

Conference Coordination Subcommittee (CoCSC)

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Goals

- 1) Timely reviewing of the financial and technical co-sponsorship (TCS/FCS) and e-Notice requests.
- 2) Recruiting good candidates for R8 flagship conferences, supporting and steering the awarded conferences.
- 3) Reporting to MGA and MCE, good relation with other regional conference coordinators.
- 4) Explore options for new R8 flagship conferences on trending topics or new geographic areas.
- 5) Explore industry-focused events in collaboration with other R8 sub-committees.

Points of Concern

- 1) Low number of financial co-sponsorship (FCS) of conferences by R8 Sections and Chapters needs development of strategy for increased awareness of the benefits from Sections/Chapters FCS.
- 2) Monitor the quality of the IEEE R8 FCS and TCS sponsored events (plagiarism, pay-to-publish, paper stuffing) to avoid conference quantity to reduce IEEE reputation and ability papers to be indexed.
- 3) Assure the proper conduct of IEEE R8 FCS/TCS conferences and managing conflicts of interest in line with IEEE policies. Several cases were already noticed and co-sponsorship was not approved.
- 4) Need to improve the R8 flagship conferences outlook, especially the conferences that have low number of attendees.

Conferences approved since last meeting (list TCS and FCS separately)

Using the IEEE Conference Analytics for Volunteers (<https://tblanalytics.ieee.org>) the Region 8 has approved 12 TCS and declined 3. The number of reviewed conferences is lower than in the previous report due to shorter reporting period of only 4.5 months.

Technically Co-Sponsored Conferences (TSC):

- 2019 11th International Congress on Ultra Modern Telecommunications and Control Systems and Workshops (ICUMT), Dublin, Ireland, 28-Oct-2019 to 30-Oct-2019, 48472
- 2020 International Symposium on Electromagnetic Compatibility - EMC EUROPE, Rome, Italy, 07-Sep-2020 to 11-Sep-2020, 48519
- 2020 2nd Global Power, Energy and Communication Conference (GPECOM), Izmir, Turkey, 20-Oct-2020 to 23-Oct-2020, 49333
- 2020 International Conference on Smart Systems and Technologies (SST), Osijek, Croatia, 14-Oct-2020 to 16-Oct-2020, 49455
- 2020 43rd International Conference on Telecommunications and Signal Processing (TSP), Milan, Italy, 07-Jul-2020 to 9-Jul-2020, 49548
- 2020 ELEKTRO, Taormina, Italy, 25-May-2020 to 28-May-2020, 49696
- 2020 International Symposium ELMAR, Zadar, Croatia, 14-Sep-2020 to 16-Sep-2020, 49956
- 2020 First International Conference of Smart Systems and Emerging Technologies (SMARTTECH), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 03-Nov-2020 to 5-Nov-2020, 49988
- 2020 32nd International Conference on Microelectronics (ICM), Aqaba, Jordan, 14-Dec-2020 to 17-Dec-2020, 50269
- 2020 International Workshop on Fiber Optics in Access Networks (FOAN), Valencia, Spain, 05-Oct-2020 to 6-Oct-2020, 50356
- 2020 6th IEEE Congress on Information Science and Technology (CiSt), Agadir - Essaouira, Morocco, 12-Dec-2020 to 18-Dec-2020, Section FCT (Morocco Section 50%, Morocco Section C/COM Joint Chapter 50%, Region 08 0%, IEEE Africa Council 0%), 49399
- 2020 IEEE 14th International Conference on Application of Information and Communication Technologies (AICT), Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 7-Oct-2020 to 9-Oct-2020, Section FCT (Azerbaijan COM/C Joint Chapter 20%, ADA University 10%, Tashkent University of Information Technology 70%), 50176

DECLINED TCS:

- 2020 8th International Conference on Computers Communications and Control (ICCCC), Oradea, Romania, 11-May-2020 to 15-May-2020, 48584
- 2020 UKSim-AMSS 22nd International Conference on Modelling & Simulation (UKSim), Cambridge, United Kingdom, 25-Mar-2020 to 27-Mar-2020, 49745
- 2020 15th Conference on Computer Science and Information Systems (FedCSIS), Sofia, Bulgaria, 6-Sep-2020 to 9-Sep-2020, 49059

Financially Co-Sponsored Conferences (FCS): None since last meeting. (Previously approved were the 2020 20th IEEE MELECON 15% FCS, 2020 6th IEEE ENERGYCON 15% FCS, and 2020 ICTE 5% FCS.)

