Communities Committee – Asia Pacific (CC-AP)

Newsletter Issue 1
January 2012

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Message from the Chairman

Dear fellow members,

As you may be aware, the Asia Pacific Regional Board was suspended over the last summer, two years after its establishment in 2009, when IET Board of Trustees (BoT) decided to abandon Global Operations Board (GOB) and to suspend the five regional boards (RB).

Many discussions and virtual meetings via emails and teleconference have been taking place in July and August 2011 among the active members of the ex-GOB and ex-RB with an aim to propose a "new" structure (and to certain extent to retain the old structure) of the GOB/RB organisation in order to allow IET to continue to fulfil its mission of going Global (or going "International" as some of the IET staff members and IET senior members consider it that way).

The Communities Committees (CC), one for each five regions, were finally established to replace the regional boards (with rather similar Terms of References) and a new committee, Communities Resourcing Committee (CRC) was then created to oversee the resourcing aspect of all the Local Networks (LN) and Technical and Professional Networks (TPN) to which the CC's are reporting to. This new structure was put in place since October 2011 and the members of the five regional boards were basically transferred to the respective five CC's. It is noted that China Operation is now removed from CC-AP remit and so is India Operation from CC-SA.

The CRC is currently chaired by Mr Nigel Ward, ex-Chair of the GOB Finance Committee with members nominated by BoT and the chairs of the five CC's are ex-officio members of CRC. All these changes took place within a very short span of time with rather minimal consultation from the IET members including those from the Regional Boards. APRB and now CC-AP have expressed their concern regarding the change including the change of the name which, CC-AP believe, does not reflect the nature and role/responsibility given to these entities. This has been reflected to the IET via different channels and obviously IET BoT and IET HQ hold a different view from ours. On this front, CC-AP would certainly like to gather your views so that a united voice from the region is perhaps able to make a change!

The 1st CC-AP session commenced in October 2011 with three new members joining the Committee, Mr Thomas Chan (elected member), Mr Issac Hsu (appointed by BoT as an ex-GOB member serving the CC for his remaining two years term in the GOB) and Ms Sachini Yapa (nominated by CC-AP and appointed by BoT as a YP member). It is indeed a good change as we certainly need, from time to time, new blood that would bring in new ideas and new ways in handling the issues that are being encountered by the Regional CC.

In order to allow sufficient time for members to get themselves familiarised with the operations of the CC and the key issues that the CC is managing, a CC-AP teleconference meeting was held on 31 October 2011. Members were kept up-to-date of the latest development of the works in various committees. A physical CC-AP meeting was held on 5 to 6 December in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. With great support from the Malaysia LN, the CC could hold the 1st part of its meeting in the LN office and had a very useful meeting with most of the members of the LN regarding CC-AP support to the LN and the possible collaboration on organising key events among LN's in the region.

The three committees formed under APRB, namely the Membership Sub-Committee, the Professional Registration & Qualification Sub-Committee and Finance Sub-Committee (FC) will continue to exist and to operate per their respective Terms of References under the CC-AP. The Sub-Committees are chaired by Mr Thomas Chan, Mr Chris Chew and Mr Sze Wah Tan respectively. A number of initiatives are being followed up by CC-AP with IET HQ including the Implementation of e-Membership in AP region; Development of IET in AP region including Korea, Taiwan, Macau SAR and East Malaysia; Regional Scholarship Implementation; and Regional Volunteers' Weekend Conference.

I therefore appeal for your unreserved support and valuable comments on these initiatives so that we can successfully implement them for the best interest of the IET members (existing and potential) in this region. In addition, I am delighted to advise you that CRC has endorsed the Surplus Management proposal which allows the LN who has generated surplus from holding self-financed IET events to retain some or all of the surpluses generated to organise events within two years from the year when the surplus is generated. LN concerned is required to prepare Business Plans (BP) for these events and submitted to the CC-AP

Finance Committee for approval. I am also pleased to advise you that Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IET and Macau Electrical Engineering Institution (AEEMM) has been signed off by the Presidents of IET and AEEMM in November in Hong Kong.

APRB, before it was transformed to CC-AP, has produced a paper in proposing a plan for having progressive increase in membership subscription from student membership to newly graduate membership with an aim to assist them to have a smooth transition over that period of time. The paper has been presented to CRC and it is expected to have some feedback from them before the next CRC meeting to be held in February 2012.

This year would certainly be a year full of challenges for CC-AP. I believe that changes (changes for better) will continue to take place in order to better meet the needs of our members within this region. The last but not the least, your continual support and comments / ideas raised to CC-AP are of paramount importance to our work in the coming year and we are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Ir CS Chang
Chairman
Communities Committee – Asia Pacific

About the CRC and CC-AP

- **Community Resourcing Committee (CRC)**

  The Community Resourcing Committee will oversee, coordinate and resource IET community activities; facilitate communications between all communities, coordinate, guide and support the five regional Community Committees, and other community committees eg: the TPN Exec Teams.

  The Communities Resourcing Committee supports all IET communities, whether geographical, technical, demographic (e.g. age related) or otherwise; The strength of the CRC is that it is members making the decisions about member communities, not staff.

