

IEEE ComSoc Montreal Chapter Won The 2012 Chapter of Year Award

By Anader Benyamin-Seeyar and Dr. Manijeh Khataie, Montreal ComSoc Chapter, Canada

IEEE Montreal's communication Chapter was led actively by Dr. Vijay Bhargava within 1976 to 1977 with the objective of bringing many technical lectures, tutorials and short courses to Montreal's IEEE COMSOC's membership and other interested communication professionals. Since then, chapter has been very active with many other dedicated engineers such as: Dr. Ahmed K. El-Hakeem, ..., Dr. Reza Soleyman, Dr. Walaa Hamouda, Dr. Anader Benyamin-Seeyar. This chapter is a joined chapter with Information Theory Society. Each year the chapter has been hosting many interesting presentations, mini-conferences and workshops. These programs have greatly benefited members by offering different events such as; Distinguished Lecture Program (DLP), Distinguished Lecture Tour (DLT), supporting major conferences locally and / or with neighboring Sections and joint chapter activities.

IEEE Montreal Section has around 2200 members which is a 12% of all membership within Canada. Montreal Section has 21 Chapters (covers almost 36 technical societies), 3 affinity groups (GOLD, WIE, Life Members) and 1 Pre-University based Teachers In Service Program (TISP) team. Close to 23% of IEEE members in Montreal are member of COM-SOC and it is gradually increasing by encouraging the new graduates and industrial members to join our chapter as we organize seminars, workshops and DLP talks for academia and industrial members.

Last year, IEEE Montreal's Communications Chapter was awarded with a highly prestigious of the "IEEE ComSoc's Chapter of the Year 2012 Award"! This is a remarkable achievement that has made us very proud of our volunteer's dedication and executive members of the Chapter. Dr. Benyamin-Seeyar, Montreal Chapter chair attended to GLOBCOM at Anaheim California to receive the "Chapter of the Year" Award. At the traditional Luncheon Award ceremony for year 2012, began on December 4th, Tuesday afternoon with Awards ceremony Chair, Dr. Andreas Molich, who welcomed all the participants at the conference. At this ceremony, IEEE Montreal Chapter was awarded with the Chapter Achievement Plaque for the Best Communication Chapter for North America, and



Awards Ceremony, left to right Dr. Andreas Molich, Dr. Anader Benyamin-Seeyar, Dr. Vijay Bhargava, Dr. Nelson Fonseca, Vice President of ComSoc Member Relations.

then, another prestigious Award as the Chapter of the Year 2012. Anader was called twice to the podium for these precious Awards. There are a few memorable pictures taken at this luncheon ceremony that are part of this report. Dr. Manijeh Khataie, Chapter's Membership Development officer, also attended the North America Regional Chapter Chairs Congress (NA RCCC) and she made a presentation on major Montreal Chapter's activities. ComSoc NA Region Chapter Chair Congress (NA RCCC) gathering was held during December 6-7, 2012 in Anaheim, California in conjunction with GLOBECOM 2012. The objective of NA RCCC gathering was to improve global chapter activities through sharing experiences of all chapters gathered together annually. This NA RCCC event gave us the opportunities to meet with the other chapter chairs and got many good ideas to improve our activities and also to get familiar more with the IEEE COMSOC programs and supports. This year's NA RCCC gathering will be a memorable for Montreal Chapter for many years to come.



Dr. Khataie is presenting Montreal Chapter's activities at the NA RCCC event.



Dr. Benyamin Seeyar, IEEE Montreal's COMSOC Chapter Chair thanking IEEE COMSOC during Luncheon Award.

Obtaining such Awards was results of multiple factors that have led us to these successful rewards. As Chair of this Chapter, Dr. Benyamin-Seeyar, has devoted his entire career, since year 1973, in various Communications fields, academic and industrial. Throughout of his career he has been gaining tremendous knowledge from IEEE offerings and since year 2000 has come to the point of giving back to his society through participating in the IEEE Standards, making programs and also service offering to the IEEE community. He was the chair of IEEE Montreal section for two consecutive years. Since 2009 he became the chap-

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ter chair of IEEE COMSOC and since then Montreal Chapter has gone through few major changes and has launched many interesting programs by implementing the following process:

a) The first step was to build a dedicated and knowledgeable Chapter team. The COMSOC Montreal executive committee members are as follow:

