Report on IEEE
ANZSCON 2017: Students and Young Professionals Congress
IEEE Sections Congress 2017

This year, IEEE Sections Congress was held in Sydney, and was immediately preceded by ANZSCon. With Sections Congress being so close to New Zealand, we sent a larger contingent of delegates. This is a consolidated report of the delegates to these two events:

ANZSCON: Shan Jaffry and Kanwal Zaidi

Sections Congress: Donald Bailey (primary section delegate), Steven Le Moan and Yi Mei (secondary section delegates), Shan Jaffry and Kanwal Zaidi (student helpers).

As primary delegate, Donald Bailey was fully funded by IEEE to attend Sections Congress. The secondary delegates, Steven Le Moan and Yi Mei, received 50% sponsorship by Region 10, with the balance coming from IEEE New Zealand Central Section. The delegates to ANZSCon, Shan Jaffry and Kanwal Zaidi, were funded from IEEE New Zealand Central Section, although they received free registration for Sections Congress for volunteering as student helpers.

Overall, the experience was beneficial for all, especially the newer members. It provided an insight into how IEEE operates as an organisation, and the roles of the various components (Sections, Chapters, Affinity Groups, etc). It was a valuable opportunity to network with counter-parts from around the world, learning from their experiences, and discussing our own experiences. Above all, it was an excellent opportunity to inspire and train the next generation of leaders for within IEEE New Zealand Central Section.

Donald Bailey
Chair, IEEE NZ Central Section

ANZSCON 2017
University of Technology, Sydney
10-11 August, 2017

Syed Shan-e-Raza Jaffry
Massey University Student Branch Chair

Australia New Zealand Section Congress (ANZSCON) and IEEE section congress (SC), 2017 was an amazing experience. The joint events took place in the wonderful city of Sydney. As Massey University student branch chair, it was a great networking opportunity where I met seasoned IEEE senior members, young professionals, and student leaders from around the globe.

During 10th and 11th August at ANZSCON, at University of Technology Sydney (UTS), we get to meet people working for IEEE professional and student activities in Australia and New Zealand. The congress hosted sessions to introduce IEEE activities and membership benefits – some of which were completely new to my knowledge. Special talks from IEEE senior members and fellows took us to their journey with the organization, which exemplified how it has played constructive role in developing their professional and research career. Participants from different universities across New Zealand and Australia discussed about respective university branch activities. I also got to learn about some new IEEE activities such as IEEE INSIGHT –a global IEEE initiative for providing innovative solution to local problem, and IEEEXTREME –a global 24 hour worldwide programming competition. I, on behalf of IEEE NZ central section, introduced some of the activities we have been doing such as annual IEEE post graduate presentation event, industrial visits, and invited talks. Furthermore, there were several very good presentations from distinguished university professors. One of my favourite was the speech was from Professor Prof Subhas Mukhopadhyay from Macquarie University.

Kanwal Zaidi
Women in Engineering Coordinator, and
Membership Development Coordinator

ANSCON 2017 was an excellent opportunity to network with student leaders, young professionals and people who are working with different sections of IEEE in Australia. The congress highlighted some of the key benefits of IEEE membership, which I did not notice earlier. The congress had some common programs and it also had separate student, Young Professionals (YP) and Women in Engineering (WIE) tracks.

I attended all of the WIE sessions as they are of my prime interest. The talk by Dr. Bozenna Pasik provided insights of enhancing WIE visibility. Prof. Janina Mazierska (former IEEE Region 10 director) gave a lecture on the leadership skills in women.

There were also poster competitions in which undergraduate and post-graduate students participated. IEEE Region 10 celebrated its 50th anniversary on the first day of the congress with Dr. Karen Bartleson as the guest. There were two technical sessions by Prof. Nishihara and Prof Fukuda as well. A session by Mr. Mohan highlighted the IEEE Xtreme competition where he encouraged the members to come forward and take initiatives to take part in IEEE Xtreme. WIE track also had a very enlightening talk by Prof. Barbara Messerle (Exec. Dean of Macquire University) where she shed light on her early career and talked about the Academia-Innovation for Women in STEM. The session had some interactive discussions with Ajanta Moitra, Design Lead at NBN Australia and Kiah Hickson, Mentoring Lead, Founder StartFizz too. Dr Pina Dall'Arm-Stoks gave women empowerment lecture with support of male heads. There was a very interesting talk by Prof Subhas Mukhopadhyay, on Internet of Things (IoT) issues and implementation challenges of IoTs.

IEEE Sections Congress 2017
International Convention Centre, Sydney,
11-13 August, 2017

Donald Bailey
Section Chair (primary delegate)

This 3 day event consisted of a number of administrative meetings, as well as training events. The first day started with a Region 10 meeting which provided a brief update of the activities within Region 10. The main items presented were the book presenting the 50 year history of Region 10, an update on the international registration project, and addresses by the President-Elect Candidates for 2018. The R10 meeting was followed by a Region 10 Golden Jubilee Celebration Luncheon.

