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INTERVIEW

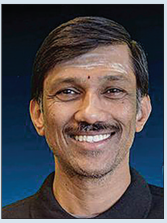
Member Services Board: More Services for ComSoc Members!

Interview with R. R. Venkatesha Prasad, Director of Member Services

by Stefano Bregni, Global Communications Newsletter Editor-in-Chief, IEEE Division III Director, and RR Venkatesha Prasad (VP), IEEE ComSoc Director of Member Services

This article continues the series of ten interviews with the Officers of the IEEE ComSoc Member and Global Activities (MGA) Council for the term 2024–2025, which is published every month in the Global Communications Newsletter.

Stefano Bregni


R.R. Venkatesha Prasad

In this issue, I interview Venkatesha Prasad (VP), a Member of the ComSoc Board of Governors (BoG) as Director of Member Services.

In this issue, I interview Venkatesha Prasad, IEEE ComSoc Director, Member Services.

Dr. R. Venkatesha Prasad has been a faculty at the Networked Systems group of Delft University of Technology (TU Delft). He has (co-)authored 300+ publications in peer-reviewed international transactions/journals and conferences, including patents, standards, and book chapters. He has been successful in acquiring and executing several European and Dutch national projects in the areas of IoT, CPS, mmWave networks, Smart-energy systems, Personal Networks, and Cognitive Radios. He was selected as an IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer twice in 2016–2020. He is also leading many IEEE activities through positions in technical committees (vice-chair of the cognitive networking 2013–2016, 2020–2022, and Green Communications and Computing 2017-2019). He is an editor of many transactions and magazines and is a regular TPC member for many conferences. He is a senior member of IEEE and ACM. He is a Fellow of IETE.

Stefano: Hello VP! How did you land there? Would you like to begin by introducing the MSB to our readers? What are its main characteristics?

I have been working for ComSoc for the last 18 years. First in the standardization board for a long time and then also in many TCs. I was particularly part of TCCN and TCGCC, TCCC from the beginning. I also conducted many workshops at flagship conferences. I was waiting for the next level of responsibility. I must mention here that Prof. Ana Garcia Armada heard me, trusted my eagerness to serve, and when there was an opportunity she entrusted me with this responsibility.

Membership Services Board is an important wing under the VP Vice President, Member and Global Activities (MGA). This board has representatives from all four regions and also invited enthusiastic members. This board governs the policies that aim to help all the members of ComSoc.

MSB has multiple activities. It deals with the Distinguished Lecturers and Speakers programs. It also works with multiple committees like Young Professionals, WISE, etc. This board also supports chapters, Student activities, and Membership Development Grants.

The Distinguished Lecturer Program (DLP) and the Distinguished Speaker Program (DSP) are particularly appreciated by our members. What are the activities under these programs?

Distinguished Lecturer Program (DLP) and the Distinguished Speaker Program (DSP) are in particular very close to my heart. As a student, I have always appreciated tall researchers offering lectures in my college and I was inspired by their research work. I had been a DL sometime back and it gave lots of value to my profession and it is one of the most respected positions.

The DLT enables the DLs to experience different cultures and countries and meet with young minds as well as top-class researchers across the globe. ComSoc in particular has kept a good amount to support these activities.

From this year, we have also started to cover the hotel costs for the DLTs. This enables chapters to request the DLs without inhibitions. We have also started encouraging chapters to avail the DS whenever possible. The approval process has also been simplified.

What are other membership activities, which you consider most significant?

There is a new program called the Sister Chapter Programme, conceived by my predecessor Prof. Veiga and Prof. Mangoud is in charge under my board. Under this program, two chapters from different countries work together and enable cooperation among diverse groups.

The importance of this program can be seen also from the viewpoint that diversity is encouraged, appreciated, and respected. The program this year received a huge number of applications and now 10 teams are vying for the grand award at the end of the year.

What are the most difficult challenges, which you face?

