IEEE INDUSTRY DAY 2009 - FEEDBACK

WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT INDUSTRY DAY?

Speakers

- Professional presentations for the speaker
- Excellent selection of speakers
- Speakers (2 comments)
- Had speakers from industry
- All speakers were funny at times, and lunch was enjoyable. Didn't expect to speak to some speakers.
- There were many (350) attendees and the speakers were engineers discussing how technology and business need to have a "partnership". It also gave credibility to the engineering personnel; we (engineers) do so much and receive so little acknowledgement for our contributions to society.
- The variety of speakers from different industry segments.
- The speakers were excellent...particularly the IBM speaker in the AM, who really reflected the planning and depth of IBM. You succeeded in getting speakers to talk about what was important in industry; skill sets required for the future; and the importance of innovation as well as the lack of R (as in R&D, R&D, and rarely, R&D.
- The variety of speakers and participants
- Attended because of the variety of speakers along with current subject matter in the presentations.

Topics

- The wide range of topics
- Learn about research going on in the area
- Industry focus
- Gives a good sense of how IEE helps researchers
- Provide a good list of talks
- Good broad coverage of topics
- Finding out about future technologies
- Excellent overview of future technologies at NO COST
- Diversity of the talks
- Location and scope of topics
- Good program, important topics
- Aligning effort between industry and academic
- Interaction between the industry and academicians views on future technologies
- Future Visions
- The presentations
- The diversity of topics and speakers' backgrounds
- The relevance of topics, good speaker
- The good mix of Industry people with good material for the presentations
- The presentations were very informative and well done. The meals, breaks, and end of day reception were also very good.
- The opportunity to hear about latest developments in the industry, particularly the statistics on engineering degrees being issued.
- The varied presentations from all of the presenters. I liked the mix of telecom, computers, green etc
- That it was held and there was a lot of participation from companies, speakers as well as members.
- I liked the digi tv speech and the 5 and 6 g presentations the best followed by Dr. Henning's presentation though it seems to have some holes. The Avaya pres. was a little light i thought. i was unable to attend the green presentations. The army could have done a better job but i realize that he can only divulge so much about counter ops. IEEE president was very informative since i am a new

member. The best part was the discussion with the panel. It seems that too many people are focused on themselves and not actually worried about where the direction of the industry is headed.
- This was an excellent opportunity to hear about the latest technology developments outside my field of Aerospace and Defense.
- As an unemployed electronics engineer, this was a great opportunity to get some insight of some growing industries and to network.
- Relevant topics in presentations
- Opportunity to learn local industry affairs and trends

Networking
- Networking opportunities and exposure to a range of topics
- Opportunities for networking
- Low cost, great location, networking
- It brought members and non-members alike together
- Great opportunity of networking, learn from different field of engineering and development
- While most of the talks were stimulating, the opportunity for informal, in the halls and at lunch, discussions with colleagues was the chief value of the meeting. - ie networking is an important aspect of meetings.
- I like the wine and cheese best since it provides a relaxed environment to make new connections.

Logistics
- Great event management
- Good engagement of volunteers
- Very well done - felt well taken care of
- It was well organized. The location was very convenient and the talks were very good.
- Location is ideal for accessibility
- Well organized. all the assistants/volunteers are very friendly and helpful
- Well organized

Panel
- The panel session
- The concern of the panelists about the careers of the engineers.
- The panel in the afternoon. In particular I liked the arguments brought in by Dr. Kosinsky and Dr. Schulzrinne to describe issues and constraints associated to choosing Engineering as a life-long career. Both came across as extremely competent and articulate.

