UPLINK**

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IEEE

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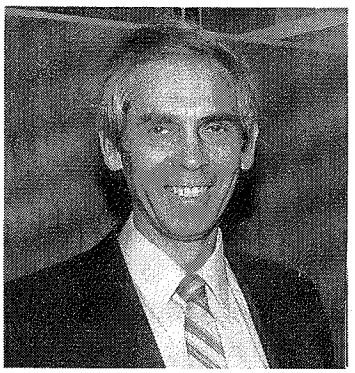
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Recently I attended the annual meeting of the IEEE Region 10 Committee in Tokyo. There were a total of 65 attendees, including IEEE President H. Troy Nagle and four Vice-Presidents; IEEE General Manager John Powers, IEEE Treasurer Tom Rhyne, the Region 8 Director, Charles Turner, the Computer Society President, Laurel Kaleda and a number of senior staff from IEEE Headquarters, in addition to the various Region 10 delegates.

If this seems like a very large and top-heavy meeting - it certainly was! And the reasons for such an attendance-profile are both interesting and instructive.

As most readers will know, Region 10 is one of the fastest-growing segments of the IEEE. Total Region 10 membership exceeds 30,000, with an annual growth rate of almost 6%. We now have a total of 35 sections from 15 countries in the Region, including seven (7) sections in Australia. In accordance with the existing Regional Bylaws, each of these sections is entitled to be represented on the Regional Committee (there were actually 34 section delegates present). While this arrangement is commendable in terms of IEEE democratic ideals, it is rapidly becoming unmanageable, and changes to the representation formula will have to be made within the next few years.

The very large IEEE Officer and HQ attendance was due to a high-level IEEE delegation having recently visited China for talks with colleague professional societies. The existence of this delegation, and the fact that so many highly-paid professionals (both volunteers and staff) should choose to spend an additional four days at the Region 10 meeting and related events, speaks volumes for the IEEE policy of Globalization. This is no longer just talk, or "pie in the sky", but an active corporate strategy being pursued with foresight and vigour by the IEEE Board of Directors. Forecasts of membership growth show that the IEEE will have a majority of members resident outside the USA within the next two decades.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued....

China is, of course, one of the great unknowns in this scenario. With a population approaching 1.2 x 109, the prospective influence on IEEE membership is enormous. The present Chinese membership is quite small, with only one full Section (Beijing) and a subsection (Shanghai) in the whole country - giving a total of about 700 members. The main barrier to membership development is economic; IEEE dues in the vicinity of US $85.00 represent a substantial outlay for most Chinese EE's at current salary levels. However, any improvements in Chinese per capita GDP or changes in wealth-distribution could alter this situation dramatically.

The recent IEEE delegation sought, amongst other things, to find ways of reducing the dues-burden. The possibility of having remittances in the local currency (yuan) and various other measures are now under consideration.

The presence of the Region 8 Director at our Region 10 meeting gives another interesting insight into the global workings of the IEEE. The initiative was taken some years ago of routinely inviting at least one "outside" Regional Director to each such meeting. This helps break down any artificial inter-regional barriers, and enhances the working knowledge of individual directors. It also provides a useful cross-fertilisation of ideas; for example, it was interesting to note how many of the problems in the fast-developing countries of the Asia-Pacific area (Region 10) have parallels in Africa and Eastern Europe (Region 8).

Enough about the meeting composition and attendance - some readers may be interested to know what actually transpired!

There was a very lengthy agenda which - but for the diplomatic skills of Chairman Tsuneo Nakahara - could have taken two weeks to cover, rather than the actual time of less than two days.

Prior to the main business session, brief presentations were made in turn by the IEEE President, the Vice-Presidents for Technical Activities and Regional Activities respectively, and by the IEEE Executive General Manager, on aspects of current operations and corporate strategies.

