IEEE MeditCom has been launched to be the reference conference on communications serving the whole Mediterranean Region, which consists of over 20 countries and around 480 million people living across three continents: Africa, Asia and Europe. The MeditCom series of conferences is organized every year, with an international stature and broad coverage of topics, bringing together visionaries in academia, research labs and industry from all over the world to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, featuring a technical program of outstanding challenges in the areas of communications and networking.

MeditCom 2022: Again in Athens!
The second edition of IEEE MeditCom took place on 5-8 September 2022 in Athens, Greece, in the same venue as the first edition in 2021: the Electra Palace Hotel, which is located in the heart of the city, just a few minutes away from the Acropolis.

Athens has been really a fantastic location for the first two editions of MeditCom! Known as the “cradle of Western civilization,” Athens and Greece are famous for their history, art master pieces and natural beauty.

While the first edition of MeditCom was hybrid, with only few participants attending in person due to the travel restrictions that were in place, IEEE MeditCom 2022 has been prevailing in presence, with most participants traveling to Athens to attend the conference, meet their fellow colleagues, and enjoy this marvelous city.

Before and after technical sessions, many attendees made the most of the tourism opportunity given by the conference. In Athens, one could not really miss to visit at least the Acropolis, the Ancient Agora and other main archeological sites, as well as the Acropolis Museum and the National Archaeological Museum. Moreover, Athens is the natural gateway for visitors to continental Greece as well as to the numerous Greek Islands, which attract tens of millions of visitors each year, and early September is an ideal period to visit this city.

Organizing Committee

- **General Co-Chairs**
  Stefano Bregni, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
  Hikmet Sari, Nanjing Univ. Posts and Telecommun., China
- **Executive Co-Chairs**
  Christos Verikoukis, University of Patras, Greece
  Symeon Papavassiliou, National Technical Univ. Athens, Greece
- **Technical Program Co-Chairs**
  Octavia Dobre, Memorial University, Canada

IEEE MeditCom has been always used to repeat in his capacity of Vice President for Conferences to cover additional areas of the world.
Jael Ben Othman, Centrale Supelec, France
• Tutorial Program Co-Chairs
  Dania Marabissi, Università di Firenze, Italy
  Shenghui Song, Hong Kong Univ. Science and Tech., China
• Workshop Program Co-Chairs
  Yacine Ghamri-Doudane, University of La Rochelle, France
  Hanlaos Koumaras, National Centre “Demokritos,” Greece
• Demo Co-Chairs
  Christos Tranoris, University of Patras, Greece
  Nathalie Mitton, INRIA, France
• Panels Co-Chairs
  Narcis Cardona, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain
  Riccardo Trivisonno, Huawei, Germany
• Finance Chair
  Rolland Vida, Budapest University of T&E, Hungary
• Publication Chair
  John Vardakas, Iquadrat, Spain
• Publicity Co-Chairs
  Hyunbum Kim, Incheon National University, South Korea
  Fatima Domingues, Inst. de Tel. and Univ. of Aveiro, Portugal
  Miriam Lucero Tenorio, DICOEL, Ecuador
  Telex Ngatche, Memorial Univ. Newfoundland, Canada
  Einini Eleni Tsipouloou, University of New Mexico, USA
• Student Travel Grant Chair
  Safa Otoum, Zayed University, UAE
• Web and Social Media Chair
  Ejder Bastug, Nokia Bell Labs, France
• Young Professionals Panels Chair
  Periklis Chatzimisios, IEEE ComSoc YP Committee Chair, International Hellenic University, Greece
• WICE Panels Chair
  Nury Gabriela Ramirez Cely, HCL Technologies, Mexico
• ComSoc Staff
  Bruce Worthman, IEEE Communications Society, USA
  Tina Gaerlan, IEEE Communications Society, USA

SOME CONFERENCE FACTS

IEEE MeditCom 2022 (https://meditcom2022.ieee-meditcom.org/) attracted high interest from the international technical community. It received 100 submissions just to the Main Technical Track, of which 49 were accepted for presentation and then publication in the Conference Proceedings on IEEE Xplore. Authors were 368 in total, from 42 countries from all 5 continents. As expected and confirming the regional focus of MeditCom, 70% of authors were from Europe, Middle East and Africa.

This high response from the research community allowed to strive for quality in planning the technical program, but also called for a demanding paper evaluation process. The 226 members of the Technical Program Committee worked responsibly and efficiently under tight time constraints to produce a total of 316 reviews for the 100 papers submitted to the Main Track, which provided the basis for the final technical paper selection.

The IEEE MeditCom 2022 program featured 6 keynote talks and 3 panels, in which industry leaders and prominent academicians presented their visions on the future of wireless communications networks, 10 technical sessions presenting the latest research results, and 1 demo session. Prior to the start of the main conference, the program began with 2 tutorials and 2 workshops in parallel. In conjunction with the conference, panels were organized by the IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals (YP) and Women in Communications Engineering (WICE) Committees.