The important aspect of our board is to devise mechanisms wherein we devise methods to offer value to our loyal members. The expectation is not convergent, the diverse chapters across the globe throw many diverse requirements! The MGA council and MSB need to be addressing and adapt to these requirements.

Further, we also need to consider the underdeveloped countries. We are close to 40000 members. Further, we have more chapters coming up — this year at least 25 new chapters have been established. We need to address their expectations, nurture them, and make sure that these chapters work for their members.

And what about Students? Do you organize regularly any specific activities for them?

We have a focused sub-committee on student activities. This committee with the help of YP and WISE committees. We have career fairs and also student activities during flagship conferences, etc. We have activities during the YP conference in Tokyo. We just concluded a town hall for students across the globe with VP-MGA and ComSoc President. We periodically arrange events where senior and fellow members share their experiences with students. Further, there are events for students and student competitions. Office bearers of the student chapters are also given training regarding the tools they need to use and their conduct.

To conclude, what are the most serious challenges that you are coping with?

According to me, the important issue is getting our student members to become professional members after their graduation. This will enable ComSoc to have a strong base in the industry which is an important sector for our members and definitely for our students.

CHAPTER NEWS

Bahrain Society of Engineers and IEEE ComSoc Bahrain Chapter

Unlocking the Future: Exploring Multi-Sensory Immersive and AI in the 6G Enabled Metaverse

by Raida Al-Alwai, President, Bahrain Society of Engineers, Mohab Mangoud, Vice Chair, Bahrain Chapter

The Bahrain Society of Engineers (BSE), in collaboration with the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc) Bahrain Chapter, held a captivating seminar titled "Unlocking the Future: Exploring Multi-Sensory Immersive and AI in the 6G Enabled Metaverse" on Sunday, 26 May 2024, 19:30–21:30, at BSE's headquarters, Juffair, Kingdom of Bahrain. The event featured a distinguished speaker, Prof. I.F. Akyildiz, a Life Fellow of IEEE and Fellow of ACM, with a remarkable career in telecommunications and networking.

The seminar's focus was on the promising concept of a multi-sensory metaverse, a next-generation virtual world that exceeds the limitations of current technology by engaging all five human senses. Prof. Akyildiz shed light on the significant advancements made in multimedia sensor networks but emphasized that these have primarily addressed haptic and vision.

His presentation explored that a truly immersive experience demands stimulating touch, smell, and taste alongside the traditional audio-visual aspects. This concept, termed "MulSemedia," has the potential to revolutionize various fields, including commerce, education, and entertainment. The seminar presented a glimpse into the potential of 6G wireless systems to address these challenges and provide the opportunity for the widespread adoption of MulSemedia communication. Prof. Akyildiz concluded by outlining promising research directions that can propel the development of this transformative technology.

Dr. Raida Al-Alawi, President of the Bahrain Society of Engineers, introduced the distinguished speaker. Professor Mohab Mangoud, vice chair of the ComSoc-Bahrain Chapter, moderated the seminar, ensuring a productive exchange of ideas among the audience and speaker.

IEEE ComSoc Bahrain Chapter has utilized the global IEEE Distinguished Lecturer (DLT) program/event that aims at supporting the local chapter by providing a pioneer technical speaker. The event proved to be a valuable platform for engineers, researchers, and enthusiasts in Bahrain to gain insights into the future of immersive technologies.

Diverse audience at the seminar from Academia, Industry, Professional Society, Women in Engineering

BAHRAIN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS
IEEE ComSoc Bahrain Chapter
IEEE Communications Society
Unlocking the Future
Exploring Multi-Sensory Immersive Experiences and AI in the 6G enabled Metaverse

Group photo of speaker, students (first row) and event organizers (second row)

The collaboration between the Bahrain Society of Engineers and the IEEE ComSoc Bahrain Chapter fostered a stimulating discussion on a topic with the potential to redefine human interaction with the digital world. Furthermore, it triggered high audience engagement through questions and comments, opened the door for research/project opportunities with the speaker, and provided a professional networking opportunity. 50+ people attended the event. Both Dr. Raida Al-Alawi, President of the Bahrain Society of Engineers, and Wafeeq Ajoor, Chair of IEEE ComSoc Bahrain Chapter, have honored the speaker with a souvenir plaque and certificate of appreciation.

