

IEEE Communications Society Colombia Chapter

2007 North American Regional Chapter Chair's Congress - RCCC '07

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Chapter Chair 2005-2006



Colombia from Telecommunications Industry and ComSoc Perspective

- ◆ With 42 M population and $> .6$ M sq miles Colombia is about the size of California
- ◆ GNP \sim \$2000 per capita (California \sim 40,000)
- ◆ After the 2002-2004 downturn, Colombia has one of the fastest growing economies in South America
- ◆ Telecommunication is the leading sector in the growth; Mobile growth 10 %; Internet growth 12% (5M Internet users in 2005)
- ◆ High percent of young population – potential telecom service subscribers
- ◆ In the last five years the growth in the number of graduate programs is directly related to telecom industry
- ◆ Potentials for academic/engineering growth exist

Some History...

- ◆ Latin America Region and the Colombia Section were formed ten years ago
- ◆ Visits by ComSoc leaders (Roberto de Marca, Steve Weinstein, Celia Desmond) helped to shape the chapter, which was approved in Dec. 2000.
- ◆ Early activities mostly included short presentations; First major event was Communication Day 2001
- ◆ Participated in GCCC
- ◆ ComSoc funding started in 2002 (\$1000 per year)
- ◆ Won Chapter of the LA Region Award in 2004 and 2006
- ◆ Actively participating in the DLT program – Saracco 2002, Sari 2003, Barghava 2004, Bregni 2006, Jakobson 2007 (planned)

Why ComSoc is Valued in Colombia?

◆ It is...

- the leading technical information source on Communication technology and business
- well recognized by the academic community
- serves as highly respected institution in publishing R&D results
- it is considered as an objective source; free from marketing objectives of some telecom service providers
- continues to be on leading edge of telecom technology advancements

What do we do?

- ◆ Organize periodical professional and student activities
- ◆ Participate in joint activities with local organizations and universities
- ◆ Promote the ComSoc membership at local conferences (ANDICOM, Congreso Internacional de Telecomunicaciones ACIEM)
- ◆ Promote special programs among all members of the section
- ◆ Guarantee special rates for ComSoc members in all our activities
- ◆ Involve Student Chapters and Branches in organization of activities; There are 4 student branches in the Colombia chapter

Our Strategic Direction

- ◆ Primary MD focus is on Telecom Industry Reach
 - Telecommunication industry is the most important partner to IEEE Communications Society activities in Colombia
 - Many new players in the Colombian telecom market with available resources
 - Get involved in industry events and industry involvement in academic/professional events
- ◆ Reach academic/student population
 - DLT and LLT tied with membership growth
 - Best student papers and promote STG

Issues and Challenges...

- ◆ Get telecom industry to recognize us and support/cooperate with our programs
- ◆ Educate members who in large numbers joined us from the power industry
- ◆ Low salaries

Our Secret...

- ◆ Young people!
- ◆ Teamwork
- ◆ Open-mindedness



Questions????

¡Gracias!!

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