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Twenty Years of SoftCOM Conference: A Glimpse to the Past and Short Report on the Last

By Nikola Rozic, Dinko Begusic, Josko Radic, and Nicolae Oaca

Being the largest academic and industrial center as well as the famous tourist destination at the Croatian Adriatic coast, the city of Split was a perfect place to start a conference on software, telecommunications and computer networks. The SoftCOM conference started in 1993 as a joint project of the University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Croatian Telecom and World Trade Center Split. Soon, SoftCOM has become the major Adriatic area ICT event. Using an innovative approach SoftCOM has been organized aboard the luxury ship which hosted not only the whole conference program, but also the software fare and the exhibition of the telecom and computer equipment, systems and services. The sailing conference connected the main cities on the Adriatic coast including Split, Rijeka, and Dubrovnik on the Croatian coast and Trieste, Venice, Ancona and Bari on the Italian coast. Fruitful collaboration with a number of universities has been estab-

lished including the universities from Ancona, Lecce, Bari, Colmar and Zagreb.

Since 1998 SoftCOM has been technically co-sponsored by IEEE ComSoc. Starting in 2002 the Croatian Communications and Information Society (CCIS), which has established a fruitful collaboration with ComSoc within the Sister Society family, actively participates in the organization of SoftCOM.

The jubilee 20th International Conference on Software, Telecommunications and Computer Networks (SoftCOM 2012) was held in attractive ambience of the Radisson Blu Resort, Split hotel, September 11 to 13. The Conference was organized by the University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. The Conference has been technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc).

Researchers and experts from industry, research institutes and universities from 32 countries all around the

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The keynote speech titled “1992 – 2032: Looking back looking ahead – 40 years of Information Communications Technology” was held by Roberto Saracco, Ph.D. (the President of EIT Italy and Node Director of EIT Italy based in Trento (European Institute for Innovation and Technology)). Sinisa Krajnovic, Vice President and Head of Development Unit Core & IMS, Ericsson has presented the invited speech titled “Ericsson Vision 2020: Networked Society & 50 Billion Connected Devices”.



SoftCOM has become a reknown Adriatic ICT event connecting the main cities on the Adriatic coast.

world have submitted in total 186 papers for presentation at SoftCOM 2012. Submitted papers have been reviewed by more than 200 scientists from universities, institutes and ICT companies all over the world. All accepted papers have been carefully selected based on their contribution, relevance, conceptual clearness and overall quality.

At the opening ceremony the participants have been welcomed on behalf of the organizers by prof. Srdjan Podrug, the Dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture in Split, University of Split. Participants have been addressed by M.Sc. Gordana Kovacevic, president of Ericsson Nikola Tesla, dr.sc. Roberto Saracco on behalf of IEEE Comsoc and the Sister societies and Ante Sanader, Governor of the County of the Split and Dalmatia. Dr.sc. Sinisa Krajnovic, Vice President and Head of Development Unit Core & IMS, Ericsson has presented the invited speech titled "Ericsson Vision 2020: Networked Society & 50 Billion Connected Devices", Elya B. Joffe with K.T.M. Project Engineering, Israel, presented his view on "Probing the Future: On the role of Universities, Industry entrepreneurs, and Professional Societies", and Prof. Marco Ajmone Marsan Politecnico di Torino, Italy TREND, presented "The FP7 Network of Excellence on Green Networking".

The technical conference program featured eleven general conference sessions, four special sessions, two symposia and one workshop. The Symposium on RFID Technologies and the Internet of Things has been organized by researchers from University of Salento, Italy, and the Symposium on environmental electromagnetic Compatibility by researchers from University of Split. The 2nd Workshop on Regulatory Challenges in the Electronic Communications Market was chaired by Mario Weber (Croatian Post and Electronic Communications Agency) and Ignac Lovrek (Faculty of Electrical Engineering and

Computing, Zagreb). Workshop has featured invited papers within the project "Looking to the Future", a collaborative project between the Croatian Post and Electronic Communications Agency (HAKOM) and the three Croatian universities. Besides the scientific program a professional workshop dedicated to the wide spectra of topics in ICT has been organized. In addition seven half day tutorials have been held by worldwide recognized experts.

In conjunction with the SoftCOM 2012 conference, a Business Forum has been organized featuring three workshops including invited talks, round tables, presentations with participation of managers, executives, experts, government and institution representatives. Workshop on innovation in ICT was organized by Technology Transfer Office, of the University of Split. The topic was completed with the poster session on "Systems, Applications and Innovations in ICT". Workshop on "Model driven software development in practice" was organized by dr.sc. Darko Huljenic, Ericsson Nikola Tesla, Croatia. Workshop on International Roaming in the SEE Region chaired by Nicolae Oac? ANCOM, Romania, CEE Regional Working Group included presentations and discussion by representatives from Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The presentations of the student projects pursued in the frame of the Ericsson Nikola Tesla Summer Camp 2012 at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture in Split, have been held within a special session which was chaired by Sasa Desic (Ericsson Nikola Tesla).

As a part of the conference awards ceremony dr.sc. Marjan Kunstic from the University of Zagreb, Faculty of electrical engineering and computing received the IEEE Communications Society Croatian Section award for his outstanding contribution to the area of ICT, and dr.sc. Algirdas Pakstas received the CCIS plaque in the occasion of the 10-year Society anniversary for his great contribution.

Welcome reception by the Mayor of the town of Split was organized in the attractive ambience of the 1700 years old Diocletian Palace Basement in Split.

More information about the SoftCOM 2012 conference may be found at the address <http://www.fesb.hr/softcom>.

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which significantly benefit both the lecturers and IEEE members. Of course, it would not be possible without the IEEE sponsorship and the help from many volunteers. Ms. Ewell Tan, executive of IEEE Asian Pacific Region, had done a fantastic job in shepherding and coordinating this lecture tour. My appreciation is also extended to those from local chapters for their arrangements and hospitality and they are (not in any particular order): Drs. Pingyi Fan, Xiaoxia Huang and Qinyu Zhang from the Shenzhen Chapter; Drs. Pingzhi Fan, Xuming Fang, Gang Feng, Rong He, Li Hao, Zhen Ma, Houjun Wang, and Mr. Yue Zhao from the Chengdu Section; and Drs. Chenyang Yang, Xiaofeng Tao, Song Ci and Ms. Ying Qi from the Beijing Chapter.

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STEFANO BREGNI
Editor

Politecnico di Milano - Dept. of Electronics and Information
Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32, 20133 MILANO MI, Italy
Ph.: +39-02-2399.3503 - Fax: +39-02-2399.3413
Email: bregni@elet.polimi.it, s.bregni@ieee.org

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REGIONAL CORRESPONDENTS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE

JOEL RODRIGUES, PORTUGAL <JOELJR@IEEE.ORG>
ALEXEY VINEL, FINLAND <ALEXEY.VINEL@GMAIL.COM>



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