CHAPTER NEWS

Thai Chapter ExCom Meeting 2023

by Keattisak Sripimanwat, IEEE ComSoc Thailand Chapter Chair

An online keynote talk for the Thai Quantum Information Forum's annual seminar 2023 (Q-Thai SEM #6 — November 30) entitled "Bringing Quantum Computer to Life", was presented by SPINQ's co-founder — Dr. Guanru Feng. Recorded video serving atyoutu.be/o64kWPuSBW4 is covered from the basic concept through R&D, to the product of desktop quantum computers. Q & A session, related industries, market & hype, are also provided at www.quantum-thai.org/single-post/q-and-a-q-thai-forum-seminar-6-2023.

Next, IEEE ComSoc Thailand organized various "science communication" activities throughout the year in order to update technological advancement and to also prevent people from fraud and fake technology. Those were done via blogs & videos and onsite talks. For the first side of the same coin, progress on global telecommunications & quantum information technology was publicized with news of the year, science and technology digests, and many other special reports.

Another side is based on a crazed technology such as LiFi — Light Fidelity or high-speed mobile communications roaming with light under LED hotspots. Former activities for pre-vention members from its misleading had been reported to IEEE GCN; http://bit.ly/31z0GmT (2017), http://bit.ly/34Ea36L (2018), andhttp://shorturl.at/lqFZ2 (2022). Throughout the 2023 year, ComSoc Thailand updated LiFi's "digital footprint" to the public, and gave a short talk at the inauguration meeting (November 30) for the new execu-tive committees of the IEEE Thailand section (2024—2025).

Briefly, this kind of misleading story was mutated from visible light communications (VLC) through "Light Fidelity — LiFi" (2011), to "LightBased — Wireless Communications" (2022), and then renamed once again to "Light Antenna" (2023). Doubtfully among those rhetorics of the past thirteen years, IEEE promoted LiFi officially as well. It was not only with an info-graphic captioned "a high-speed, bi-directional, wireless light-based communications sys-tem that is similar to Wi-Fi but faster & download 18 full-length movies in one second (Feb 16, 2017)", but also announced a free LiFi training course as a benefit of becoming IEEE ComSoc's member 2024!

However, there was a positive discussion with an impressive comment from an audience: "A real benefit of LiFi, we can illustrate it as an 'inactivated vaccine' to anti any future fake tech infections". Eventually, we all then hope that a strong immunity boosted by that LiFi vaccine could protect our communications engineering society toward the future, where a high hype on "quantum internet" has been playing a very similar role.

Quantum Computer 2023
Guanru Feng
CEO'S TALK
QUANTUM COMPUTING
BRINGING QUANTUM COMPUTER TO LIFE
Q Algorithm
Programing Paradigm & Languages
Microarchitecture
Quantum to Classical
Quantum Chip
SPINQ
LiFi
pseudoscience & crazed engineering
#LiFi a high-speed, bi-directional, wireless light-based communications system that's similar to traditional Wi-Fi, but faster.
Li-Fi can transmit data fast enough for a user to download 18 full-length movies in one second.
IEEE
2024-2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Chula
EGAT

Online Seminar on "Bringing Quantum Computer to Life", and Onsite Report (LiFi Misleading) to the new ExCom's Inauguration Meeting

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CHAPTER NEWS

Lebanon: Open Day for Artificial Intelligence (ODAI 2024)

by Jacques Demerjian, IEEE ComSoc Lebanon Chapter Chair

In today's fast-paced world, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become increasingly important across various domains. AI-enabled systems to learn and improve autonomously, making them powerful tools for innovation. Recent advancements in AI technology, such as enhanced machine learning algorithms and more complex neural networks, unlocked exciting new possibilities. These developments significantly expanded the potential of technology and its capacity to assist us in different fields.

