

Minutes of the ONTC Meeting
ICC 2005, Seoul, Korea
Venus/30th Floor, Intercontinental Seoul
May 17, 2005, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Attendees: Biswanath Mukherjee, Jason Jue, Oliver Yang, Ahmed Kamal, Nasir Ghani, Andrzej Jajszczyk, Abdallah Shami, Kohei Shiomoto, Stamatios Kartalopoulos, Hussein Mouftah, Paolo Monti, Byeong Gi Lee, Mike Kincaid, Guoliang (Larry) Xue, Luying Zhou, Mark Karol, Brigitte Jaumard, Richard Rabbat, Amitabha Banerjee, Wojciech Kabacinski, Achille Pattavina, Eduardo Magana, Naoaki Yamanaka, Pramode Verma, Lei Wang, Qin Yang, Nirwan Ansari, Byrav Ramamurthy, Wang Yao, Nim Cheung

Biswanath opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

1. Welcome and self introductions.
2. Approval of minutes OFC 2005.
3. Conference updates.

a. ICC 2005

Hussein Mouftah reported on ICC 2005. The Optical Symposium has 14 sessions of 4 papers each. 159 papers were submitted, and 56 were accepted. The papers were of good quality.

For ICC 2005, a best paper award is being given for the first time. A policy was developed for selecting the best paper. A committee consisting of 3 voting members and 1 additional observer was formed. The 3 voting members are the symposium co-chairs, and the observer is the ONTC Chair. The 3 voting members select the chair for the committee among themselves. Five of the highest-scored papers with scores of at least 4 out of 5 are selected from EDAS. If none has scores of at least 4, then no papers are selected. The committee further reviews the 5 papers based on the mean and variance of EDAS scores and technical content. If any member of the committee has a conflict of interest, that member withdraws from the committee. Another person is selected as a voting member. This person can be a co-chair from the previous Optical Symposium. For ICC 2005, Mounir Hamdi, Mohsen Guizani, and Naoki Yamanaka were the voting members.

Mechanisms were discussed for ensuring that all papers are presented in sessions. It was suggested that all authors be asked to submit speaker information several weeks in advance to control no-shows. The session chairs should obtain this information and verify that someone will show up to present the paper.

b. Globecom 2005

Jason reported on Globecom 2005, which will be in St. Louis at the end of November. There were around 100 papers submitted. Papers are currently being reviewed, and decisions will be made in the next few weeks.

c. OFC 2006

Biswanath reported on OFC 2006. He and Chunming Qiao are on the program committee. The conference will be held in Anaheim next March and will be co-located with NFOEC, similar to this year. The OFC deadline is October 13, 2005. There is a networking track, which is competitive with 150 papers or so, and an applications track, which doesn't have as many papers. Access networks will go to the applications track. The NFOEC proposal submission deadline is July 6, 2005.

Nim mentioned that we need to get more people involved in the TPC. Attendance has been kind of flat. The TPC is looking at new topics. The topic of access networks was very successful this year. The service provider

summit was also very successful. Two new areas were proposed this year - quantum communications and biophotonics. There were on average, 400 to 500 people in a session. OFC also needs to generate excitement on the exhibit floor. There are not as many system vendors, but primarily components. OFC needs more live demos. There was one demo by the Office of Naval Research on quantum communication systems (an m-ary PSK system approaching the quantum limit). Demos are by invitation only.

There was some discussion on how to get ONTC more involved in OFC/NFOEC. Suggestions included putting together proposals for session, panels, or tutorials.

d. ICC 2006

ICC 2005 will be in Istanbul, Turkey in June. The Co-Chairs of the Optical Symposium are Piet Demeester, Byrav Ramamurthy, and Stefano Bregni. The Vice-Chair is Nasir Ghani. Nasir reported that the CFP was done. Workshops and panels needed to be finalized soon. Achille cautioned about having too many workshops without guarantee of success, and suggested starting with one workshop on a good topic.

