

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) The new R8 flagship conference IEEE IHTC 2021, International Humanitarian Technology Conference (rotating between R7, R9 and R8), to be held in Brighton, UK from 17 to 19 September 2021, is still in the initial phases of organization. No Call for papers has been issued and no running web page is developed. The organizing team is working on the budget that will largely depend on the format, which could be physical, virtual or hybrid as circumstances with COVID-19 dictate.
- 2) The organizing team of the IEEE EUROCON 2021 is considering options to hold the conference as virtual or to postpone it due to severe COVID-19 situation at the moment in Ukraine. The main concern is that the virtual option could not make any financial surplus due to significantly lower registration fees.
- 3) The organizing team of the IEEE HISTELCON 2021 is considering different options to deal with the COVID-19 situation. First they postponed the conference from July to mid August, and also may hold it in a hybrid mode (partially online) in Moscow and St. Petersburg, or only in one of these two cities.

Other Points of Concern remain the same as in the previous report: low number of FCS conferences by R8 Sections and Chapters; monitoring the quality of the IEEE R8 FCS and TCS sponsored events; assuring proper conduct of IEEE R8 FCS/TCS conferences and managing conflicts of interest in line with IEEE policies; and the need to improve the R8 flagship conferences outlook.

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

Using the IEEE Conference Analytics for Volunteers (<https://tblanalytics.ieee.org>, date 25 Oct 2020) and CoCSC e-mails, the Region 8 has approved, declined, or approved moving to virtual to the following conferences, in order of conference start date:

TECHNICALLY CO-SPONSORED CONFERENCES (TSC):

- 2020 28th Telecommunications Forum (TELFOR) - 51502, Belgrade, Serbia, 24-Nov-2020 to 25-Nov-2020, www.telfor.rs, Approved, moved to virtual.
- 2020 IEEE Global Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things (GCAIoT) - 51063, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12-Dec-2020 to 15-Dec-2020, www.gcaiot.org, Approved.
- 2021 XVIII International Scientific Technical Conference ALTERNATING CURRENT ELECTRIC DRIVES (ACED) - 50605, Ural Federal University, Ekaterinburg, Russia, 22-Mar-2021 to 26-Mar-2021, www.aced2021.ru, Approval in progress: pending revision.
- International Conference on Electric Power Engineering - Palestine 2021 - 51568, Gaza, Palestine, 23-Mar-2021 to 24-Mar-2021, <http://icepe.ps/index.html>, Approval in progress.
- 2021 IEEE Technology & Engineering Management Conference (TEMSCON) - 52034, University of Dubrovnik & University of Zagreb/(FEB & FOI) - Virtual Only, 17-May-2021 to 20-May-2021, Approval in progress.
- 2021 7th International Conference on Optimization and Applications (ICOA) - 51614, Wolfenbttel, Germany, 19-May-2021 to 20-May-2021, ostfalia.de/i/icoa2021/index.html, Approval in progress: pending revision.
- 2021 IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for Industry 4.0 IoT (MetroInd4.0&IoT) - 51437, Rome, Italy, 07-Jun-2021 to 9-Jun-2021, www.metroind40iot.org, Approved.
- 2021 IEEE 6th International Forum on Research and Technology for Society and Industry (RTSI) - 50628, 06-Sep-2021 to 9-Sep-2021, Naples, Italy, www.rtsi2020.ieseesezioneitalia.it, Approved RTSI 2020 to be postponed to 2021.
- 15th International Conference on Advanced Technologies, Systems and Services in Telecommunications (TELSIKS 2021) - 52058, Nis, Serbia, 20-Oct-2021 to 22-Oct-2021, <http://www.telsiks.org.rs>, Approval in progress.

DECLINED TCS:

- 2020 23-rd International Conference on Distributed Computer and Communication Networks: Control, Computation, Communications (DCCN) - 51428, Moscow, Russia, 14-Sep-2020 to 18-Sep-2020, www.2020.dccn.ru, Approval declined.
- 2020 International Conference on Artificial Intelligence & Modern Assistive Technology (ICAIMAT) - 51101, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Online Virtual Event, 24-Nov-2020 to 26-Nov-2020, Approval declined.
- 2021 4th International Conference on Computer Applications & Information Security (ICCAIS) - 51181, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Video Conference, 18-Mar-2021 to 20-Mar-2021, Approval declined.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE TO VIRTUAL OR POSTPONEMENT (TCS):