In the afternoon, I was invited to join in with the Australia Council meeting as an observer. Two items of discussion of particular interest were Women in Engineering, and the registration project. It was interesting to note that many Australian Sections only have 2 or 2 active WiE members. For the registration project, the Australians are facing many of the similar issues that we are. Ray Brown is coordinating the Australian effort as the main contact point between the Sections and IEEE Headquarters. Jack Bailey from IEEE Legal and Compliance also addressed a number of questions. It was clarified that any additional administrative costs would be carried by IEEE Legal and Compliance.

The first day was completed by the Opening Ceremony, and banquet.

The main keynote address was by Dr Alan Finkel (Australia's Chief Scientist) who gave an inspiring titled "Better than Brilliant", where he compared artificial intelligence and human intelligence. His key premise was that artificial intelligence can bring a number of significant advances to human well-being, but that there were also many ways in which human intelligence has significant advantages, at least in the foreseeable future.

I attended a number of breakout sessions on:

- Collaboratec (IEEE's new researcher collaboration tool), in particular the new library and author collaboration tools (including integrated literature search).
- Vtools (IEEE's volunteer tools), in particular the voting tool that enables elections to be conducted electronically. This has the advantage that it can encourage participation of more than just the members who attend the AGM. However, it is necessary to be organised

sufficiently in advance to give members the opportunity to vote. At the AGM, we would then only need to pass any resolutions relating to the newly elected roles.

- Webex (for meeting and electronic conference hosting). This is an alternative to Skype for our monthly meetings, and may provide a little more stability (given some of the issues we have been experiencing with Skype over the last year). We are also looking at using Webex for the IEEE NZ Day joint event.
- Conference planning. IEEE have introduced a publication fee for IEEE Xplore for technically co-sponsored conferences. Where this is the Section, this is absorbed by MGA, however, this will not be the case for Chapter co-sponsored conferences. There is a new tool currently being developed to aid in conference management, including budgeting.
- Section vitality and succession planning, and member elevation. The key takeaway from this was the need to plan appropriately, and be proactive in what we do.

Overall, the Congress was very useful both for training, and for networking with other Section leaders throughout the world.

Steven Le Moan
Section Executive Committee (secondary delegate)

The purpose of my attendance to the IEEE Sections Congress was primarily to familiarise myself with the organisation and activities of IEEE, both locally and globally. Upon arrival on Thursday evening, I met with Dr. Yi Mei from the Victoria University of Wellington, also a new member of IEEE NZ Central Section. We are both interested in being more involved in our Section and in IEEE.

On Friday morning was Region 10 meeting, which I attended as an observer. It allowed me to discover how such proceedings are held. Region 10 being the largest region of all with about half of the total IEEE members in the world, the room was fairly crowded. The presentations concerned mostly the results of the past year in terms of finances, membership growth, legal aspects and overall IEEE activities. Candidates for president-elect position were invited to talk about their ideas. The afternoon was dedicated to networking with Australian as well as other New Zealand delegates from the North Section (A/Prof Nirmal Nair and Dr. Nitish Patel) as well as South Section (Lance McCallum and Dr. Andrew Lapthorne). In the evening took place the congress opening ceremony and banquet, another great opportunity for networking. There I met delegates from Central and Southern America Sections as well as Korea and Southern USA.

Saturday was the actual first day of the congress. In the morning, an opening ceremony was held during which Australia's Chief Scientist Dr. Alan Finkel from Monash University gave a very inspiring keynote about Artificial Intelligence and how it is likely to impact our lives in the coming years. Artificial Intelligence seemed a particularly hot topic at this congress as several other sessions were dedicated to this topic. I then went on to attend a workshop (a "learning hub") with such presentations as « Resume Lab » (about using an IEEE online tool to create resumes), « Getting your conference started right » (about good practices in conference organisation), as well as «Technically co-sponsoring conferences » and « Financially sponsoring conferences ». These sessions allowed me to discover IEEE's policies in terms of conference organisation, sponsorship, advertising as well as processing of publications and proceedings. I met various people such as Prof. Liyanage De Silva from the Brunei Darussalam Section (a previous staff member of Massey University) as I was walking around the exhibition hall where many booths were set up to offer people information about a wide range of IEEE activities. In the evening, I went on to do more networking at the cocktail reception, then dinner with NZ North and South sections delegates.

On Sunday morning I attended the Collabratec learning hub, where I learnt about this online networking tool specifically tailored for IEEE members. I also attended a 1-hour session entitled « Developing networking skills », which was particularly informative. I mostly took away the importance of social media in professional networking nowadays. Not being an avid user of the

Linkedin, Researchgate and such, that session inspired me to pay more attention to these platforms and to update my profile regularly. In the afternoon Yi Mei and I attended a session entitled « Ethics for artificial intelligence » which was a little disappointing as lots of questions were asked, but very few answers were given. Eventually, I missed the closing ceremony in order to be able to catch my evening flight back to NZ.