  The five Community Committees (CC) representing the IET regions: Americas; Asia Pacific; Europe, Middle East and Africa; South Asia and the United Kingdom will advise and provide regional expertise and understanding to the CRC, who have ultimate responsibility for allocating all financial resources to communities.

- **Communities Committee – Asia Pacific (CC-AP)**

  The Communities Committee – Asia Pacific (CC-AP) was formally set up in October 2011 to replace the former Asia Pacific Regional Board (APRB) and reports to the CRC. The Terms of Reference of the CC-AP can be found in the following webpage:

  http://www.theiet.org/about/people/boards-committees/asia-pacific.cfm

CC-AP Members

The following members of the former Asia Pacific Regional Board (APRB) are transferred to the CC-AP:

Ir CS Chang (Hong Kong) [Chairman of CC-AP]
Mr Chris Chew (Malaysia)
Mr Sze Wah Tan (Singapore)
Prof Pin Zhi Fan (China)
Ms Clara To (Hong Kong)
Mr Thomas Yi [Senior Staff Member]
Ms Isabel Hui [Staff Member, Secretary]

The CC-AP welcomes the following new members to the committee:

Ir Thomas Chan (Hong Kong)
Mr Issac Hsu (Hong Kong)
Ms Sachini Yapa (New Zealand)

Updates on Key Issues within the Region

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between IET and the Macau Institution of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (AEEMM)**

  The President of the IET, Dr Mike Short, and the President of AEEMM signed an MOU at the IET Office in Hong Kong on 18 November 2011. This signifies a new level of cooperation between the two institutions.

The Signing Ceremony of MOU in collaboration between the IET and the AEEMM

- **Facebook Pages for the IET CC-AP and AP Young Professionals**

  Two Facebook Pages have been set up to facilitate communication among IET communities in the Asia Pacific Region.

  IET Asia Pacific Communities Committee:
  http://www.facebook.com/IETAsiaPacific

  IET Asia Pacific Young Professionals:
  http://www.facebook.com/IETAsiaPacific.YP

- **Young Professionals Project**

  The Communities Committee-Asia Pacific is delighted to support Young Professional (YP) projects, where funds or voluntary support may be required. Members are encouraged to raise their ideas to the YP representatives in CC-AP (Clara To - clarato@theiet.org or Sachini Yapa - syapa@theiet.org).

Upcoming Major Events Across the Region

Upcoming regional events

- **Paper Competition on "Safe and Sustainable Transportation for Tomorrow"**

  This competition for engineering professionals of all ranges particularly YP's is organized by the Hong Kong LN. Postgraduates, academics or industry practitioners in the Asia Pacific region are invited to present their ideas for safe and sustainable transportation through a paper or other multi-media products.

  Application and submission of abstract: by 20 Mar 2012
  Paper submission: 20 Jul 2012

  Please visit the following website for application and further information:

  www.ietrsc.org

Upcoming major local events	Date
Geothermal – Energy of the Future by Peter Armstrong *(Wellington, New Zealand)*	22 Feb
Manufacturing event – Remaining competitive with a strong $ presentation and visit to King Furniture *(New South Wales, Australia)*	6 Mar
PATW national final – Key note speaker Dr R Kanga CEO IOmniscient *(New South Wales, Australia)*	20 Apr

News from the Region and Local Networks

- **Asia Pacific Region Present Around The World (PATW)**

  The IET Asia Pacific Region Present Around The World (PATW) Competition 2011 was held in Hong Kong successfully on 28 August 2011.

  The seven candidates from Australia, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore had impressed the audience with their vivid presentations.

  Ms Mitali Kakran from Singapore won the competition with her presentation on "Graphene – the wonder material!". The first runner-up was Ms Alicia Evans from New Zealand whose presentation topic was "The Birth of STAR – Glucose Control in Intensive Care".

  As the Champion of the Regional PATW, Mitali was nominated to join the Global PATW which was held in London in October 2011. With her impressive presentation, Mitali came first in the Global PATW. Congratulations to Mitali!

The audience listened attentively to the presentations of the candidates

Ms Mitali Kakran received the Champion award from Ir CS Chang, who was the Chairman of the IET Asia Pacific Regional Board and head of the judging panel

The candidates and the judging panel

The candidates joined the visit to the Hong Kong Observatory with other IET Hong Kong members before the competition

Note from the Newsletter Editors

We hope you have enjoyed reading the first edition of the newsletter for the new year. If you have any news of IET members in the region that you would like to share with the rest of the Asia Pacific region, please do contact either of us to have the story included in a future edition. Wishing you all a very Happy New 2012!

Newsletter Editors

Clara To (clarato@theiet.org)
Sachini Yapa (syapa@theiet.org)

CC-AP members at the meeting on 5 &6 December 2011 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2nd Row from left: Prof PZ Fan, Mr Chris Chew, Mr Thomas Yi, Mr Issac Hsu, Mr SW Tan; 1st Row from left: Ms Clara To, Ms Isabel Hui, Ir CS Chang, Ms Sachini Yapa)

CC-AP members meeting committee members of Malaysia LN