

Chapter Committee Report
Chair: Andrea Goldsmith (2nd VP)
Members: Christina Fragouli and Wei Yu
June 2007

On behalf of the chapter committee I am pleased to present this report to the BOG about our activities, which have been mainly concerned on picking the chapter of the year.

To select the chapter of the year to be announced at ISIT, I formed the chapter award committee in early April. My goal for the committee was to get representation from all major regions of the world with active chapters. Christina Fragouli (EPFL) and Wei Yu (U. Toronto) agreed to serve, as did a third committee member from Asia, but this latter person did not participate in any of the deliberations.

Our committee first reviewed the data available on chapter activities, which consisted of the activity reports chapters file with the IEEE, as well as chapter reports that I solicited from the chapter chairs summarizing their activities. Several of the chapter chairs on the ITSOC website were no longer serving in that role, but we were able to update the list in the process of obtaining reports so it is now up to date to the best of our knowledge. Once the data had been gathered we took an initial vote to narrow down the list to the top three contenders. The strongest contenders for this year's award were Seoul, Kitchner-Waterloo, and Taipei based on their very active organization of events. In particular:

- The Seoul Chapter held 3 half-day workshop (50 participants), plus a 4-day summer school (80 participants), plus the organization of ISITA (joint with Japan Chapter). They are also hosting ISIT'09, which requires several years of advanced preparation, including submission of the proposal to the IT BOG in 2006.
- The Taipei Chapter held 2 one-day workshop (200 participants), plus a 5-day summer school (200 participants) – this was a joint effort with the Communications Society.
- The Kitchner-Waterloo Chapter organized 10 lectures for chapter members.

After additional deliberation via email focused on these three chapters, the committee selected Seoul as the chapter of the year for 2006. We were quite impressed with the success and visibility of their events, especially since this chapter is relatively new as is Korea's significant participation in Information Theory research and activities. The Kitchner-Waterloo and Taipei Chapters were strong runner-ups and should be considered for next year's award, although Taipei's activities may be dominated by Comsoc whose members make up a much larger percentage of the chapter than IT members.

Our committee also made the decision to have a 2 year window where chapters that won the past 2 years were not considered this year (otherwise the same active chapter might win every year). We recommend that this window be in place each year, since it is not fair to only have it some years.

The last issue on the chapter of the year award is when to announce the award. At the BOG meeting in Seattle last year, there was a motion approved unanimously to recognize

the chapter of the year award during the year in which the award is made. That would mean that the award should be announced at the awards luncheon rather than at the chapter chair luncheon, which is much smaller. However, there is a transition issue, since this year the winners from last year will be announced at the awards lunch. Our recommendation for this transition is to have the chapter award winners from last year announced at the award's luncheon (as planned), and the chapter award winners from this year announced at the chapter luncheon (as planned) and at the banquet. That way this year's winners will get recognition in front of all ISIT participations. Next year we will then have both this year and next year's winners announced at the award's luncheon, with the current winner announced at the awards luncheon in future years.

My only other recommendation on behalf of the chapter committee is to consider developing a real distinguished lecture program similar to that of Comsoc. This program is very good at connecting local chapters with distinguished members of the research community, and I believe it would be welcomed and valued by the chapters.