THE VENUE

Athens is a modern, vibrant metropolis and the principal centre of Greece for business and foreign trade. More than 30% of the overall Greece population resides in the Athens metropolitan area. Regenerated to hold the Olympic Games in 2004, it has the facilities, services and infrastructure to host the most demanding events.
Throughout 2021 calendar, IEEE ComSoc Thailand organized three (online) special talks in order to jointly celebrate the 40th anniversary of the IEEE Thailand section (1981-2021). They are based on optical and mobile communications as well as technology management.

Starting with a topic of “Connecting Us Through Light,” this first talk was given on June 28, 2021 by Paramin Sangwong-ngam. It contained about what light is, an advantage of using light, and how we guide light: wired and wireless in the internet environment which has a vast impact on people worldwide. Real deployment of optical communications around the world -- space, airborne, terrestrial, and underwater were shown. Finally, the audience then had a glimpse look at a hobby project building an optical transceiver. No prior knowledge of optics, communication engineering or physics is required for attending this event. Its recorded video is at https://youtu.be/iuCxh5MhYHg.

Next, “5G by the National Telecom (NT) Public Company’s team” was organized on November 22. This combined talk began with the introduction to a new emerged national TELCOS (former state-owned telecommunications companies; TOT & CAT), through “5G for smart city” to “5G security and digital platform.” A real use case for the Eastern Economic Corridor Office (EECO) that established a 5G special zone in Rayong’s Ban Chang district, was also shown attractively. It can be rewatched at https://youtu.be/cICh8SMozhI.

Lastly, a Thai quantum information forum’s annual seminar (Q-Thai SEM #4) was organized on November 25. “Tripartite R&D Consortia as a Vehicle for Economic Development” by Michael Leung, a co-founder of Synergia Associates and former February 2023 Global Communications Newsletter 3

CHAPTER REPORT

Exclusive Talks on Lightwave & 5G Communications and Tripartite R&D Consortia by Keattisak Sripimanwat, IEEE ComSoc Thailand Chapter Chair

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vice president of TRLabs (Telecommunications Research Lab, Canada: 1986 - 2019), was publicized. This talk focused on a special category of R&D consortia: tripartite consortia. That composed of governments, academia, large and small companies from manufacturers to service providers to user sectors and discussed how such tripartite consortia could bring benefits to all parties while at the same time, contribute to regional economic development. Since in the era of Industry 4.0 and globalization, R&D joint ventures consortium have become more and more common. In addition, Q & A session via seven select questions was delivered. Specially, speaker also recalled his two decades with TRLabs, one of the excellent model to gain more common. In addition, Q & A session via seven select - questions was delivered. Specially, speaker also recalled his two decades with TRLabs, one of the excellent model to gain two decades with TRLabs, one of the excellent model to gain more common.

Events at IEEE Communication Society

by Umair Ahmed Korai, MUET Pakistan, Vice Chair IEEE Communication Society Karachi Chapter

During past months, the IEEE Communication Society (ComSoc) Karachi Chapter has organized 3 events which includes 2 full day workshops and a virtual lecture. The events were in collaboration with IEEE Professional Activities Committee (PAC) Region 10, IEEE R10 Conference and Technical Seminar (CTS) Committee, R10 Conference Quality and Management (CQM) Committee, and IEEE Karachi Section, and IEEE ComSoc Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) Jamshoro Student Chapter.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES TALK ON "EFFICIENT PLASMONIC CIRCUITS FOR DATA COMMUNICATION"

This virtual lecture was organized on June 07, 2022, on MS Teams. The guest speaker of this talk was Prof. Amr Helmy, University of Toronto, Canada. The online talk was formally started with recitation of the Holy Quran. Afterwards, Dr. Umair Ahmed Korai, Assistant Professor at Dept. of Telecommunication Engineering, MUET and Vice Chair IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter, welcomed the worthy Guest Speaker, Chief Guest, Guest of Honor, the Coordinators, the Organizers, and the Participants. The worthy Chair IEEE Karachi Section, Prof. Dr. Bhanwani Shankar Chowdhry, attended the workshop as the Chief Guest, delivered his speech, and appreciated the Speaker for taking their time from their very busy schedule. He also appreciated the efforts of Prof. Amr Helmy towards the research and activities related to IEEE ComSoc. The head of the Telecommunication department, MUET, Prof. Dr. Aftab Ahmed Memon, also attended this online talk as a guest of honor.

The online talk last about 60 minutes, which comprises of 45 minutes presentation and 15 minutes for the question/answer and discussion. Prof. Amr gave an excellent presentation about the Efficient Plasmonic Circuits for Data Communication in which he presented the work of his entire group and showed the results of their recent publications. Indeed, it was a very informative session on the recent advancement in Plasmonic Photonics.