Progress against goals since the last report

IEEE R8 FLAGSHIP CONFERENCES 2019

IEEE HISTELCON 2019 (<https://www.histelcon2019.org>) was held in Glasgow, UK, 18 to 19 Sep 2019. The conference had 43 paid registrations, 4 keynote speakers and 2 social events. During the same week in Glasgow, the unveiling of an IEEE History Milestone to recognize the work done for the standardization of the unit of electrical resistance (the Ohm) took place at the Hunterian, followed by a two-hour technical symposium. The unveiling was done by IEEE President Jose Moura, and the plaque received by Steph Scholten, Director of the Hunterian. Interest has been expressed to hold HISTELCON2021 in Russia (Moscow and St. Petersburg jointly) and HISTELCON2023 in Italy (Florence).

Within the 2019 IEEE GCIoT (Global Conference on Internet of Things) in Dubai, UAE, 4 to 7 December 2019 (<https://gciot.org>), as part of the industry track at the conference, a one-day focused Industry Summit on emerging technologies was organized by Sohaib Qamar Sheikh (Industry Summit Co-Chair) and Khaled Mokhtar on 5-th December.

IEEE R8 FLAGSHIP CONFERENCES 2020

IEEE ENERGYcon 2020 (<http://ieee-energycon2020.org>) will be held in in Gammarth, Tunisia from 13-16 April 2020. The organizers have announced the 8 keynotes and distinguished speakers and added a special Smart Grid Workshop on 13 April 2020. Paper submission deadlines have been extended. For Abstract (2 pages) / Short (4 pages) / Full (6 pages) paper submission is extended to January 31, 2019. For Postgraduate Forum paper submission is extended to February 15, 2019. The conference obtained special prices for attendees for the Ramada Plaza Tunis Hotel, located in Gammarth; and a free Airport- Hotel transfer service.

IEEE MELECON 2020 (<http://melecon2020.org>) will be held in Palermo, Italy from 16 to 18 June 2020. Paper submission deadline has been extended to Jan 31, 2020.

IEEE R8 FLAGSHIP CONFERENCES 2021

The already approved 2021 R8 flagship conferences EUROCON 2021 (Ukraine, Lviv) and AFRICON 2021 (Tanzania, Arusha) have started the initial organizing tasks.

E-mail Call for Proposals for R8 flagship conferences has been sent to all Section and Subsection Chairs for the:

- IEEE IHTC 2021
- IEEE HISTELCON 2021

The timeline for proposals is as follows:

- Letter of intent: 10 February 2020 (Monday)
- Initial bid: TBD
- Final bid: TBD
- Results: After the next R8 OpCom meeting

TBD: Since this Call is less than 2 years from the conference dates, in order to give prospective bidders enough time to prepare good proposals, and keep the decision process as short as possible, the deadlines for the initial and final bid will be determined in agreement with the prospective bidders who will send a Letter of intent.

The new R8 flagship conference IEEE IHTC 2021 International Humanitarian Technology Conference was created by IEEE Canada in 2014, and now rotates in a 3 years cycle between Regions 7, 8 and 9. IHTC 2020 will be held in R9 and IHTC 2021 in R8. IHTC is a unique conference that focuses on humanitarian applications of technologies, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nation: Mainly, sustainable development of communities, health, disaster mitigation and management; and engineering education with an emphasis on humanitarian issues. The conference features outstanding keynote speakers, workshops, a student paper/design competition, and peer-reviewed papers.

More bidding information is given on R8 CoCSC website: <https://ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/conference-coordination/>. Sample proposals from previous organizers can be provided to interested applicants.

IEEE R8 FLAGSHIP CONFERENCES 2022 - Call for host Sections

Call for Proposals for R8 flagship conferences IEEE ENERGYCON 2022 and IEEE MELECON 2022 is still open with the final bid deadline on 28 February 2020.

Future flagship conferences already approved (progress reports). You can upload a maximum of 5. Each pdf file can have a maximum size of 1 MB

Motions to approve future editions, including venue, dates, general chairs, financial share (files to be attached). You can upload a maximum of 5 files. Each pdf file can have a maximum size of 1 MB.

