



Signing Ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between IEEE COMSOC and IEM

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The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the IEEE Communications Society (COMSOC) and IEM on 4 January 2008 marked the productive outcome from the fruits of labour between Dr Roberto Saracco and the Electrical Engineering Technical Division (EETD) of the IEM.

The seed of initiation was first planted when Dr Roberto Saracco, Vice President (Society Relations), Engr. Jaafar bin Haji Mohamad Abu Bakar and Dr Wong Kuok Shoong (from the Malaysian Chapter of IEEE COMSOC) paid a courtesy visit to the IEM on 9 November 2006. They were met by Engr. Yusouf bin Ahmad and Mah Soo, the chairman and deputy chairman of EETD. Y. Bhg. Dato' Engr. Prof. Dr Ow Chee Sheng (who was President of IEM then) joined in the discussion to explore opportunities for collaboration between the two learned societies as well.

The IEEE COMSOC is a community comprised of a diverse group of industry professionals with a common interest in advancing all communications technologies and sponsors publications, conferences, educational programs, local activities and technical committees that foster original work in all aspects of communications science, engineering and technology; encourage development of applications that use signals to transfer voice, data, image and/or video information between locations; promote the theory and use of systems involving all types of terminals, computers and information processors, network layouts, protocols, architectures, etc; and the advance development towards meeting new market demands in systems, products and technologies such as personal communication services, multimedia communications systems, enterprise networks and optical communication systems. COMSOC has

sister societies in Brazil, China, Croatia, Czech Republic/Slovakia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Russia, Slovenia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

A teleconference was held on 19 January 2007 between Dr Roberto Saracco and the IEM EETD Committee Members to exchange the updates and progress on the collaboration process. Draft copies of the MOU were circulated between COMSOC and the IEM for review before being presented to the IEEE COMSOC Board of Governors' meeting in St. Louis, the IEEE Legal Department, the IEM's Executive Committee and IEM Council for consideration and approval.

The MOU was finalised and approved by the respective governing bodies and the signing ceremony was fixed on 4 January 2008 at the auditorium of the new IEM Building. Dr Saracco, Dr Wong K. S. (representing the IEEE COMSOC) and Y. Bhg. Dato' Paduka Engr. Hj. Keizrul bin Abdullah and Y. Bhg. Dato' Engr. Prof. Dr Chuah Hean Teik (on behalf of the IEM) were the signatories to the MOU.

This MOU establishes a cooperative relationship in their respective areas of interest devoted to the promotion of the art and science of engineering.

Under the MOU of a fixed duration of three years: 1. Members of both



Institutions shall enjoy the privilege of attendance and participation in conferences and courses on same basis and fees

2. Each shall exchange appropriate publications to enable each Institution to be aware of current developments in the other Institution
3. All members of one Institution and who meet the membership requirements of the other Institution are encouraged to apply for membership in that Institution
4. Each Institution shall extend to members of the other Institution, including student members, the same privileges and courtesies as extended to its own members at same dues, rates and costs during a temporary (one year or less) stay in the country

of the other Institution, if so requested by a member.

5. Each Institution will extend student membership privileges to student members of the other Institution who are studying in an engineering, technical or scientific field, at same dues and rates, during temporary stay in the Institution's country.
6. Members of each Institution using the privileges under the MOU shall furnish appropriate evidence of membership of their own Institution. This is especially important for attendance at meetings and for the purchase of publications.

After the MOU signing ceremony, a presentation entitled 'Technology Evolution and its Impact on the

Telecommunications Business' was given by Dr Saracco. He gave a lively presentation illustrating how the fast pace in ICT evolution in several areas have reached a threshold that creates disruptions in the ICT business scene. He discussed the change in the value chain created by the ICT revolution. He quoted an example of the vision of Euro 2010 which plans to achieve a reduction of road accidents by 25% with the advancement of storage, processing, sensors, display, interactivity, pin-pointing and communication technologies. Numerous other examples were given to illustrate their impact on the future of doing business in the ICT global arena.

The event ended at 7.30 p.m. and the honoured guests were invited to dinner at Hotel Armada, Petaling Jaya. ■