their associated merits. The second group activity was identifying what regional initiatives could be done to assist affinity group efforts at a section level. The initiatives identified were:

1. Provide marketing material for use in GOLD advertising in the sections
2. Establish a regular reporting mechanism for GOLD AG
3. Establish regular regional teleconferences
4. Establish a document repository for sharing of information
5. Provide new GOLD AG Chairs training when they first begin their job

These regional initiatives were identified in smaller groups. These groups have formed into working groups to continue the work that was started. These initiatives have been stalled recently but I fully expect to be completed for yearend or early in the new Year.

Attendees were sent a survey for their feedback on the Congress. The response rate was less than half but responses were very positive. The results will be used to improve future GOLD Congresses and show the value of the regional and section contributions made.

My thanks go out to Cathie Lowell for arranging many of the logistical details for the congress. Thanks also go to the regions and sections for their funding, helping make this congress a success. And most of all, my thanks to the participants for attending and getting involved.

For a list of Congress attendees please read the next article by Michael G. Plonka.

## IEEE Canada Gold Workshop 2009

Michael G. Plonka, Toronto GOLD

This September, IEEE Canada Gold held their 2009 congress at the charming Delta Airport West hotel in Mississauga Ontario, at which this year's participants heard from IEEE members Joe Lillie, Luc Matteau, Dan Coode as well as each other's regional representatives to discuss how to improve the Canadian GOLD affinity group and various other interests of IEEE.

To begin the first day, Joe Lillie shared his thoughts and perspectives on leadership and the geographic activities of IEEE members. Afterwards, Dan spoke about the IEEE GOLD vision, and its mission, goals and objectives as well as IEEE member benefits and their recent improvements and developments. Following lunch, the group collaborated on several fronts to address new ideas for potential events, activities or sessions including career talks, charity challenges, leadership seminars and so on. And of course, the dinner that followed was terrific.

By day two, we all had the chance to meet and so started graciously again with news from Luc Matteau on the IEEE Canadian Foundation and its recent grants and scholarships. The latter part of the morning involved further collaborations although this time, to address new ideas for other potential IEEE Canada GOLD initiatives. Before lunch, congress concluded with presentations from each region's representative that shared their recent accomplishments.

In attendance were

Dan Coode	Canada GOLD Chair
Ahsan Upal	Northern Canada
Reinaldo Tonkoski	Montreal
Rashed (Ronnie) Minhaz	Winnipeg
Qiao Wei	Calgary
Yani Jazayeri	Southern Alberta
Simon Delisle	St. Maurice
Michael Plonka	Toronto
Terence Monteith	North Saskatchewan
Vahab Kamranpoor	Toronto
Koragod Saenchai	Southern Saskatchewan
Kyle Brett	Ottawa
Anissa Shaddy	Ottawa
Peter Pearl	Halifax
Rahul Thadani	Winnipeg
Glen Tang	Vancouver
Evan Thompson	Winnipeg
Dan Hosseinzadeh	Toronto
Robert Cove	Newfoundland

## Toronto GOLD Highlights

Vahab Kamranpoor, Toronto Gold Industrial Relations

Toronto GOLD is planning for a very exciting year in 2010. We are currently working to organize a number of interesting events that will focus on a variety of topics including, green energy, financial engineering, and biomedical image processing. In addition, we also plan to organize social events in order to bring together the membership and promote networking and excitement for our members.

Hope to see all of you at our next event on February 18, 2009 on the UofT campus for an exciting discussion panel on the future of green energy in Ontario and Canada. We have brought together an impressive group of engineers, executives, and professors to help us explore this area.

Here are a couple of pictures from our past events in 2009.



Graduation Social Event (May 2009)



One of the lucky winners of an iPod Shuffle raffle posing with Rob Kamranpoor (Vice Chair) and Maral Seraji (past VP Events)



Dan Hossienzadeh (Chair) and April Khademi (Past Chair) standing by the GOLD booth

## **Toronto GOLD Executive Committee**

Chair	Dan Hosseinzadeh
Vice Chair	Vahab Kamranpoor
Secretary	Raymond Phan
Treasurer	Omar Falou
VP Industrial Relations	Pearl (Ke) Cao
VP Events	Hamed Rasouli
VP Membership Development	Jose Reyes
Past Chair	April Khademi

## **Toronto GOLD Upcoming Events**

Date: February 18, 2010	Green Energy Discussion Panel
Date: April / May, 2010	Undergrad Graduation Social
Date: TBA, 2010	Financial Engineering Seminar
Date: TBA, 2010	Medical Image Processing Seminar
Date: TBA, 2010	TS GOLD Pub Night

## **Message from Toronto GOLD Past Chair**

It has been my pleasure to serve as Toronto Section GOLD Chair (2 yrs) and Secretary (1 yr) for the last three years. During this time, we organized many successful large scale events, including those with an industrial focus, such “Entrepreneurship in the Electronics Industry” or “Intellectual Property Management”, as well as those with a student focus such as the “Student Elevation and Transition Program” and sponsorship for University of Toronto’s Connections Conference for two years. Through collaboration with other organizations and working with my team, I have learned many new skills that I will take with me. I really appreciate the dedication and hard work of the volunteers who served with me on GOLD – I could not have done any of it without them. Having worked with Dan Hosseinzadeh, the new Toronto Section GOLD Chair, I am confident that he will continue to provide value to the Toronto Section GOLD Members through hard work and dedication.

Although my term with Toronto GOLD is now over, I am pleased to announce that I will continue to contribute to IEEE GOLD in 2010 as Canada’s new GOLD Coordinator. I look forward to working with all the Chairs from across Canada and hope to meet you all soon!

April Khademi,  
Incoming IEEE R7 GOLD Coordinator  
Outgoing IEEE Toronto Section GOLD Chair.

## New Home and Auto Group Insurance Program

The IEEE Financial Advantage Program is pleased to announce that The Personal Insurance Company is now a provider of home and auto group insurance to IEEE Canada members. One of Canada's largest group insurers, The Personal insures members and employees of over 550 organizations and has over 650,000 policies in force across the country.

The advantages of this voluntary benefit include preferred rates not available to the general public, exceptional service, and personalized protection. IEEE Canada members\*, their spouses and dependants\*\* are eligible for this new program.

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\* One must be a member in good standing of the IEEE at the time of application and continue active membership in order to be eligible for the group rates.

\*\* Certain conditions apply.



## Volunteer Wanted: Editor for Aurum Newsletter

Ahsan Upal, Aurum Editor

We are looking for a committed volunteer to become Editor of this fine publication, Aurum.

Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) is a dynamic group of young IEEE members to promotes a well-balanced professional life. GOLD caters to the non-technical aspects of engineering: professionalism, personal development and community involvement. GOLD's only national publication is the Aurum newsletter.

As Editor you are mainly responsible for compiling at 2 to 4 bilingual issues per year. You solicit articles from Gold Chairs from across the country and publish them in PDF on the Gold website. You also manage French translation of each issue thru the help of a French Editor. You must be an IEEE GOLD member. To view past issues please visit the Aurum website:

[http://ieee.ca/gold/news/aurum\\_en.htm](http://ieee.ca/gold/news/aurum_en.htm)

If you are looking for a great way to grow, better your communication skills, and network with fellow engineers from across the country then please send an email to the current editor, Ahsan Upal at [ahsan@ieee.org](mailto:ahsan@ieee.org) or Canada Gold Chair, April Khademi at [akhademi@ieee.org](mailto:akhademi@ieee.org).