The Regional budget was presented and approved with only minor amendments. Total outlays for 1994 will total some US $264,550. The main funding formula, namely a Regional Levy of US $5 per member, remains unchanged. A provision of US $10,000 was made towards the next Sections Congress, to be held in Denver, Colorado, in November 1996.

Routine operating reports were presented by each of the Sections represented, by the Australia, India, Korea, and New Zealand Councils, and by the various regional sub-committees (Educational Activities; Membership Development; Awards; Chapter Liaison; etc.). Tokyo Section sought permission to introduce a Section Levy as a budgetary measure. This will require an amendment to the IEEE Bylaws; the proposal was endorsed by the Regional committee and must now be approved by the IEEE Board of Directors.

The TenCon '93 conference, held in Beijing last October, reported a net surplus in the vicinity of US $1500. Arrangements are now well advanced for TenCon '94, to be held in Singapore in August. Planning is underway for TenCon '95 (Hong Kong) and TenCon '96 (Perth). Queensland Section was nominated to host TenCon '97; the final assignment of this event will be decided by postal ballot prior to June 30, 1994.

An interesting adjunct to the routine business was the formation of a panel to commence work on a History of IEEE in Region 10.

Australia has always played a high-profile role within Region 10. There are currently two Australian members of the Regional Executive: Robert Prandolini (Queensland Section) who is the Regional E-mail Coordinator, and myself as Regional Conference Coordinator. Close contact is maintained with our IEEE colleagues in New Zealand and informal Australia Council/New Zealand Council discussions were held in Tokyo, as they have in similar situations in the past.

In overview, I am pleased to report that the IEEE is alive and well - not only in Region 10, but as a global entity. Whatever our operating difficulties may be, we should be thankful for our strengths.

Our corporate Officers continue to display remarkable zeal and foresight in dealing with daunting problems in a complex worldwide organisation. In the Asia-Pacific region, the IEEE continues to exert a powerful influence on technological change and economic development. Our Region 10 meetings continue to set high standards of effective multi-national consultation and cooperation.

Tony Gascoigne

POWER SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

A number of activities covering many topical power engineering issues have been tentatively organised for 1994 and include;
Lead Acid Battery lecture, by Marco Migliaro (distinguished IEEE personality) in May, NGK Stanger Manufacturing Facilities and Operations tour by John Swarbrick, NGK Stanger in June, Employee Magnetic Field Exposure lecture by Thanh Dovan (National Electricity) in September, Victorian Hospitals Cogeneration Case Studies lecture by Mark Clarke, Ewbank Preece, Sinclair & Knight, Arcing Fault Detection lecture by Majid al-Dabbagh, RMIT in October and Protection & Control Seminar in conjunction with National Electricity in November.

The power engineering chapter still requires other volunteer support to assist with the organisation of activities and the ongoing survival of the Chapter. The efforts are not too time consuming and the satisfaction and rewards are great, so if you are interested let me know.

Harry McDonald

SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

Photonics Research at The University of Melbourne presented by Dr. Arthur Lowery, Associate Professor and Reader Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering University of Melbourne. Tuesday, 14th June 1994, 6.30 - 7.30 pm

Photonics is a new and emerging technology in which photons - packets of light - are used to transmit, store, and manipulate information. Photonics offers many advantages over electronics and is on the threshold of an era of enormous growth, expansion, and development. The importance of photonic circuits has already been demonstrated in optical fibre communications. Future photonic systems will effect almost all aspects of communications, computing, and information technology in the 21st century.

The Photonics Research Laboratory (PRL) in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Melbourne was established in February 1990 by Professor Rodney Tucker. Since that time it has achieved an international reputation for innovative research in photonic networks, systems and devices. Professor Tucker is Director of the Photonics Research Laboratory and presently there are 13 academic and technical staff associated with the PRL and over 20 graduate students.

