SISTER SOCIETY SUMMIT REPORT
Monday Afternoon, 12 June 2006

The 2006 Sister Society Summit took place in Istanbul in conjunction with ICC 06. The list of attendees is given in Annex 1.
The following Sister Societies were represented in person:

CCIS - Communications and Information Society, Croatia
CIE - The Chinese Institute of Electronics
EZS - The Electrotechnical Association of Slovenia
KICS - The Korean Institute of Communication Sciences
LITKA - Latvijas Informācijas Un Komunikācijas Tehnoloģijas Asociācija, Latvia
SEEEI - Society of Electrical & Electronics Engineers in Israel
SBrT - Sociedade Brasileira de Telecomunicações, Brazil

Additionally, reports of REV (Vietnam) and AEIT (Italy) were presented by Roberto.

The Summit opened with a welcome address from Roberto and Doug, respectively Director of Sister Society and VP of Society Relations. In the address it was stressed the importance that COMSOC places on good cooperation with local communities and how the Sister Societies can be a most important instrument for effective cooperation.

It was also remarked that by far the relations among COMSOC and Sister Societies has been a matter of relations between the top officers and has been effective or less effective depending on those kind of relations. Whilst the importance of leadership of each Societies is obviously recognized this can be supplemented by creating an environment where direct relations among members become possible. This has been proposed as the main theme for this Summit.

The Summit progressed with presentations from each Sister Society. The slides are attached as Annex to this report. Here follows a synthetic summary picking up on some points of the presentation and the following Q&A. Please refer to each presentation attached to get the full picture. All presentation were most informative and it is worth looking at the material presented. The letter received from REV is also attached as Annex 3.

Summary of presentations

CCIS - Communications and Information Society, Croatia (Annex 4)

CCIS has been very active in organizing conferences that have been well attended both domestically and by an international participation. Their flagship conference, SoftCom, cosponsored by COMSOC, had 150 participants in 2005 coming from 31 countries. The format of the conference is particularly effective also from a logistic point of view since it is partly located on a cruise ship. The 2006 conference is scheduled, with the same format, from Sept. 29th to October 1st. COMSOC support in terms of keynote speakers and tutorials will be appreciated. In 2005 CCIS initiated the publication of a Journal, JCOMSS, and it is looking for a co-sponsorship.
Membership dues are currently around 20$, English language is considered acceptable by its membership.
There is a strong interest for access to online tools, for having access to member lists and for sharing reviewers for papers.

**CIE - The Chinese Institute of Electronics**

The presentation was given orally with no PP slide support.
CIE is the first Society in China and has a structure similar to IEEE. It aggregates over 200,000 members, 80% from academia and the remainder from industry. It is structured into 44 professional Societies, with some that parallels COMSOC, Computer Society, Signal Processing, RadioWave…
It is present in the territory through 31 branches (one for each of China’s Province). Its activity have included in 2005 over 300 domestic conferences (where language is Chinese) and about 40 international where language is English). Whilst the academia, particularly the younger generation, has limited problem in reading English, this represents a barrier in industry. Most conferences are organized in co-sponsorship with CIC.
Relations with COMSOC are good and the large base of members together with the booming technology market will increase the opportunities for cooperation.
The dues were very low till last year (1.2 $ a year). Now they have increased to about 12 $ a year. However attending to a conference as a member bring a discount of about 30% on the conf. fee that results in a complete repayment of the annual dues.

**EZS - The Electrotechnical Association of Slovenia** (Annex 5)

EZS has organized two major conferences in 2005, VITEL 05 on triple play – in Slovenian, and a one on Transport Logistics for Road, Rail, Air and Sea Traffic – in English. Additionally they have co-organized a conference in France in May-June 2006.
EZS works in cooperation with several professional institutions and comprises about 250 members, a significant number given the total population of Slovenia.
It is part of the R&D network in Slovenia and promotes innovation in the industry, participates in standardization work both domestically and in international for a, like the ITU-T and the European Federation of National Engineering Association.
Its relations with COMSOC are through the SICOM, Slovenian Society for Electronic Communications.
The dues are about 25 $.

**KICS - The Korean Institute of Communication Sciences** (Annex 6)

KICS is the largest professional institute in Korea, founded in 1975. It has reached over 15,000 members and comprises over 200 institutions.
Their members are very much technology focused with little interest for social activities.
The areas addressed include Communication technology, Law and Policy, Management and Standardization, Sociological aspect of communication and information age.
In addition to COMSOC they have agreement with CIC -China and IEICE – Japan. Their goal is

- Promoting the advancement in
  - theory, engineering, and application in the field of communication sciences
- Promoting the communications business and industry
- Fostering international collaborations and sharing the leading edge information
- Providing a forum for mutual relationships among the members
They are publishing a domestic (monthly) and an international Journal (quarterly) plus a monthly magazine and organize many conferences and workshop, some in co-sponsorship with COMSOC. There is a strong interest in increasing the effectiveness of the relation with COMSOC. The dues are either 30 $ a year for pure membership, 50$ including the magazine or 500$ for a lifetime membership.

