I was nominated IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer for the period 2012-13, and during June 3-15, 2012, I was on a Distinguished Lecturer Tour in North Carolina and Eastern Canada.

The program of the tour included the following seminars:

1. June 4, 2012: "Networking and the Smart Grid" at NCState, Raleigh, NC
2. June 5, 2012: "Green Wireless Communications" at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada
3. June 6, 2012: "Green Wireless Communications" in St. John's, Canada
4. June 7, 2012: " Networking and the Smart Grid" in Frederiction, Canada
5. June 8, 2012: " Networking and the Smart Grid" in Quebec City, Canada
6. June 8, 2012: " Networking and the Smart Grid" in Montreal, Canada
7. June 11, 2012: " Networking and the Smart Grid" in Toronto, Canada
8. June 15, 2012: " Networking and the Smart Grid" in Ottawa, Canada

I was glad to get invited to North America, since I could use ComSoc DLT funding for local trips within North America, while using funding from my university to cover the intercontinental trip - given I was also attending IEEE ICC’12 in Ottawa, Canada, in June 12-14, 2012.

The following sections provide some highlights on the specific seminars.

1. Eastern North Carolina Chapter, Raleigh, NC, USA

The DLT started from NCState in Raleigh. I have an active memorandum of understanding for scientific collaboration with NCState, especially with my colleague Michael Devetsikiotis. As a consequence, I already knew the place as well as some people. My host was Thomas Jepsen. The local chapter organized a reception before the seminar, so that I had the chance to meet and discuss with several local engineers. The seminar was well attended, by around 30-35 people. I received several questions and had the chance to discuss on several topics. Most relevant issues were related to the integration of EVs within the smart grid vision and the cyber security aspects.

2. Canada Atlantic Chapter, Halifax, Canada

My second seminar was held in Halifax at Dalhousie University. Local hosts were Scott Melvin and Jacek Ilow. Having the presentation in the later afternoon, I had the chance to visit a little the city as well as the university. The seminar on green wireless networks was attended by around 15 people. It was possible to have some good discussion with several interested attendees, especially on the perspectives of the green paradigm. I was really glad to meet an "old friend", Christian Schlegel, that recently moved to Dalhousie.

3. New Foundland & Labrador Chapters, St. John’s, Canada

Unfortunately, due to severe weather conditions in St. John’s (no flights were able to land), I needed to cancel the seminar, with the agreement of the local host,
Lihong Zhang. We decided to organize a remote presentation on the topic later during the year.

4. Fredericton Chapter, Fredericton, Canada

My host was Esam Ghanem. The seminar was held at the University of New Brunswick and attended remotely from St. John. Again, the number of attendees were around 15. I had the chance to discuss with Dr. Ghanem about his work on wireless access networks.

5. St. Maurice and Quebec Chapters, Quebec City, Canada

The seminar held in Quebec City at Laval University was a joint initiative in collaboration between the two chapters of St. Maurice and Quebec. My host was Prof. Paul Fortier. Around 10 attendees were in the room. Even with fewer people, we had very interesting discussion around the potential of the smart grid. Canada power grid is mainly based on water power, but there’s a relevant effort in research and deployment of smart solutions for power management and distribution.

6. Montreal Chapter, Montreal, Canada

On the same day, I moved to Montreal for giving the same lecture at Concordia University. I was impressed by the fact that in several locations the university campus is actually inside the city center. In the case of Concordia, it is actually a massive skyscraper. My local host was Prof. Anader Banyamin-Seeyar. Lecture was attended by around 30 people. We had relevant interactions on the smart grid architecture and actual social acceptance/benefits for the customers.

7. Toronto Chapter, Toronto, Canada

The following monday I was lecturing at Ryerson University. My host was Xavier Fernando, also ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer. Local attendees were 15. Discussion in this case was also related to the local status of the grid in Canada and Italy, exchanging information on pricing and incentives to control the power load during the day. After this seminar, I moved to Ottawa to attend IEEE ICC’12.

8. Ottawa Chapter, Ottawa, Canada

My last seminar was held on friday morning at the Ottawa Convention Center. Local host was Dr. Wahab Almuhtadi. Attendees were around 20. I got several interesting questions, the most interesting related to the integration of renewables within the smart grid and security threats.

Summarizing, the DLT experience was wonderful. I always got an interested and interactive audience, with several good points of discussion, and local arrangements were perfect. I’d like to express my gratitude to all the people who supported my trip for hosting me and for the enthusiasm in the initiative.

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