Misc
- Almost everything
- It reinvigorated the interest of members of the organization
- Building the platform for communication in the community
- Excellent event - would like to see more
- I just want to congratulate the organizers on pulling off what I can only describe as a near-perfect event. The speakers were par-excellence, the topics were of broad interest and hung together really well, the facilities were comfortable and adequate, the breakfast, lunch & wine/cheese reception met all standards of good quality, the program was kept pretty much on schedule and it was apparent that every little detail had been thought through!!
- I really enjoyed the IEEE "Industry Day" event and although I could not stay for the entire day, the morning session was excellent.
- Nothing like an in-person presentation, especially on topics outside of your normal purview. Articles, papers, etc. just don't do it.... even webcasts are a distant 2nd choice.

WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT INDUSTRY DAY?

Format
- Need to leave more time for questions and discussion
- I liked the entire day. I would suggest making lunch 50 minutes instead of 40 minutes in the future.
- Short breaks, which does not allow for enough networking.
- Time is so limited
- It was too short. I think this should be a 2-day event with more topics and maybe more technical tracks.
- Split venue - too much distance between venues made switching difficult. Should have brought everyone together for lunch.
- Not enough breaks
- One more break may have been helpful
- Not enough time for lunch
- Not enough time for questions during afternoon green speakers

Audio/Video
- The delay of the videocast
- Audio/Video System in the remote room
- Need more networking opportunities

Badges
- Type font on name badges is too small.
- Name badges. Make the person's name be big, not IEEE. This makes it easier to network with other people.

Signs
- Could have used more signs outside.
- The directions – It was great until the end – there should have been some signs
- Parking lot did not have good signage

Rooms
- Maybe that there could have been an elevated staging or a staggered chair layout in the rooms for better view of people behind since I am rather tall and to scrunch down causes me a lot of back pain. The speaker in the middle of the wine and cheese event was inhibitive.
- Venue was good but little crowded
- Better if this was a larger auditorium so that we all could see the speakers in person and then mingle with them afterwards
- The RRC3 auditorium was very crowded.
- Size of the room
- Distance between programs - wanted to attend part of each
- Could not fit in Auditorium

Misc
- The Equipment
- Questions should always be repeated so audience can hear
- Name tags should had the attendees name LARGE - important for networking
- Not all briefings available
- Not having time to make more new contacts
- Cold weather

- Logistics - but probably unavoidable for a group of this size
- Have them regularly
- Arriving from NYC it was a bit far but still well worth it.
- Plugging one's own business
- That I had to leave that afternoon and wanted to hear the last talk but couldn't. I would like to read the last talk about the future of the Internet.
- Would have liked to attend both sessions in the afternoon.
- The Army CERDEC speaker could not say much if anything in an open environment due to the sensitivities of what they do.
- Nothing particular, although the Green track measured up to my anticipated disappointment. Not so much the speakers, but the whole field just doesn't have anything exciting to say. Mostly buzz, politically correct to feature, but there's no there.

WERE YOU ABLE TO MAKE NEW CONTACTS AT THIS EVENT? HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE SOCIAL NETWORKING IMPROVED?

Badges
- The meeting ID badges should have your name in a much bigger font size, and the IEEE Industry Day logo should be smaller to accommodate. People want to be able to see your name more easily.
- Yes. The only improvement I can see is to use a large font (44+) for participant names. I had to use glasses just to read names.
- Yes. I would suggest to make the font size of the name and organization bigger on the name tag
- The name badges could show the organization larger, perhaps different colors for academic vs industry?
- Names can be on both sides of the badge, in 14 point or larger.

More Opportunities
- More time to network
- Make the breaks LONGER (15 minutes more for each) so people have more time to talk
- More breaks
- Yes - would prefer shorter, more frequent breaks
- More time to network
- Need more time for networking.
- Maybe the speakers should mill around more and try to strike up strategic friendships with newer fellow

Logistics
- Set up a social network/group for follow up
- Some but not enough. How about putting all participant info on the web.
- Have one large auditorium if possible, or better audio between auditoriums
- Increased events program available as a live Web TV
- Give everyone speaker's contact info (email, website, phone, address) in the program
- Some way to know companies and interests of attendees ahead of time without looking at badges
- I was able to re-connect with a few former colleagues. A larger meeting location with some breakout areas would facilitate networking.
- Yes and 40 mins. was not enough time for lunch because of the lines. I thought the wine and cheese event was a good idea.
- A roster of attendees may be very helpful
- Only a Few. We need an open space in which to congregate during breaks.