**LITKA - Latvijas Informacijas Un Komunikacijas Tehnologijas Asociacija, Latvia** (Annex 7)

Latvia is rapidly becoming a well developed country in terms of infrastructures and skills. There is a significant pool of IT specialist, many of whom available in software outsourcing operations from abroad. Their number has grown 200% in four years. Members come from organizations totaling about 9,000 workers, in the areas of IT, Telecommunications, Consultants and Universities. In Latvia there are other associations in similar areas, such as LTA with interest in telecommunications, LDTA with interest in computers and LETERA for electronic manufacturing. All of them are clustered into ITTE that provides for coordination among the various associations and creates common standing on IT questions and representation in Government bodies. LITKA has a annual conference and monthly meetings among members. LITKA serves as certification for telecommunications specialists and has project for IT Incubation and Science parks in Latvia. Dues are about 20$ a year.

**SEEEI - Society of Electrical & Electronics Engineers in Israel**

SEEEI clusters over 1,000 engineers in Israel both in the areas of strong and weak currents (electrical and electronics). They held an annual conference, this year Electricity 2006 will take place in November at Eilat. There is a lot of focus on young engineers and students. For this year SEEEI is promoting a context for students for the best paper on the Smart Home in 2015. This will be part of a Symposium held in conjunction with Electricity 2006, the 2nd Consumer Communications and Networking Symposium. Support in terms of tutorial and keynotes from COMSOC, as happened in the past, would be highly appreciated. There exist a strong interest in co-sponsorship of events and conference with COMSOC: The dues are in the order of 50$ a year.

**SBrT - Sociedade Brasileira de Telecomunicações, Brazil** (Annex 8)

The SBrT is a forum of debates, diffusion and organisation of knowledge in the Communications field, in order to contribute to the development of Brazil and its insertion in the international scenario. 80% of their 1,000 members come from academia, the remaining 20% from industry. Its activity include an annual conference plus a number of conferences with an international participation usually in co-sponsorship with other associations, including COMSOC. It has been the first Sister Society for COMSOC. Among the suggestions to strengthen the relationship with COMSOC:
- Improving cooperation and co-sponsoring of joint events
- Joint edition of the ComSoc/SBrT Journal (currently planned)
- Expand the ComSoc/IEEE benefits, such as international credit card, health insurance and travel discount to include Sister Societies

The dues are around 30$ per year. This is the current level, given the readjustment of the exchange rate with the US$. Only few years ago the dues expressed in dollars was much lower and that made very difficult to pay dues for IEEE-COMSOC.

Action points taken

The following action points have been agreed:

1. Set up on the COMSOC website, possibly on the home page, a calendar that will contain pointers (with brief explanation) of what is going on in each day. Colors may be used to identify at first glance:
   - conferences (where COMSOC or Sister Societies are involved)
   - DLTs
   - Seminars and the like organized by COMSOC or Sister Societies
   - Special events, celebrations…

   It is expected that one would get at a glance a feeling of a continuous activity going on in the wider community of COMSOC and Sister Societies

2. COMSOC persons who have the privilege to send messages to COMSOC mailing list will have access to Sister Societies member lists as well and vice versa. This access can be direct (e.g. direct mailing through an exploder) or indirect by sending the message content to a person identified by each Sister Society that will broadcast the message to the relevant mailing list. Similarly the Sister Society person that is authorized to broadcast messages through the Society mailing list will be able to send that message to the COMSOC member list going through the COMSOC staff (same procedure active today for publishing ads on COMSOC magazine).

3. Investigate the possibility to set up a program to support students (or companies) to find internship programs in other geographical areas. There is a strong demand from many developing countries to send some students or young engineers for stage in other countries. Although the sending organization is prepared to support financially the stage they need connections and help in smoothing the visa process. COMSOC is well placed to provide this kind of service. An investigation is required to flesh out the details and the effort required on COMSOC part (staff) to sustain this program.

4. It has been agreed to have each Sister Society submitting every year, in November, a one page (possibly with pointers to more in depth document) representing the view of Telecom Evolution from the geographical perspective they represent. Roberto will provide a blueprint in October to steer the documents to present information in a common format. This material will be posted in the Sister Society area on COMSOC web site and can be summarized in a paper to appear in the first number of the Communications Magazine in the following year.

5. The proposal for a tool to support the interactions among COMSOC and Sister Societies members is considered very interesting. The crucial part to have a successful tool is to involve many members. Each Sister Society will investigate ways to disseminate the information to their members and to have them subscribing to the tool. The draft proposal is associated to this report as Annex 2, PIAZZA.
Annex 1 – List of Participants

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