In last, Dr. Umair Ahmed Korai gave the concluding remarks and vote of thanks to the chief guest, guest speaker, coordinators, volunteers, and participants. Whereas e-certificates were distributed among all the participants and volunteer.

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP ON MS INTERNET OF THINGS (IoT) KITS V0.4

The Hands-on Workshop on MS Internet of Things (IoT) Kits V0.4 was organized on September 13, 2022, at MUET Jamshoro. This workshop was funded by IEEE Region 10 Professional Activities Committee and IEEE Karachi Section. Following were the key objectives of this hands-on workshop: Provide basics of Internet of Things (IoT), Exposure to various sub-fields and technology stacks of IoT, Various real-time product ideas which have been converted to IoT, Perform real-time experiments on IoT Kits V0.4.

The total number of participants in this workshop were 61 in which 39 were IEEE members and 22 were non-IEEE members. The workshop was formally started with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by Naat-e-Rasool (SAW), and the national anthem of Pakistan. Afterwards, Dr. Umair Ahmed Korai, Vice Chair IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter, welcomed the Chief guest, Guest of Honor, Guest Speakers, Organizers, Participants, and Volunteers.

The Dean Faculty of Electrical, Electronics and Computer Engineering MUET, Prof. Dr. Mukhtiar Ali Unar, attended the workshop as the Chief Guest and delivered his speech, and appreciated the Speakers for taking their time from their very busy schedule deliver an important lecture on IoT. The Chair- man, Department of Telecommunication Engineering MUET Prof. Dr. Aftab Ahmed Memon, Co-Chairman, Department of Telecommunication Engineering MUET, Dr. Fahim Aziz Umran- ni, and Treasurer, IEEE Karachi Section, Engr. Moiz Rahman...
Memon, attended this workshop as Guest of Honors. The first session was delivered by Guest Speaker, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Khurram. He is head of Smart City Lab also serving as Professor at the Department of Computer and Information Systems Engineering, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, and Director of Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence. Prof. Dr. Khurram gave an important lecture on IoT and showed some important applications and projects they have developed in NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi.

The second session was the hands-on workshop conducted by the team from Mindstorm Engineering Company Karachi. Mindstorm Engineering provides smart industrial solutions to optimize industrial processes and industrial automation, robotics, and STEM training academy to provide hands-on skill-based training in our state-of-the-art lab. The team comprised of following members: Mr. Ghufran Ul Islam, Ms. Khushbakht Jameel, Ms. Suhaana Younus.

The team gave a hands-on session on Internet of Things kits. They divided the registered participants in groups and each group comprised of 03 participants. A single MS IoT V0.4 kit was given to each group in which multiple experiments were performed. The participants learnt all about Internet of Things; Sensors, Microcontrollers, Gateways, Programming, Networking, and Securing IoT.

In the last session, Worthy Guest of Honor, Prof. Dr. Aftab Ahmed Memon, gave the concluding remarks of the workshop. In the end, Dr. Umair Ahmed Korai, gave the vote of thanks to the Chief Guest, Guest Of Honor, Speakers, Event Organizers, Collaborators, Volunteers, and Participants followed by shield and certificate distribution, and lunch.

IEEE Karachi Section R10 Panel of Conference Organizers Workshop

The IEEE Karachi Section R10 Panel of Conference Organizers (POCO) Workshop was organized on September 17, 2022, at Institute of Business Administration (IoBM), Karachi. This workshop was funded by IEEE R10 Conference and Technical Seminar (CTS) Committee, R10 Conference Quality and Management (CQM) Committee, and IEEE Karachi Section. The objective of the POCO workshop was to develop the skills of the attendees for conducting an IEEE conference in their respective universities. The total number of participants in this workshop was 57 in which 31 were IEEE members and 26 were non-IEEE members.

The workshop was formally started with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Afterwards, Prof. Dr. Tariq Soomro, Acting Rector & Dean CCIS IoBM, welcomed the Chief Guest, Guest of Honor, Guest Speakers, Organizers, Participants, and Volunteers. The participants were the faculty members nominated by the Vice Chancellors of their respective universities of Sindh and Balochistan provinces. The worthy President of IoBM Karachi, Mr. Talib S. Karim, attended the workshop as the Chief Guest and the worthy Director Development, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited, Engr. Abdul Rahman Shaikh attended this workshop as Guest of Honor.

Worthy Guest of Honor, Engr. Abdul Rahman Shaikh, gave the concluding remarks of the workshop. He acknowledged the efforts of guest speakers, organizers, and volunteers and encouraged the participants to explore in more depth about IEEE and importance of IEEE conferences. In the end, Dr. Umair Ahmed Korai, gave the vote of thanks to the Chief Guest, Guest Of Honor, Speakers, Event Organizers, Collaborators, Volunteers, and Participants followed by shield and certificate distribution and evening tea.