IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer Tour
Asia/Pacific – Region 10 (Japan) 2014

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During the period July 14-19, 2014, I was on a Distinguished Lecturer Tour in Japan, Region 10 (Asia/Pacific). I visited all three Japanese chapters: Japan Council, Kansai and Sendai.

The program of the tour included the following seminars:

1. July 15, 2014: “Networking and the Smart Grid” + my research interests, in Osaka, Japan – Kansai chapter

The following sections provide some highlights on the specific seminars.

1. Osaka – Kansai Chapter

The DLT started from Osaka, in the Kansai Region of Japan. The lecture was held in a conference center nearby the main Osaka train station.

The seminar was held in the early afternoon, with a good participation (around 25-30 people). The chapter expressed interest for a seminar organized in two sections: first, a brief description of my research interests, and then a longer presentation on the subject of “Networking and the Smart Grid”. We had an interesting Q&A session, mainly focused on issues related to actual deployment issues of smart grid architecture and relationship between smart grid and D2D communications.

We continued the discussion with my hosts at a local alehouse.

(a) During the seminar  (b) With the local organizers
2. Tokyo – Japan Council

My second seminar was held in Tokyo. I arrived in the late morning with the Shinkansen bullet train from Osaka, and met Dr. Ohara who lead me to the conference center.

The seminar in Tokyo was held in the Kikai Shinko Kaikan Building, close to the famous Tokyo Tower landmark. The seminar was attended by around 50 people. What was really interesting was the fact that in this occasion the audience was more mixed than usual, and included students, post-docs and professors but also several researchers from industry (NEC, IBM, DoCoMo). In this case, I discussed about two different topics as per the request by the Japan Council: “Green wireless networking” and “Cognitive and adaptive networking”.

Also in this case, I got an extremely interested audience and several comments. Especially the latter topic spread interest among participants familiar with Artificial Intelligence and Automated Learning.

3. Sendai – Sendai Chapter

The last seminar was held in Sendai, in the North region of Japan. Since the schedule of the seminar was the following afternoon, I had some time to walk around and enjoy the fresher weather and Japanese cuisine (in Osaka and Tokyo, July is extremely hot!).

The seminar was held at Tohoku University. The university closely remembers University of Trento, as it is outside of the city on the top of a hill. Attendees were around 20, mostly Ph.D. and M.Sc. students. The topic was again energy
efficiency in wireless networks. The audience was extremely interested and the following discussion was fruitful. I got several questions and requests for pointers to further details on several topics I covered.

Summarizing, the DLT experience was fruitful and enabled me to illustrate topics in an extremely developed and modern region. I always got an interested and interactive audience, with several good points of discussion. Local arrangements and personal interactions were perfect, and hopefully would lead to further collaboration activities in the near future.

Finally, I'd like to express my gratitude to all the people who made this trip possible and hosted me, and for the enthusiasm and interest in the initiative! I really appreciated visiting Japan, and will come back soon!

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