The PRL is also a major partner in the Australian Photonics Collaborative Research Centre (APCRC), which was established in 1992. A major thrust of the APCRC research program is collaborative research involving research teams in industry and other universities. Activities in the PRL cover a wide range of topics, concerning applications of photonics and optoelectronics to telecommunications and instrumentation. This talk will present an overview of current and future research activities in the Photonics Research Laboratory.

The venue is Lecture Theatre A1, Old Engineering Building, University of Melbourne. Light refreshments will be served prior to the seminar beginning at 5.45 pm in the Board Room, Rm 3.22b, Level 3 in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Melbourne.

For more information, contact Dr. Dalma Novak, details below.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Apologies to those who did not receive their copy of Uplink** for March 1994. We have obtained a more up to date mailing list and some minor problems with printing and distribution have been addressed, so things are expected to go smoothly from now on.

Your letters or short articles would be most welcome as material for future issues of Uplink**. Send your contributions to: **IEEE Uplink** Editor, 78 Alexandra Road, Ringwood East, Vic 3135.**

(Text, Word or Wordperfect document on an IBM formatted floppy disk is preferred but printed documents are quite acceptable).

SHOCKING HUMOUR

The story goes that one day a young man applied for a job with the San Francisco transport authority in the 1940's. He was not an IEEE member and at the interview and job assessment the personnel department believed that his skills and temperament best suited him to the role of tram conductor.

The job went well enough for him initially but after a few months his regard for the travelling public diminished and he became rude and aggressive towards them. After some customer complaints and routine checks by staff inspectors the authority disciplinary committee called him in for a pep talk.

His performance as a conductor was questioned and he was given a stern warning with the threat that he would be sacked if his performance as a conductor did not improve.

SHOCKING HUMOUR continued....

The disciplinary report records summarised his performance as "Bad conductor, needs to improve his attitude towards the public."

This was simply another problem for our young man who had been experiencing difficulties at home with his family and finances. He was affronted by this reprimand, "Bad conductor indeed", he said to himself. "I'll show them what a real bad conductor is!"

The next day on the tram he was extremely rude to the driver, passengers, everyone! He even hung out the doors and yelled at people on the side of the road! One of the passengers was so disgusted by this behaviour he confronted the young conductor. To everyone's horror the passenger was pushed straight out the open door whilst the tram was travelling at full speed and suffered a fatal injury.

The young conductor was non repentant and was dismissed from his job. The disciplinary summary report stated clearly that he was not to be re-employed under any circumstances and that he was a most unsuitable conductor. Further, charges were laid against the young man for his crime and he was tried in the courts for manslaughter.

In advising the jury (remember that this is USA in the 1940's) the judge took into account the young man's total lack of remorse for the crime and suggested that capital punishment (the electric chair) was appropriate. The jury was unanimous in their support for the judge's suggestion, adding it was simply not the American way, to display such flagrant disregard for customer service.

The national press had taken interest in this case and were in attendance for the young man's execution. The young man was strapped into position and upon command the Govenor ordered the executioner to close the switch controlling the electric chair

To the witnesses surprise nothing happened and the young man survived what was supposed to be a fatal charge of electricity. Suspecting that the apparatus was faulty it was dismantled and the process was repeated twice, with the same outcome, the young man was unaffected by the punishment and survived.

Before the executioner could attempt a fourth charge the Governor intervened and by the powers vested in him stopped the execution process. There had been few precedents but the Governor postulated that the hand of God or some other divine power was protecting the young man and that he should be released.

The press who had attended other executions were keen to run a story on this surprising young man. A doctor in attendance at the thwarted execution was also interested to find out more about this young man's special qualities.

The young man was quite co-operative and agreed to an exclusive interview with the press.He indicated that his survival was based on a simple concept and that they should simply consult his performance appraisal with the San Francisco transport authority where they would find documented quite clearly on a number of occasions "BAD CONDUCTOR!"

Harry McDonald.

VICTORIAN SECTION COMMITTEE & CHAPTERS