- Made a few contacts. Improvement would be to have a larger auditorium to fit all attendees and larger cafeteria for all to take breaks and eat
- Yes. Since the IEEE covers various topics and areas, it could be better to separate people into different small groups, within each group, specific topic will be addressed. Then within each small group, the discussion and interaction will improve the networking.
- Was not able to make any new contacts.   Create space outside the conf rooms for more interaction.   Provide a booth for networking?
- Yes; Having more physical space during coffee breaks could have helped

Misc

- Some way to know companies of interest of attendees ahead of time without looking at badges
- It is always good to have in-person interactions
- A couple
- Yes I was able to make three contacts during lunch
- A few
- Not new, but made met with contacts from several IEEE sections
- I did make new contacts. It is a great platform to explore new opportunities in career and in friendship
- Social networking was pretty good
- It is always good to have in-person interactions
- Made 2 contacts at lunch
- Refreshed old contacts, a few new ones.
- I made several, and queried them about their views of US Innovation
- Yes, I made numerous good contacts - that was the best part of the meeting. Improve the opportunities for networking by having longer coffee breaks in a nice setting.
- Yes, I saw some old contacts as well as new.
- Yes. I would handle it the same at future conferences.
- Yes, I made new contacts although I could not stay for the wine and cheese event due to a prior commitment
- Some. I am relatively new to IEEE, so it will take me a few more sessions like this one to find more "familiar" faces over time...
- I did not make any particular contacts, but I did get a chance to speak with several people. The challenge is not knowing who is there.
- Yes and yes. I also discovered a new certification (WCET) that I plan to apply for.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT BEING AN IEEE MEMBER?

Networking

- The networking
- Networking, new ideas, updating knowledge
- Access to these kinds of events, to network with other engineers
- Camaraderie, broaden horizons
- Communication in the professional community
- Community.
- Opportunity for networking.
- Sense of being part of community
- Knowing other people with similar background and interests. In fact, when listening to the debate handled by the panel most of the comments I heard from neighboring engineers in the audience I was fully in agreement with.
- I am now seeing the opportunities in both learning and networking at conferences.

- A sense of camaraderie, a part of a profession that can and should be proud of itself.
- Social contacts
- Free exchange of ideas, industry contacts, IEEE support on both professional and life issues.

Professional Development
- Keeping up to date on technology issues
- Continue to learn and broaden skills, meet people, share ideas
- Able to learn new technology
- It has helped me develop professionally
- High technical standards, collegial environment
- Technical quality
- Technical emails, spectrum, email aliases, insurance, this conference
- Keeps me in touch with what is going on in other fields.
- Ongoing access to current technical information in a variety of forms and forums.
- Great Educational programs, good networking opportunities to meet people in various industries
- The publications that I receive, the technology information that I have access to, the new relationships that I am building, and conferences like this 2009 Industry Day
- The many publications that are available on-line to IEEE members.

Benefits
- Insurance
- Benefits
- I really enjoy the conferences (best) but also the other benefits of membership, life insurance, etc.
- Benefits such as IEEE Life Insurance - it's the best deal in town and with the shaky job market, its nice to know you can take it with you wherever your job takes you.

Misc
- Opportunities like this
- Access to technical information
- Identity, service
- It's good to see that there are other people thinking about issues I'm concerned with.
- I am a relatively new member and am not sure of the benefits yet -- but events like this will help.
- Many events and interesting talks.
- The prestige of being associated with a premier organization
- The most important technical organization in engineering.
- The longevity of the institute. IEEE has outlasted all of my employers. Also, good research.
- Having the ability to mingle with people of more elevated stature. But I believe that the industry as a whole needs to take a strong look at how they recruit new comers. There are quite a few people like myself who are not Dr's or don't even have a bachelors who can do the work either in the field or in the lab who are extremely motivated but cant find a job in the industry as no one wants to hire them or coax out the great potential they can offer. (In my experience) it is like a fraternity of which I may never be able to access and many like me desperately desire to do so.
- The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of real people and real problems.

WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE ABOUT BEING AN IEEE MEMBER?

- Archive documents are not available on-line except by subscription
- Membership fees are insanely high (especially in a recession)
- Standards are overly dominated by industry
- Many publications, discussions, articles are geared towards academic people
- Members must pay for research articles
- Difficult to track down info/people
- Limited access to IEEE Xplore documents on-line
- Member fees increase every year
- Have more topics (tracks) available
- Cost
- Proud being in the engineering community that revolutionized the life with new electronic technologies
- I used a GPS to get to your location and it directed me to your main building closest to I287; then I got lost. I did not know where to go and did not see any signs. A security guard told me the general direction of your buildings, and I finally did see a sign, but it was so small I could not read it from my car. Much bigger signs and posted at all entrances to your complex would be very helpful.
- I have AT&T Wireless and did not have any cell phone reception in the conference room

WHAT SUGGESTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR A FUTURE INDUSTRY DAY, INCLUDING TOPICS?

Suggested Topics
- Stretch to other areas of interest -
- Web 2.0 technologies
- Keep with green! (3 comments like this)
- Focus more on applications in industry - Motors, VFD's
- Homeland security
- I would suggest the topic of "Technology used for Safety/Security" and as suggested in the above; Supercomputers/Hybrid models evaluating data as speeds that can allow for quick determination of a threat to public safety.
- High technology industries in the region, ie. Biomedical, pharmaceutical, computing, military
- Is there enough work in computational biology/systems biology in the IEEE? Security?
- Perhaps a backgrounder on one of the great inventors.
- Medical records technology, bioelectronics applications, and space frontiers.
- Something with computer security and robotic vision would be interesting
- I would like to see more automotive and satellite communications seminars, I felt that they were not represented.
- Sensor interfaces and microcontrollers
- Medical Electronics
- New technology presentations and applications.
- Wireless
- I would welcome a day on Current initiatives in the area of Programming and/or Computer Science.
- Include more discussion and topics on new areas for job growth. The Green track session was interesting.
- Maybe some discussion on Vehicles (car, bus railcar). These are interesting times and the mobility of people will need to improve and become more efficient.

Frequency
- At least once a year

- This was a fabulous conference, please have another soon.
- Organize frequently

Location
- I would like to see "Industry Day" congregate in NYC as there are many places where it can be hosted. IEEE used to have conferences held at the Con Edison Building (although I've never seen 300 attendees) that might be a possible location or a host of other places.
- Continue these types of meetings in close proximity to IEEE Piscataway
- The location was great.
- Try focusing on a single important current theme, I saw three themes here (see above), and all were addressed at various times, some very well.

Panel
- A panel discussion with key engineering faculty of all local universities and engineering recruiters from major engineering employers in our region. Topic should be how University Engineering Departments can change/modify their curriculums to better match the needs of the employers.
- Another panel made up of key IEEE officials, gov't (one or more NJ Congressmen) officials, and local engineering employers. Topic is how to create engineering jobs in NJ with the loss of 10,000 engineering jobs when Ft Monmouth closes, when the local engineering firms supporting Ft Monmouth move out of NJ to follow the Fort to Maryland, and with the downsizing of Lucent and AT&T. This is a massive loss of engineering jobs in this region and NJ will no longer be the "Silicon Valley of the East". EE's and CE's will have to move out of NJ or learn a new trade and get jobs in the Insurance and Pharmaceutical Industries.
- More time needs to be set aside for the panel discussion.

Misc
- Keep doing good work we appreciate
- Keep it up
- Some mechanism to connect job speakers with those hiring
- Keep similar to today