There was some discussion on the involvement of other TCs, such as TAOS and CSR. It was mentioned that TCs that are attached to the Symposium should have some responsibility. Biswanath mentioned that, for ICC 05 and ICC 06, TAOS and CSR were also involved in the Symposium. For Globecom 2006, each TC was requested to propose their own symposium.

e. Globecom 2006

Globecom 2006 will be held in San Francisco in November/December 2006. Nasir Ghani and Maurice Gagnaire are Co-Chairs, and Suresh Subramaniam is Vice-Chair of the Optical Symposium. Nasir mentioned that the CFP is done. There will be 15 symposia as well as posters. Poster sessions will start at Globecom 2005. The motivation of posters is that submission volume is increasing and there is not enough room to present accepted papers in the current format. Posters are just viewed as a different format, and do not imply lower quality.

f. OFC 2007

There were no updates for OFC 2007.

g. ICC 2007

ICC 2007 will be held in Glasgow. Suresh Subramaniam will chair the Optical Symposium.

4. Best Paper Award for ICC 2005.

Biswanath announced the winner of the Best Paper Award for ICC 2005. The committee consisted of Mounir Hamdi (Chair), Mohsen Guizani, Naoki Yamanka, and Biswanath (non-voting). The Best Paper Award went to:

"Blocking Probability Modeling of Distensible Optical Banyan Networks", by Chen Yu, Jiang Xiaohong, Pin-Han Ho, Susumu Horiguchi, and Hussein Mouftah.

Congratulations to all the authors!

5. Other Conferences and Workshops

a. ECOC 2005 - A report was sent by Ioannis. The network track has 200 submitted papers.

b. BroadNets - There are three tracks: optical, wireless, and applications. The review deadline is May 15. Decision will be made soon at the beginning of June.

c. ONDM - Achille reported that ONDM is held in February. Normally it is held in Europe, but it is an international conference. Papers are on IEEE Xplore. The size is similar to BroadNets, with around 100 papers submitted and around 50 accepted. ONDM was held in Milano from February 7-9, and had around 100 attendees. The next ONDM will be in Copenhagen in February.

6. Publications

Nim reported on the future of the JSAC OCN series. It was an experiment for 2 years, and every 2 years the progress would be reviewed. There were a lot of papers, and JSAC has long queue, but not enough issues of JSAC are allocated for the OCN series. Last year there was one big issue. This year there will probably be two issues. There are not enough papers for 4 issues, which is required for a separate journal. There are enough papers for 3 issues a year. One possibility is to increase JSAC from 9 to 12 issues a year. Another possibility is to work with Alan Willner, who is Editor In Chief of IEEE/OSA JLT, to maybe have a sister journal focused on systems and networks. The JSAC route is easiest to implement.

Biswanath mentioned that we should encourage colleagues to submit good-quality work to JSAC OCN. Other journals are taking away traffic.

Nim brought up the ComSoc elections, and mentioned that the deadline for voting is in August. Several ONTC members are candidates.

7. Website

Byrav reported that the number of subscribers to the mailing list is around 225. Any updates for the mailing list or website should be sent to Byrav.

6. Standards

The standards forum liaison is Doug Zukerman. There was an OIF World Interop demo at Supercom. The next OIF meeting is in July in Brussels.

Richard Rabbat of Fujitsu Labs in Sunnyvale gave a talk on IETF standards in optical networking. Slides will be posted to the ONTC website. ONTC members interested in becoming involved in standards activities may contact Richard at: richard.rabbat@us.fujitsu.com.

10. Other Business

a. ONTC elections will be held at Globecom 2005. The ONTC Chair is bumped out, the Vice-Chair is promoted to Chair, and the Secretary is promoted to Vice-Chair. An election will be held for Secretary. At least two candidates are needed. A committee will be formed to conduct the election. The committee will consist of the current Chair, the previous Chair, and the Chair before that. Since there have only been two Chairs of ONTC, someone from ComSoc will be selected. If anyone is interested in running, please contact Biswanath.

b. There will be a US-EU workshop on optical networking. The workshop will discuss future research needs and opportunities in networking and explore the possibility of collaborations between the US and the EU. The workshop is by invitation only.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes recorded by Jason Jue