



Trinidad and Tobago Section Annual Report 2009

PREAMBLE

The year 2009 was a year characterized by a profound economic slowdown, a consequence of the worldwide financial crisis and recession. Local industry restricted considerably their support to organizations such as IEEE and as a result the local section was not able to carry out several of its planned activities. Additionally, some of our volunteers at the executive level of local chapters and groups were unable to dedicate enough time to carry out their responsibilities due to increasing demands at their respective jobs. Despite these obstacles the T&T section was able to carry out a good number of activities and increase slightly its membership. We expect to continue offering a good number of activities during 2010, to increase the visibility of the section in the local context.

MEMBERSHIP

The total membership as reported for December 2009 in the website IEEE Geographic Membership Statistics was 270 (See table below).

Membership Status	H	H Total	LF	F	F Total	LS	SM	SM Total	LM	M	M Total	AM	AM Total	GSM	GSM Total	Higher Grade Total	StM	StM Total	Grand Total
Active	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	16	0	162	162	7	7	15	15	200	70	70	270

This represents a small increase of 12 members (4.65%) from our previous December 2008 when the membership was 258 (See table below).

Reporting Status	H	H Total	LF	F	F Total	LS	SM	SM Total	LM	M	M Total	AM	AM Total	GSM	GSM Total	Higher Grade Total	StM	StM Total	Grand Total
Active	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14	0	157	157	6	6	15	15	192	66	66	258

Given the difficult economical situation of some of our members these numbers are quite positive and they reflect the personal effort of our past Chair Prof. Sharma whom personally contacted a large number of the members to make sure they renew their membership last year. Additionally, the student branch made a marvelous work to recruit new students to replace those ones that graduated last year.

HIGHLIGHTS 2009

1. Governance - Administration.

The Section held nine administrative meetings during 2009 to guide and promote activities at all levels. At the beginning of the year a new operational set of Bylaws was approved for the section, based on the one suggested by the IEEE and similar to the one used by the Puerto Rico Section. Additionally, elections were carried out at the end of 2009 and a new executive was elected (See item 7).

2. Accreditation Council - CACET.

Along 2009 IEEE Educational Activities Board continued providing an excellent support for the establishing of The Caribbean Accreditation Council for Engineering and Technology (CACET). With the valuable assistance of Prof. Moshed Kam during most of 2009 the interim CACET executive worked on the preparation of several of CACET's regulatory documents (charter and operational manual and accreditation manual). In November a Board of Directors was elected and hold its first meeting were the draft documents were discussed and final versions were approved. The BoD selected for the period 2010-2011 the following members: President (Chandrabhan Sharma), President-elect (Oliver Gossett), Vice President, Accreditation Activities (Ruby Alleyne), Treasurer (Janet Peters), and Secretary (Hannah Wei Muddeen). The next meeting of the BoD will take place on April 2010.

Additionally in November a Training Workshop for CACET Accreditation Program Evaluators and Team Chairs was held. The workshop was facilitated by CACET's President Chandrabhan Sharma, and by IEEE volunteers Moshe Kam and Pramod Abichandani. Thirty prospective program evaluators and team chairs from the wider Caribbean participated in the training workshop (27-28 November). Successful completion of a test would lead to issuance of Program Evaluator certificates by CACET and IEEE. This is only the third time that IEEE trains accreditation program evaluators outside the United States.

It is expected that sometime in 2010 CACET would be starting to participate as a parallel observer/ accreditation in some of the regional accreditation exercises.

It is important to notice that the IEEE Trinidad and Tobago Section has received a Certificate of Appreciation from IEEE to recognize its tremendous efforts on facilitating the formation of CACET.

3. Newspaper Articles.

During 2009 the section was able to publish several short technical articles in a daily newspaper of Trinidad and Tobago as well as the quarterly magazine of the

Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission. Some of the articles covered topics such as the IEEE, GSM Networks and Mobile Broadband Communication, Economic Advantages of operating and Energy Efficient Business, Introducing Engineering Asset Management and others. These proved to be vital in disseminating the IEEE goals and making IEEE visible to the general community.

