REPORT

Distinguished Lecture Tour

Singapore, Indonesia, Macau

Mehmet Ulema
January 2009

This is a brief report about my Distinguished Lecturer Tour (DLT) in Singapore, Indonesia, and Macau in January 2009.

This DLT was organized by the joint effort of the IEEE Asia Pacific Operations Centre/Communications Society Office in Singapore (Serena Dhing - Project/Admin Executive and Fanny Su - Manager) and the IEEE Section and ComSoc Chapters in Singapore (Cheng Tee Hiang), Indonesia (M. Ary Murti), and Macau (Wai-Wa Choi). I visited and gave lectures in four cities in these three countries: Singapore, Bandung and Jakarta (Indonesia) and Macau. The major theme of the talks was the network and service management. I gave almost the same 2-hour lecture, with slight modifications, in all four cities. Some lectures lasted longer due to the Q&A sessions at the end. All the lectures were presented in English without any translations. The lectures were generally well attended, averaging about 50 people. Attendees were interested, attentive, and asked good questions. The hosts in all four cities went extra miles to make sure that my visit was smooth.

The following was the itinerary of the tour:

- **Friday January 2**: Travel: Newark, NJ to Hong Kong
- **Saturday January 3**: Overnight stay in HK (no connecting flight to Singapore)
- **Sunday January 4**: Travel to Singapore
- **Monday January 5**: Lecture in Singapore
- **Tuesday January 6**: Travel to Jakarta-Bandung, Indonesia
- **Wednesday January 7**: Lecture in Bandung
- **Thursday January 8**: Lecture in Jakarta
- **Thursday January 8**: Travel to Macau
- **Friday January 9**: Lecture in Macau
- **Sunday January 11**: Travel: Macau-Hong Kong to Newark, NJ

The following provide more details about my trip.

**SINGAPORE** - I arrived at Singapore around 3:00 PM and I took a taxi from the airport to the Nanyang Executive Center, a lodging facility within the Nanyang Technological University. It was an okay facility, but the main problem was it was far from the city. My talk was in the afternoon next day, so I took a cab and went around the city. The next day, my host took me out for a lunch and a short tour of the campus before the talk. There were about 30 people in the audience (mostly students and some faculty). I was disappointed with this little turnaround. It was explained to me that it was the first day of the new semester. In my opinion, if the talk was given in somewhere in a more central place like downtown Singapore and better advertised, there would have been more people from the industry and from other universities. The next day, early in the morning I took a taxi to the airport and flew to Jakarta.

**BANDUNG - Mohammed** Ary Murti, who organized my visit in Bandung, picked me up at the airport in Jakarta. After a lunch in Jakarta with Lukas S. Tanutama, who organized my visit in Jakarta, we traveled with a car to Bandung, which is another city two hours away from Jakarta. I was put in nice hotel in Bandung. Ary Murti took me a traditional fish restaurant after that he gave me a night tour of the city Bandung, which is considered technology and textile center in Indonesia. I was picked up early next morning and went to IT Telkom, a university founded by Indonesia’s major telecommunication company, Telkom. There, I met the president (they call him “rector”) of the university, Husni Amani, and some faculty. We had a talk about the universities in the US in general and universities in Indonesia. Then, I was taken to a large auditorium where I gave my talk. There were more than 150 people: students, faculty and some from the telecom company. There was a lively exchange during the Q&A session at the end. After the lecture, I was invited to a lunch by the
President, several deans and some faculty. After lunch, I was given a tour of the city and taken to a nearby active volcano, which is a must see sight for anyone visiting Indonesia. After the sightseeing tour, I was driven back to Jakarta. I was very impressed with my hosts in Bandung. They did an excellent job in organizing the talk.

JAKARTA – The driver took me to the hotel (Nikko Hotel, a very nice one) where I stayed in Jakarta. When we arrived at the hotel, my host, Lukas S. Tanutama and several of his colleagues were waiting for me. After the check in, I was invited to a very nice restaurant with traditional Indonesian food and music. The next day, Lukas S. Tanutama picked me up from the hotel and went to the BINUS University where I gave my talk. There were more than 50 people: mostly students and faculty. There were good questions at the end. They seemed to show a real interest in the topic of network management. After the lecture, we had a meeting with various faculty and head of the Computer Engineering Department, Wiedjaja, S. Kom and talked about how the department and university can get involved in international conferences and publications. After the meeting I was driven to the airport by Suryadiputra Liawatimena and had a quick lunch there together before my flight to Hong Kong.

MACAU - I flew to Hong Kong and took the ferry to Macau. Dr. Welsy (Wai-Wa) Choi met me at the ferry terminal and took me to the hotel Grandview in nearby Taipa Island. It was an okay hotel outside the main island. The next day, Dr. Choi picked me up around 1:00 PM. After a brief tour of Taipa Island we went to the university (University of Macau), which has an excellent location at the top of the hill. There were about 20 people in the audience, mostly students and few faculties. I was disappointed with the small number of people in the audience. I was not given an explanation of the small audience. After all this effort put in the planning and organization of trip, I was expecting a larger audience to make the effort and trip worthwhile. Nevertheless, there were some good discussions at the end. After the talk, I had a dinner with Wai-Wa Choi and Wong Chan Tang at a nice Portuguese restaurant in Macau. The next day I was free and walked around the city and did some sightseeing. I left Macau very early next day to catch my flight to Newark, NJ via Hong Kong.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

I returned home with positive impressions of the countries I visited and my hosts in those countries. I observed that there is great interest in the topic of network management. I was also impressed with how the universities in general, the ones in Indonesia especially, want to get involved in IEEE activities (conferences, publications) and establish relationships with other universities around the world.

For future Distinguished Lecturer tours, I have two strong recommendations:

1. The selection of the hotels should be made by the lecturer. Local hosts can aide the lecturer in doing so, but the final decision should be made by the lecturer.

2. The talks should be organized way in advance and publicity should be better so that the trip and effort is worthwhile to both the hosting organization and IEEE ComSoc. The local organizers should be guided in the organization and publicity of the lectures and related activities should be monitored by the DLT program in ComSoc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in making this tour a reality. Of course, my special thanks go to my hosts, especially Serena and Fany who made all the arrangements and coordinated the activities in four cities in South East Asia...

Mehmet Ulema, Ph.D.
Professor of Computer Information Systems
Manhattan College
Riverdale, NY 10471-4098 USA

Phone: +1 (718) 862-7464
Fax: +1 (718) 862-8032
mehmet.ulema@manhattan.edu