- 2020 International Symposium on Electromagnetic Compatibility - EMC EUROPE - 48519, Rome, Italy, 07-Sep-2020 to 11-Sep-2020, Approved change to virtual
- 2020 5th IEEE Workshop on the Electronic Grid (eGRID) - 48559, Aachen, Germany, 2-Nov-2020 to 4-Nov-2020, R8 CoCSC helping concurrent approval by the Germany Section
- 2020 32nd International Conference on Microelectronics (ICM) - 50269, Aqaba, Jordan, 14-Dec-2020 to 17-Dec-2020, <https://www.ieee-icm-2020.org/>, Approved change to virtual

- 2020 International Conference on Computer, Control, Electrical, and Electronics Engineering (ICCEEE) - 49695, Khartoum, Sudan, (initial 22-Aug-2020 to 24-Aug-2020), conference dates updated 21-Dec-2020 to 23-Dec-2020, www.umst.edu.sd/index.php/icceee20, Concurrent Approval on behalf of Sudan Subsection

CANCELLED EVENTS (TCS):

- 2020 International Workshop on Fiber Optics in Access Networks (FOAN) - 50356, Valencia, Spain, 05-Oct-2020 to 6-Oct-2020, Previously approved, Canceled event
- 2020 IEEE 4th International Conference on Computing and Wireless Communication Systems (ICWCWS) - 50033, Tetuan, Morocco, 19-Nov-2020 to 20-Nov-2020, Concurrent approval for the IEEE Morocco Section, Canceled event

FINANCIALLY CO- SPONSORED CONFERENCES (FCS):

- IEEE ENERGYCON 2022, Latvia Section, Riga, Latvia, 9-12 May 2022, FCS 20
- IEEE HISTELCON 2021, IEEE Russia Section, Moscow St. Petersburg, Russia, mid Aug 2021, FCS 30
- IEEE AFRICON 2021- 51333, Arusha, Tanzania, 13-Sep-2021 to 15-Sep-2021, www.africon2021.org, MOU Signed 22 Oct 2020, FCS 15%

APPROVAL OF CHANGE TO VIRTUAL (FCS):

- 2020 International Conference on Technology and Entrepreneurship - Virtual (ICTE-V) - 50708, WebEx, San Jose, USA (original location, Bologna, Italy), 20-Apr-2020 to 21-Apr-2020, icte.ieee-tems.org, , FCS 5%, Approved move to virtual

Progress against goals since the last report

IEEE R8 FLAGSHIP CONFERENCES 2019

The IEEE MELECON 2020 (<http://melecon2020.org>) originally planned to be held in Palermo, Italy from 16 to 18 June 2020, was organized as a virtual conference due to COVID-19, with the use of WeConf platform and the Microsoft Teams for the live part of the program. The access to the platform WeConf was open to all interested people. Free registration was required for participants to "on demand" Technical Program. The main tracks of the conference were: Smart Mobility, Industry 4.0, Smart Healthcare and Smart Grids. The Technical Program consisted of two kinds of events, the live and semi-live (part of the event is pre-recorded and part is live) and the "on demand" Technical Program with 18 sessions, 5 keynote speakers, 6 invited speakers and 5 tutorials. The conference also included special events with competitions (R8 Student Paper Contest, Best Research Activity Pitch Presentation of PhD Students and Young Professionals, Best Entrepreneurship Activity Pitch Presentation) and panels (WIE special event and Special Meeting on Innovative startups and entrepreneurs).

The IEEE ENERGYcon 2020 (<http://ieee-energycon2020.org>) initially planned to be held from 13 to 16 April 2020 in Gammarth, Tunisia was postponed to 28 Sep to 1 Oct 2020, and held virtually. The program included 9 plenary keynotes and distinguished speakers, Smart Grid Workshop and Women in Power Workshop. The conference received 244 submissions from about 60 countries. Best Student Paper Awards, in Memory of Dr. Elias Kyriakides to honor his work throughout the years, especially as chair of the last IEEE ENERGYCON 2018, IEEE Region 8, was introduced at the ENERGYCON 2020. The conditions to participate in the contest are that the paper is authored or co-authored by a graduate or undergraduate student, who has had a major contribution in the preparation, and who presented the paper at the conference either orally or at a poster session. It was presented in the IEEE ENERGYCON 2020 gala dinner and comprised of Certificate plus \$300 travel grant to participate to IEEE conference for the Winner, and Certificates for the 1st and 2nd Runner up.