4. TISP.

A meeting took place in October 2009 with officers of the Ministry of Education. During the meeting a review of the ideas presented during the initial 2008 workshop were discussed and a plan/strategy was agreed on to move forward the Teacher In-Service Programme locally. As part of the plan an initial workshop conducted by local IEEE volunteers would be offered in March 2010 to a selected group of secondary teachers from the Victoria District.

5. Chapter Activities.

Most of the Chapters and Groups kept a good level of activities and energy. However, a couple of them experienced problems with the required commitment of their officers due to external circumstances. The section replaced some of the officers but a good and working solution has not been implemented. This situation reflected in a poor activity for these groups during the year. Some of the activities generated by the chapters/groups were:

A. Technology Management Council (TMC)

Field trip: Visit to the WASA Educational Centre (with IEEE-EdS and Student Branch).

The 5th Engineering Management Final-year Students' Project Competition 2006/07: Engineering in Industry and the Society.

Seminars: The 3rd Public Seminar on Project Management Practices in the Caribbean. Public Seminar on Quality and Innovation Management Practices: Some Research Agendas (with EdS). The 4th Public Seminar on Project Management Practices in the Caribbean (with EdS).

B. Industry Applications Society (IAS)

Seminars: Grounding seminar (with EdS and Student Branch), Effects of an Arc Furnace on a Small Power Grid.

Field visits: Field visit to Petrotin, Point-a-Pierre.

C. Power and Energy Society (PES)

Seminars: Modelling of Solid Oxide Fuel Cells, Gas Turbine Power Plants for Trinidad and Tobago, Using GIS to Improve Asset Management at T&TEC, Generation Expansion Planning, Lightning Protection of Transmission Facilities.

D. Education Society (EdS)

Field trip: Visit to the WASA Educational Centre (with TMC and Student Branch).

Seminars: Grounding seminar (in collaboration with IAS and Student Branch). Public Seminar on Quality and Innovation Management Practices: Some Research Agendas (with TMC). The 4th Public Seminar on Project Management Practices in the Caribbean (with TMC).

E. Computer and Communications Society (CCS)

Contacts and discussions with Trinidad and Tobago Computer Society to carry out joint activities.

F. Gold Group

G. Student Branch at UWI (University of The West Indies)

Contacts and discussions continued with students and staff at UTT (University of Trinidad and Tobago) to create a student branch at that University. Progress has been very difficult.

Three student membership drives were carried out.

Field trip: Visit to the WASA Educational Centre (with IEEE-EdS and TMC)

Seminars: Grounding seminar (in collaboration with IAS and EdS).

Social activities: Movie night for students.

H. Women in Engineering.

The section is looking at the possibility of establishing a local group.

6. Financial.

The section had a healthy balance of \$36,280 TT at the end of the year.

7. Elections.

General elections took place for the section in December 2009 and the new executive for the period January 2010 - December 2011 is:

Chair - Fernando Castellanos IEEE No. 2702769

Chair-Elect - Fasil Mudeen IEEE No. 80357484

Secretary - Nirmala Baldeo IEEE No. 80290028

Treasurer - Trevor Babwah IEEE No. 4466900

OBJECTIVES 2010

The section plans to continue its effort to establish a core group of volunteers/officers that would coordinate relevant activities at the level of the chapters and groups. We have seen some promising results with several of our chapters and groups and we hope to be able to disseminate these examples to all our chapters/groups. Most of our chapters/groups have already a draft agenda of core activities for 2010.

With the backing of the Ministry of Education and TISP-IEEE a TISP workshop is scheduled for March and probably a next one would take place in the second semester.

The section will continue its support to maintain and operate CACET. This year would mark the beginning of accreditation exercises for the council and a big effort its required to carry out the evaluation of the educational programmes.

Recruitment of new members at all levels is one of the priorities of the section and a Membership Development Officer has been appointed to continue efforts in this area.



Fernando Castellanos

Chair (2010 -2011)

IEEE Trinidad and Tobago Section