In conclusion, this congress was an excellent opportunity for me to discover the extent of the implications of IEEE in the Academia, the Industry and the world generally. I familiarised myself with an array of tools that IEEE puts at the disposal of its members for career development, networking and project management. I learnt about IEEE's complex hierarchical structure and all its various organisations and societies. I also met a number of people from different Sections around the world which allowed me to have a feeling of how IEEE can benefit institutions and people. In particular, I focused on conference organisation, sponsorship and management, as I would be interested in organising a conference/workshop on hyperspectral imaging in New Zealand in the near future and I now know that I can seek the help of IEEE for this.

Yi Mei
Section Executive Committee (secondary delegate)

I attended the seminar on IEEE financial management and reporting. This seminar was about the financial models used in IEEE and the relationship between IEEE headquarters and local Sections and Chapters. This information was very helpful for me if I am to take the IEEE NZ Central Section treasurer's position in the future. Particularly useful information is that the Section can get a bonus (10% of the rebate as I remember) if we submit the annual report to the IEEE headquarter before the due date (end of March each year). I will keep this in mind if I am to be the Section's treasurer, and make sure the Section gets the bonus every year.

The workshop on "how to attract young professional members" was quite helpful to the development of the Section and myself. It was an interactive workshop and the leaders from different sections shared their experience in how to attract young professional members. They seem to have similar challenges as students lose their motivation of continuing as a member after graduation. Different strategies for keeping graduated students and attracting young professionals were shared. One common tip seems to be giving them more opportunities and freedom to lead and implement their ideas in the community. In addition, more social events as simple as playing bowling can enhance the relationships between members, strengthen the sense of belonging of new members and potential new members. The key point is to let them see the benefit of being an IEEE member, either more career development opportunities or just more friends with similar interests/background.

The seminars on IEEE Collaboratec were particularly useful for my own research, especially the Library functionality. It seems to be very powerful, including bibliography management, resource sharing and reference search/recommendation functionalities. The limitation is that it can only search for literatures from IEEE library. I am investigating the feasibility of using it in my research and collaboration with my own students.

Syed Shan-e-Raza Jaffry
Massey University Student Branch Chair

After ANZSCON, we attended IEEE section congress at International Convention Centre (ICC) on 12th and 13th August. Alongside attending sessions and talks, I also volunteered myself for congress activities. SC was a much wider exposure where I met IEEE members from around the globe. The opening keynote speech was delivered by Australian Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel. Dr. Finkel shared his thoughts about the future of artificial intelligence and how humans and robots can, and will, coexist in the near future. It was an all balanced talk incorporating new perspectives about artificial intelligence and its role in human society. Since I was representing New Zealand as IEEE region 10

(R10) members, I volunteered at R10 counter during the first day. On the second day, I managed talks about IEEE global activities and initiatives. Apart from that I had an opportunity to meet senior IEEE members, learned from IEEE fellows and met some professors from the same field as my research and made some good connections.

The knowledge and experience gained with IEEE section congress and ANZSCON has given me some new ideas about how to better plan IEEE NZ central section activities during my time as student branch chair. I have also learned the professional and personal benefits of association with IEEE.

Kanwal Zaidi
Women in Engineering Coordinator, and
Membership Development Coordinator

Section Congress 2017 had breakout sessions, brief sessions, trainings on vTools , Collabratec Learning Hub and MGA/TA Learning Hub sessions. There were some parallel sessions as well as individual key note sessions. I attended the Section Congress as a Student volunteer and I was assigned the duty at Region 10 counter by Stefan Mozar. It was an interactive job where I met people from different sections and regions. I set up the R10 counter with the help of Stefan and met R10 director, Prof Chun. I also had a chance to chat with IEEE R10 membership development Program Manager Ewell Twan. I attended the R10 counter on Saturday and Sunday from 7:45

AM to 1:00 PM. On Saturday, I was around the counter and also attended the IGNITE sessions held in hall 5. From Colabratec Learning IHub, I attended IEEE Collabratec Introduction to Community Building Tools and Tactics which would be helpful in my membership development role as well.

I attended sessions related to WIE activities. A session on "WIE Best Practices from Around the World" was quite interesting where IEEE Women members discussed the involvement of other affinity groups with IEEE. Due to less number of women in certain sections, it would be useful to involve women from other clubs and science groups in WIE. Engaging WIE volunteers and Advancing WIE in Societies and Technical Councils also informative sessions.

I attended a session on SAMIEEE which is a web-based ad hoc query tool. SAMIEEE is web based and it is a useful tool in accessing the membership data for the section. The session given by John Day introduced IEEE Collabratec Mobile application, which is quite useful and should be introduced to the sections members as well. WordPress workshop was also very useful. There was a hands-on training on Word Press as well.

The Sections congress was very detailed informative event and it helped me to gain the understanding of different roles of IEEE.