IEEE R8 FLAGSHIP CONFERENCES 2021

The IEEE AFRICON 2021, to be held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 13 to 15 September, has a main motto "Contributing to the Industrialization of Africa through Innovations in Science and Technology". The organizing team has developed the web site <https://africon2021.org> and prepared the call for papers with the following important dates: 5 February 2021 - workshop, tutorial deadline; 16 April 2021 - full paper submission; 11 June 2021 - paper acceptance notification; 16 July 2021 - early registration, camera-ready papers.

The IEEE EUROCON 2021, 19th International Conference on Smart Technologies to be held in Lviv, Ukraine from 6 to 8 July 2021, has also a running web page <http://eurocon2021.org> and the following important dates: January 18, 2021 - paper submission; April 5, 2021 - paper acceptance notification, April 26, 2021 - final paper submission & registration. Due to severe COVID-19 situation at the moment in Ukraine, the organizing team is considering options to hold the conference as virtual or to postpone it. The virtual option is less likely to make any financial surplus due to significantly lower registration fees (IEEE recommendation is 50% reduction).

The IEEE HISTELCON 2021 was approved by the OpCom to be organized by the Russia Section in Moscow and St. Petersburg, in mid August 2021. The IEEE Russia Section is very motivated to organize the HISTELCON next year since 2021 is the year of the 70th anniversary of the creation of the first computers in Russia and continental Europe: the Computer M-1, created at the Energy Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences (Moscow), was launched and testing passed successfully; and the MESM in Institute of Electrotechnology (Kiev) was launched, testing passed successfully and began regular operation. The program will comprise of first two days in Moscow with conference sessions and culture program, third day transfer to St. Petersburg and evening culture program, and the last day in St. Petersburg with conference sessions. The organizers have support by the IEEE History Center, the IEEE History Committee and the IEEE Computer Society and will organize an exhibition dedicated to this date at the Polytechnic Museum and will invite museums from other countries to participate in it.

IEEE R8 FLAGSHIP CONFERENCES 2022

The IEEE ENERGYCON 2022 was approved by the OpCom to be organized by Latvia Section in Riga, Latvia, from 9 to 12 May 2022.

The IEEE MELECON 2022 was approved by the OpCom to be organized again by Italy Section in Palermo in June 2022, this time as a face-to-face meeting. This request was made by the Italy Section and the 2020 organizing team who had to change this year edition to virtual one due to COVID-19 situation. Organizing it again in 2022, now with real presence in Palermo,

will give the participants the opportunity to visit this magnificent city, meet and convene between themselves and with local research community, as well to give the organizers possibility to show their hospitality. The other bidder, the Jordan Section expressed full understanding and support for this idea and request, so will apply again for the next edition of the conference.

IEEE R8 FLAGSHIP CONFERENCES 2023 - Call for host Sections

E-mail Call for Proposals for 2023 flagship conferences host Sections will be sent soon to all Section and Subsection Chairs for the:

- IEEE EUROCON 2023;
- IEEE AFRICON 2023;
- Ideas for new R8 virtual flagship conferences that can be converted to physical once the COVID-19 situation ends.

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.

Other Issues to report

The CoCSC continued to have regular monthly web meetings. The CoCSC participated in the MGA Region Conference Coordinator Quarterly Calls and attended several WebEx IEEE Conferences Committee meetings.

Following our and other regions conference coordinators, the IEEE Conferences Committee Leadership and MCE organized a very useful 'Going Virtual - Town Hall' on 29 July 2020. This two hours session, now available on-demand, covered overview and successfully stories of reimagining an event in the virtual space, with guidance and best practices for effectively pivoting to the virtual event environment.

The MGA proposal for TCS fee increase to \$2,000/conf + \$17/paper (in order to cover all the MGA costs including copyright, plagiarism checks, articles published in IEEEExplore and MCE overhead) has not been on the agenda of the Board of Directors, and its implementation would not start at 1 January 2021. It is postponed until further notice, probably until the beginning of 2022.

Proposals for improvements

They remain the same as in the previous CoCSC report for the IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting, and are concerning the following issues:

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

- Analysis of R8 conferences portfolio and try to determine if the current situation offers an opportunity to try to start some new conferences, on-line at the beginning with small risk and perhaps converted to physical conferences once this ends.