

IEEE Communications Society Distinguished Lecturer Tour in Latin America – August 2018

Prof. Yi Qian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA

From August 5th through 11th, 2018, I visited three Latin America Chapters of IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc) in Chile, Bolivia, and Peru, as part of the ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer Tour (DLT) program.

The IEEE ComSoc provides the initiative of the DLT program, where recognized and world renowned experts give lectures at chapters on all continents. The initiative allows students, professionals and researchers to attend open lectures given in their cities and interact with the Distinguished Lecturer to improve their knowledge and perspective on the topics presented. The chapters started planning to host this event in April 2018. As an IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer, I was honored to be invited to give lectures at ComSoc local chapters in Santiago, Chile (August 6, 2018), La Paz, Bolivia (August 7, 2018), Cochabamba, Bolivia (August 8, 2018), and Lima, Peru (August 10, 2018). For this DLT, a special thank is due to Lisandro Granville (LA Region Director), and the Chapter Chairs, Diego Dujovne, Pedro Aguilera, Sandra Hidalgo, Fredy Campos, and all the students, professors and professionals that I met during the tour.

Santiago, Chile

I left Dallas Fort Worth International Airport in the evening of August 5, arrived Santiago, Chile in the early morning of August 6, 2018. I was welcomed by ComSoc Chile Chapter Chair Diego Dujovne and the previous Chair Pedro Aguilera, with a nice lunch together. I briefly visited the campus of Universidad Diego Portales after the lunch, with Diego and Pedro. I started my one-hour lecture at 15:30 in the afternoon, at Universidad Diego Portales, with the title “Security for 5G Wireless Networks”. More than 80 people attended my lecture, with enthusiastic responses, questions and answers. I also had a very quick walk in the downtown Santiago area near my hotel, for a couple of hours during the day. Diego and his family took me for dinner in the Giratorio Restaurant on the top of a high rise in Santiago, with the beautiful night views of the whole city and the Andes Mountains in the background. My staying in Santiago, Chile was too short, with only one night and less than 24 hours in total, but a great memory in my heart. I left Santiago International Airport in the early morning, 7:30 am on Tuesday August 7, heading to La Paz, Bolivia.

La Paz, Bolivia

After three hours flight, over the snowcapped mountains and the deserts on the highlands South America, I arrived La Paz, Bolivia 10:30 am August 7, 2018. ComSoc Bolivia Chapter Chair Sandra Hidalgo met me in the La Paz International Airport. At an altitude of 4,061.5 meters or 13,325 feet, it is the highest international airport and the fifth highest commercial airport in the world. But I didn't feel any mountain sickness at all on such a high altitude, because of the warm welcome from Sandra! Sandra took me to the city center of La Paz, through Teleférico La Paz–El Alto, the La Paz–El Alto Cable Car urban transit system, with breath-taking views of the whole city on the highland. I gave two lectures in the same afternoon, in Hotel Casa Grande, La Paz, Bolivia, 16:30 – 20:00, August 7, 2018, with one hour for each lecture, and one other lecture from Product Manager at Huawei Technologies in between mine. The titles of my lectures are “Smart Grid Communication Infrastructures” & “Security for 5G Wireless Networks”. More than 60 professionals, professors and students attended our lectures. During my

presentations, questions and answers, and during the dinner after my presentations, I also talked to many students on the technical involvement and the volunteers of professional societies, such as IEEE and IEEE ComSoc, with my own experiences as a student member more than 20 plus years ago, and my own involvement with IEEE ComSoc through all these years. I hope that all the students at the lectures were inspired to keep their IEEE involvement in the schools and in the rest of their careers.