That was why the Faculty of Engineering (FoE) at Antonine University (UA), the TICKET Lab, and the IEEE ComSoc Lebanon Chapter organized the Open Day for Artificial Intelligence (ODAI). The full day was held on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at the Antonine University (https://ua.edu.lb).

This event promised a deep dive into the latest AI breakthroughs and their applications. We explored how AI could be creative and even generate new ideas through Generative AI. Attendees had the chance to participate in sessions covering advancements in AI technology and explore how AI was revolutionizing various industries. National and international expert speakers led discussions on the many ways AI was reshaping our world, offering unique insights into its applications and societal impacts.

At the end of this open day Students Final Year Project Posters Presentation was held. The students demonstrated high levels of innovation and creativity in their AI projects.

The best projects were awarded and every participant received a Certificate of participation.

Antonine University and IEEE ComSoc Lebanon Chapter are delighted to have received a large number of participants to the Open Day for Artificial Intelligence (ODAI'24), which reflects the importance accorded to Artificial Intelligence. In addition, it was a great opportunity for international speakers, students, and instructors to share and discuss their knowledge and their ideas for advancing AI technology for the benefit of humanity.

This successful Day was achieved thanks to the combined efforts of volunteers from Antonine University and the IEEE ComSoc Lebanon Chapter.

ODAI'24 Audience

National and international expert speakers. From the left to the right: Elie Abi Lahoud (Director, Innovation Europe, Accenture), Danny Karam (Digital & Technology Partner, PwC), Imad El Hajj (Associate Dean, American University of Beirut), Samir Sakr (Managed Services Delivery Manager, Nokia-Lebanon).

The Winners of the Best Final Year Projects

CHAPTER NEWS

IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter

Industry Visit to ICreativez Software House, Karachi

by Umair Ahmed Korai, Chair, IEEE ComSoc Karachi Section Chapter, Pakistan

The IEEE Communication Society (ComSoc) Karachi Chapter, in collaboration with the IEEE Karachi Section and the IEEE ComSoc Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro Student Chapter, organized an industry visit for IEEE MUET student members to ICreativez Software House in Karachi, followed by a lunch at Arena, Karachi, on May 24, 2024.

A total of 26 participants joined the industry visit, including 14 IEEE members and 12 non-members. The visit to ICreativez was particularly beneficial, as their expertise in Laravel provided students with deeper insights and practical knowledge to complement their ongoing studies. In addition to the theoretical knowledge gained at the university, the students received valuable industrial exposure at ICreativez Solutions, where they worked extensively with Laravel, full-stack development, and Search Engine Optimization.

The journey commenced at 08:00 AM from MUET Jamshoro to Karachi, with the students and faculty members arriving at ICreativez Software House at 11:00 AM. The industry visit lasted about two hours. The ICreativez team warmly welcomed us and led us to their conference room. The session began with an introductory presentation about the company, its history, and its core areas of expertise, including front-end development, back-end development, and SEO. Following the presentation, a Q&A session allowed students to ask questions related to their fields of interest, with experts providing comprehensive and practical advice.

Student team during the field/industry visit at ICreativez Software House Karachi

At 01:30 PM, the team arrived at the Arena for lunch and games. After the enlightening session at ICreativez, we headed to Arena — Family Recreational & Sports Complex for lunch. The venue offered a buffet that everyone thoroughly enjoyed, featuring a variety of delicious dishes. Post-lunch, we engaged in several recreational activities, including bowling and arcade games, which served as a great way to relax and bond with IEEE student members and faculty members. Around 05:00 PM, the team began the journey back to Hyderabad, with a refreshing hi-tea stop at Sada Bahar Restaurant along the way.

The field visit was a resounding success, offering a perfect blend of education and entertainment. The knowledge gained from the experts at ICreativez will undoubtedly be valuable in the students' practical lives. We extend our heartfelt thanks to ICreativez for their hospitality and insightful session, and to MUET and IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter for organizing this enriching trip.

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