For past conferences editions: preliminary report, or final report, including attendees, papers, acceptance rate, financial report. You can upload a maximum of 5 files. Each pdf file can have a maximum size of 1 MB.

Report on HISTELCON2019

HISTELCON2019 took place in Glasgow, Scotland on 18th-19th September 2019.

My opinion is that it was a very good and enjoyable conference, with excellent papers, well presented. That also seems to be the opinion of those who attended.

The invited KeyNote speakers all provided talks well up to expectation and the chairing of sessions was done effectively with good time control.

The attendance numbers were less than hoped for, and particularly we did not get the young professional or student numbers we had hoped for, despite the low registration fee chosen for them. Also, few of the organising committee members attended.

I do not know the actual numbers who registered nor do I have any idea so far of the financial outcome because these details are within Strathclyde University and not yet available.

The organisation was associated with much uncertainty and even during the conference some of the arrangements were being adjusted in substantial ways! A light meal was provided each day for the participants and also refreshments served in some of the morning and afternoon breaks. It had been intended to serve haggis for the second day lunch, but none of these were found!

The social event at the City Chambers was an exceptional experience in a remarkable location, with a welcome speech by a Bailie of the City of Glasgow, Dr. Martin Bartos, standing in for the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Eva Bolinder.

A photo clip of some of the attendees on a staircase of the City Chambers is attached. If you would like a higher resolution copy, please let me know.

Authors of papers presented at HISTELCON2019 were given a short time to make minor corrections and amendments to their papers and some did so. All have signed the IEEE on-line copyright transfer form (eCF) and on 2nd October I sent

the final PDFs of the papers together with the final conference program details, author list and papers list to James Irvine at Strathclyde University, for them to be prepared and packaged for submission to IEEE Xplore. If that is done successfully they will in due course be available for all to access.

In the meantime, there is password-protected access on the HISTELCON2019 site to the papers presented, for the personal uses of those who registered to attend HISTELCON2019 and to authors of presented papers.

Bids to hold HISTELCON2021 in Russia (Moscow and St. Petersburg jointly) and HISTELCON2023 in Italy (Florence) have been submitted, and the decisions on that lie with the IEEE Region 8 Committee.

During the same week in Glasgow, the unveiling of an IEEE History Milestone to recognise the work done for the standardisation of the unit of electrical resistance (the Ohm) took place at the Hunterian, followed by a two-hour technical symposium. The unveiling was done by IEEE President Jose Moura, and the plaque received by Steph Scholten, Director of the Hunterian.

I made a video recording of the unveiling ceremony and this is available for anyone who would like it, but is far too large to send as an e-mail attachment.

May I use this message to also thank all those who contributed in various ways to the success of HISTELCON2019.

Tony Davies HISTELCON2019 General Chair.

2019 October 7th

Other Issues to report

The CoCSC continued to have regular web meetings every first week of the month.

Sohaib Qamar Sheikh, the R8 VC TA, had a web meeting with all CoCSC members on the topic "IEEE R8 - CoCSC Strategy" on 14 December 2019.

Ljupco Karadzinov, the CoCSC Chair, has given the following web informational sessions and presentations:

- IEEE and conferences - why to organize and how to run them, IEEE South Africa Section Information Session (via Skype), UCT, Cape Town, South Africa, 13 November 2019.
- IEEE and conferences - why to organize and how to run them, IEEE Sweden Section WebEx meeting with the R8 TA Chair, Stockholm, 27 November 2019.
- IEEE Conference Business Overview, ICCA Annual Workshop for the Meetings Industry in Qatar 2019, Doha, Qatar, 03 December 2019.
- Information about past International Humanitarian Technology Conferences (IHTC), IEEE UK&I Section WebEx meeting, London, UK, 29 January 2020.

Peter Nagy, the CoCS Past Chair has ended his two years 2018-2019 volunteering in the IEEE Conferences Committee and is replaced by Lawrence Wong. His role in this committee was invaluable for R8 CoCS links with MGA and MCE. Also, we will remember his excellent presentations given during the MGA Region Conference Coordinator Quarterly Calls. In recognition to his expertise, Peter (together with Carl Debono and Raed Abdullah) is invited to give the presentation "MGA Communities Leading Conferences Organization" at the IEEE Sections Congress 2020 (SC2020) in Ottawa, Canada. Also, Peter, as in his own words, can concentrate on R8 activities now.