- Anader Benyamin-Seeyar, IEEE Canada Montreal's Communications, Chapter Chair.
- Reza Soleymani, Communications, Chapter Vice-Chair.
- Manijeh Khataie, Chapter Membership Development (MD).
- Kaveh Moezzi, Chapter Treasurer.
- Jawwad Jamshid, Chapter Secretary.

b) The chapter built close ties and collaborate with other Local and Regional Chapters to share the talks between closely related Chapters such as: IEEE Montreal's Broadcast Technologies (BTS) Chapter, Control Systems Chapter, Aerospace Chapter, Microwave Theory and Technical (MTT) Chapter and Vehicular Technology Society (VTC) Chapter

c) Organized interesting Distinguished Lecturer Tours DLT tours between Eastern Canada and Toronto areas. One of the successful DLT was a tour in Eastern Canada and Toronto area by Prof. Fabrizio Granelli, University of Trento, Italy. This program was done from June 4th to June 15th, 2012 within Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Quebec city, Toronto, Halifax St. John's and Fredericton. The titles of these talks were "Networking and the Smart Grid" and "Green Wireless Communications".

d) Shared Distinguished Speakers with our Sister Sections in USA (Boston and Main) and within Center and Eastern Canada. Example Fly By Wireless (FBW) workshop, which was a joint workshop held in 2010 in Main, 2009 and 2011 in Montreal and 2012 in Ottawa.

e) Organized mini-conferences and workshops between Communications Chapter, BTS, AeroSpace, Control Systems, VTC,... For example a Mini-Conference between Communication and Control Societies has been organized since 2010. The objective is to have graduate students rehearse the presentation of their papers for international conferences such as GlobeCom. Each year the chapter invites a few speakers as a model for students. The other example of these activities is a joint workshops & presentation with Aerospace in June 2011, which 75 International participants attended at this workshop.

f) To encourage members for participating and organizing Conference. For instance Dr. Benyamin-Seeyar is a member of organization committee of IEEE International Conference on Wireless for Space and Extreme Environments (WiSEE), Baltimore, MD, November 7 – 9, 2013.

g) Brought many well-known distinguished speakers to interested Chapter members, such as:

- Dr. David Falconer, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.
- Dr. Tad Matsumoto, School of Information Science, Japan.
- Dr. Vijay Bhargava, University of British Columbia, Canada.
- Dr. Mehdi Alasti, Sprint Nextel WiMAX Core Tech., Washington DC, USA.
- Dr. Bhumip Khasnabish Verizon Networks & Technology, Waltham, USA.
- Dr. Victor Leung, University of British Columbia, Canada.
- Dr. Michael Devetsikiotis, North Carolina State University, USA.
- Dr. Fabrizio Granelli, University of Toronto, Canada.
- Dr. Mary Ann Ingram, Georgia Tech, USA.
- Dr. Shahrokh Valaee, University of Toronto, Canada.
- Dr. Jacob Gavan, Holon Academic Institute of Technology, Israel.
- Dr. Steve Buch, Researcher at GE Global, Niskayuna, NY, USA.
- Dr. Amir Khandani, University of Waterloo, Canada.
- Dr. Michaela Van Der Schaar, Chancellor's Professor, UCLA, USA.
- Dr. Arun K. Somni, Iowa State University, USA.
- Dr. Masoud Olfat, director of RAN technology & standard in Light Squared, USA.

h) Chapter's support of students branches and other affinity groups such as WIE, and actively participate in the interest group TISP.

i) Benefitted from inviting well-known Professors coming from various parts of the world, to give a talk for our membership crowd, while participating at local conferences or being an external thesis defense examiners, ...

j) Benefitting from connections and facilities of Concordia University, McGill University and École Technologies Superior (ETS), and École PolyTechnique de Montréal for our organized talks.

In all above mentioned activities, we are thankful to our North America leader, Dr. Yigang Cai who has been instrumental to help and encourage all of our Eastern region Chapters to benefit from his support for selecting and approving DLT tours between our regions. Many thanks for his great help and support throughout this journey. Also our thanks will extend to Dr. Wahab Almuhtadi, the Chair of IEEE Canada Eastern Area for his cooperation and support and also technical COM-SOC Staff for their great support for running effective chapter activities especially Carol Cronin and Carole Swaim.

We never forget and always appreciate the continues support of Montreal educational institutions, especially Concordia University which have been, and continue to be, an excellent friend of IEEE, providing Seminar salons free of charge for a large number of conference attendees.