Cochabamba, Bolivia

I got up very early again Wednesday morning, August 8, took a flight from La Paz International Airport at 8:10 am, and arrived Cochabamba, Bolivia after a 45 minutes short flight. After checked in the hotel and a short rest in the morning, I walked to the city center from my hotel, and did a quick sightseeing in the historical downtown Cochabamba. The city of Cochabamba is 2,558 meters or 8,392 feet above the sea level, with higher snowcapped mountains around the city. My lecture was scheduled on the campus of Universidad Privada Bolivia for three hours 15:00 - 18:30 in the afternoon with another 30 minutes questions and answers without stop. The title of my lecture was “Challenges and Solutions for LTE and 5G Vehicular Communications”, specially requested by the IEEE Student Branch from Universidad Privada Bolivia. About 40 people attended my long lecture in the late afternoon. I can feel the enthusiastic audience, throughout the lecture and after, and the dinner with the IEEE student members. The students and professors are currently involving with the design projects on electric vehicles, automatic driving and vehicular communications.

Lima, Peru

I got up even early Thursday morning, August 9. I left Cochabamba Airport 7:05 am, transferred flights at La Paz, Bolivia, and Cuzco, Peru, and arrived Lima, Peru at 1:00 pm August 9, 2018. My stay and lecture in Lima were arranged by ComSoc Peru Chapter Chair, Fredy Campos, with a lot of culture experience and fun during the two days in Lima. My lecture was a one hour Keynote at INTERCON 2018 Conference for the next day. After a very good rest in my hotel in the afternoon, I attended the INTERCON 2018 Gala Dinner Thursday night, at Magdalena del Mar in Lima. With the best food and drinks, cheers and toasts with pisco sour, followed by hours of dancing, I didn't go back to my hotel to sleep until 2:00 am.

In the Friday morning, the Secretary of ComSoc Peru Chapter, Esmeralda Asurza, took me for a half-day tour to the ancient ruins of Pachacamac, about 40 kilometers southeast of Lima. Esmeralda and I had a late lunch in a restaurant named La Concha Nostra, in Lima, where only locals can find it, with fabulous fresh seafood. My Keynote Lecture at INTERCON 2018 Conference was scheduled 17:30 – 18:30, at the conference site on the campus of National University of San Marc. I was introduced to the audience by Esmeralda Asurza in Spanish language, over 100 people attended my lecture, “Security for 5G Wireless Networks”. With a lot of interesting questions on the 5G and wireless security, and network security, I had a long and fruitful discussions to the audience, especially the young students in the audience. After my lecture in the late Friday afternoon, I visited several labs, including telecommunications lab, and computer network lab, at National University of San Marc.

In the Friday evening, I had a warm welcome from the three ComSoc Peru Chapter Officers, Fredy Campos, Carlos Velasquez, and Esmeralda Asurza, at a place call Asociación Cultural Brisas del Titicaca, in downtown Lima. With a lively night show, the best Peruvian folklore on stage in town, and an enjoyable Peruvian dinner and drinks, followed by hours of dancing after the midnight. Fredy and Esmeralda drove me to the hotel at around 3:30 am. I checked out my hotel and went to the airport

directly without any sleep. My flight left Lima 6:50 am Saturday morning, I came back to US in the same day August 11, 2018.

The DLT in Latin America was a wonderful professional and culture experience for me and the local ComSoc members. It helps the professionals and the students in electrical and computer engineering for more involvement of IEEE technical activities, with growing ComSoc membership. Thanks again to all the ComSoc local chapters and the people that I met during this DLT and all the people that involved with the planning of this DLT.



Figure 1. After the lecture at Universidad Diego Portales in Santiago, Chile, from left to right, Pedro Aguilera, Yi Qian, Diego Dujovne.



Figure 2. With part of the audience, during my lecture in Hotel Casa Grande, La Paz, Bolivia, 16:30 – 20:00, August 7, 2018.



Figure 3. With part of the audience, after my 3-hour lecture at Universidad Privada Bolivia, in Cochabamba, 15:00 – 18:30, August 8, 2018.



Figure 4. With part of the audience, after my one hour Keynote Lecture at INTERCON 2018 Conference, at National University of San Marc, in Lima, Peru, August 10, 2018.