The MGA revealed the final proposal for TCS fee increase that will start after 1 January 2021 and is expected to cover all the MGA costs (service includes copyright, plagiarism checks, articles published in Xplore and MCE overhead). This is modified Option 2 with shared increase in both fees: \$2,000/conf + \$17/paper =; Cost Split (Event : Paper) = (54% : 46%)
Example: TCS conference with 100 papers \$2,000 + \$17 X 100 = \$3,700.

Proposals for improvements

INCREASED AWARENESS OF SECTION CHAIRS ON REGION 8 TCS REQUIREMENTS

It is important to understand that Section/Chapter Chairs should not "just click Approve button" for TCS, but have direct and substantial involvement in the technical program of the conference. To have R8 FCS/TCS, the conference must have at the minimum, one R8 Section and one local Chapter as technical co-sponsor. Also at least 2 current or previous R8 committee members should be involved in the review process.

There is a common problem the CoCSC is facing with conference organizers due to different understanding of the term "sponsorship" in Europe and in the USA (IEEE terminology).

In Europe a conference "sponsor" is most commonly understood as an NGO organization, an institution or a company which donates finances or promotes the conference. This kind of "sponsor" can financially contribute or donate goods and services to a conference like a grant for a specific activity, such as a dinner; providing conference attendees trinkets or small gifts; or donate use of facilities to host the conference; or promote it distributing the CfP or marketing the conference on its web pages etc. This kind of sponsor has no other roles, obligations and responsibilities in conducting conference organization. However this type of NGO organizations, institutions or companies in the IEEE conference terminology is refereed as Supporter (also Patron, Partner or Contributor).

In the USA, the IEEE conference terminology uses the "sponsor" or "co-sponsor" terms with the meaning (common in Europe) as conference "organizers" or "co-organizers". This is clearly visible from the IEEE Sponsorship Types description:

IEEE SPONSORSHIP TYPES

- Sole Sponsorship: The IEEE OU (society, section, chapter, council) has full financial and technical responsibility for executing the conference
- Financial Co-Sponsorship (FCS): The IEEE OU has shared responsibilities for the conference's financial and technical requirements
- Technical Co-sponsorship (TCS): The IEEE OU provides direct and substantial involvement in the technical program

- Co-sponsorship indicates shared involvement among several organizations, one of which is an IEEE OU (society, section, chapter, council).

TECHNICAL CO-SPONSORSHIP Indicates direct and substantial involvement by the IEEE OU solely in the organization of the technical program:

- The IEEE OU has direct and substantial involvement in the technical program and scope definition;
- Technical program involvement examples: IEEE volunteer is technical program chair or track chair, assigning reviewers to conference;
- The conference is allowed to use IEEE's brand. IEEE brand guidelines must followed. All conference promotional materials indicate IEEE as a Technical Co-sponsor;
- IEEE OU has no financial responsibility. The OU does not receive any financial gain or incur any loss;
- Conference proceedings may be eligible for inclusion to IEEE Xplore. Proceedings are subject to quality review Conference execution is completely managed by co-sponsor/s
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is required Supporters must be noted separately from sponsors on all conference marketing materials including the conference web-site.

In regards to the Region 8, it approves use of eNotice for CfP distribution only to conferences it is technical co-sponsor (in IEEE terms), meaning R8 has a role of technical "co-organizer", in order to maintain conference quality and IEEE reputation. This explains the strict R8 TCS requirements (substantial involvement). It also means that R8 should be included from the begging in the conference application as co-sponsor (meaning co-organizer) with clearly declared role in conducting the conference. The Region 8 Technical Co-Sponsorship Requirements are given on our web page <https://ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/conference-coordination/>.

OTHER PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

They remain the same as in the previous CoCSC report for the IEEE 113th Region 8 Committee Meeting held in Valencia, Spain from 11-13 October, 2019, and are concerning the following issues:

- Improve flagship conferences outlook and increase the conference attendance;
- Increase the low number of FCS conferences by R8 Sections and Chapters.