

**Report on  
Asia Pacific Sister Societies Summit  
Tokyo, October 13th, 2008-10-13**

The first Asia Pacific Sister Societies Summit was held in Tokyo on October 13th in conjunction with the Regional Chapter Chairs Conference. Dr Reddy is only Indian invited for this meet. Roberto Saracco, COMSOC Sister Societies Director, opened the meeting after the welcome address by Abbas Jamalpour, Chapter Coordinator, and Zhisheng Niu, APB Director who also gave a welcome address on behalf of Nim Cheng who couldn't join the meeting. In his welcoming address Roberto thanked REV for the support in organising the Sister Societies Summit in Hanoi and apologised for having had to move it to Tokyo, as result of the decision to have the Chapter meeting in Tokyo in 2008 and the desirability to join the two events.

Roberto pointed out the two main motivation driving COMSOC to establish relations with local Societies all around the world, namely, to extend the audience to those telecom engineers that historically see their representation through a local Society, and to broaden the scope of telecommunications to other areas, like civil engineering, health care, automotive, tourisms.. In this areas telecommunications is becoming more and more crucial and it is beneficial to create a link between telecom engineers and professionals in those areas. COMSOC wish to act as a catalyst in fostering these collaborations.

A brief status report followed with information on two new Societies that have become Sister Societies, AICA (Italy) and IEM (Malaysia), and on the existing contacts with Societies in Poland, South Africa, UK, Singapore and Australia. These latter two are likely to become Sister Societies by the end of this year. Chapter Chairs have been asked to inform Roberto of any opportunity to involve new Societies active in their geographical area.

Presentations followed from representatives of CIC (China), IEICE-CS (Japan), IETE (India), KICS (Korea), REV (Vietnam). During Dr Reddy's presentation he highlighted the objectives and activities by IETE in India. Roberto gave a presentation on behalf of IEM with the support of Borhanuddin Mohd Ali, Malaysian Chapter Chair. The slides presented are available on Piazza.

<http://www.comsoc.org/sistersocieties/whats.html>

Points emerging from presentations and discussion:

- Societies are very active in their respective areas of interest. There is very little, if any, relation with Chapters. All Societies organize events, have a web site and publish Journals. IETE, India, has a very extensive collection of courses (1101 lectures) in 31 areas, including most areas in telecommunications. It would be of interest, particularly for local Chapters members to access this material. Clearly, Society members need be granted access to COMSOC education material. At present this is not part of the agreement and we should look into this.
- A few of the Societies are acting as certification body for professionals but this rarely applies to telecommunications engineers. Recently COMSOC has started a Certification Program for Wireless Engineers.
- The Being in Touch trial that run in Latin America during 2008 has stimulated discussion and interest. Chapter Chairs will provide an expression of interest to have this program activated in Asia Pacific during 2009. In order to do that a Champion shall be identified to act as Nelson Fonseca did for Latin America and a list of interested Chapters shall be drafted. Based on that Roberto, working with the Champion and with 2008 Lecturers, will propose a

long list of possible seminars out of which the final Program shall be defined by the Chapters involved.

It was noted that the Being in Touch Program differs from the broadcast of lectures over Internet in the sense that it is explicitly intended to be followed by group of people clustered in a single location, under the organization of a Chapter. Of course, several Chapters organise such cluster in parallel. This should provided a sense of togetherness for members in a given area. They can listen to the lecture, interact with questions to the lecturer and discuss among them. The gathering can take place at a local University or Enterprise and it is potentially open to anyone. For sure, Chapters are required to invite the local Sister Society.

- Discussion took place on the desirability for Chapters to organise remote participation to selected session of COMSOC Conferences. It was noted that this can be organised in such a way to provide a strong sense of value to local members and, differently from a fruition on the Internet by audiences made up of single viewers, this can allow the sense of interactive discussion and participation. Roberto will follow up at the BoG and with the meeting and conference to see how this can be organised and then come back to the Chapters. The technical Infrastructure shall be defined by COMSOC and made available to Chapters. Sister Societies would also benefit from this and the same infrastructure can be used to make remote participation available accessing conferences organised by Sister Societies.

The general feeling, after the meeting, was that it is a good idea to have the Sister Societies Summit in conjunction with RCCC.

Please find few snapshots during my visit to Japan as an attachment in .jpeg format which has been submitted for printing in news paper.



1. Sister Society summit participated by representatives of twenty five countries



2. Dr Reddy highlighting the objectives and activities of IETE of India



3. Asia Pacific Regional Chapter Chairs Conference [Representation from all Asia]



4. Sharing the taught with Delegates from other countries.