
IEEE Communications Society Technical Committee on Transmission, Access and Optical Systems (TAOS)

Author: Ravi Subrahmanyam, Secretary (National Semiconductor, USA).
Title: Minutes of TAOS meeting held at GLOBECOM 2008, New Orleans, USA.
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Contact: Stefano Bregni, Chair, <bregni@elet.polimi.it>
Tarek El-Bawab, Vice-Chair, <telbawab@ieee.org>
Ravi Subrahmanyam, Secretary, <ravi.subrahmanyam@ieee.org>

1 Participants

- Stefano Bregni, Politecnico di Milano, Italy, <bregni@elet.polimi.it>
- Carlos Lozano, Univ. San Buenaventura, Colombia, <calozanog@ieee.org>
- Ferney Maldonado, Univ. Catolica de Colombia, Colombia, <maldofer@ieee.org>
- Elie Inaty, Univ. Of Balamand, Lebanon, <elie.inaty@balamand.edu.lb>
- Andrea Tonello, Univ. of Udine, Italy, <tonello@uniud.it>
- Lutz Lampe, Univ. of British Columbia, <lampe@ece.ubc.ca>
- Joel Rodrigues, Univ. of Beira Interior, Portugal, <joeljr@ieee.org>
- Jafar Elmirghani, Univ. of Leeds, U.K. <j.m.h.elmirghani@leeds.ac.uk>
- Mike Kincaid, GIMS, <w7fkf@fast.net>
- Tarek El-Bawab, Jackson State University, USA, <telbawab@ieee.org>
- Ravi Subrahmanyam, National Semiconductor Corp., USA <ravi.subrahmanyam@ieee.org>
- Xavier Fernando, Ryerson University, Canada, <xavier@ieee.org>

2 Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Transmission, Access and Optical Systems (TAOS) Technical Committee (TC) was held in the Cambridge Room, 2nd Floor, Hilton Riverside Hotel (conference hotel), New Orleans, USA, during Globecom 2008, on 3 December 2008 from 7:30am to 9:00am.

The meeting opened at 8:00am. The chair S. Bregni welcomed all participants and introduced the agenda. He distributed the minutes of the last TAOS meeting (ICC 2008, Beijing, China) for approval by the attending members of TAOS.

2.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the TAOS meeting held at ICC 2008, posted on the TAOS web site at <http://www.comsoc.org/~taos/>, were reviewed. Mike Kincaid proposed the minutes be approved as written, and the proposal was seconded by Tarek El-Bawab. Approval was unanimous.

2.2 Update on TAC meeting

Stefano Bregni gave an update on the TAC meeting held at the conference. The following points were discussed:

- Comsoc Logo. It was pointed out that concern has been raised over misuse of the Comsoc logo by groups and conferences without authorization.

- DL nominations. The TAOS nominee, Dr. Ahmed Kamal, was not accepted, much to everyone's surprise. TAOS needs to understand why this happened because Dr. Kamal is considered very qualified. DL. Andrea Tonello suggested that the TAOS committee review the forms before submission. More industry participation in the form of DL candidates from industry was suggested.
- Fellow nominations. Members were encouraged to submit names for TAOS to nominate as IEEE Fellows. It was pointed out that there are different tracks under which names can be nominated, which are more suitable for practicing engineers who may not have many publications or academic credentials. Mike Kincaid gave some hints on how TAOS can ensure its nominees are successful; for example, good references are especially important.
- Concern was expressed that a new TAC on Emerging Technologies has a proposed subcommittee on "Optical and Wireless Integration in the Access" which overlap with the charter of TAOS. Tarek El-Bawab reminded that wireless access is part of TAOS' scope, and that we need to sponsor/provide more work in this area.

2.3 Mailing list

The TAOS mailing list is among the largest in Comsoc, with over 1000 members. Members were reminded to keep it useful and not to invite misuse by unauthorized posting of conference notices.

2.4 Report and discussion on current TAOS activities

Stefano Bregni updated everybody about TAOS's involvement in major IEEE ComSoc conferences. TAOS endorses symposia in ICC and GLOBECOM and contributes to their technical management, by providing TPC members and co-chairs, as listed below:

- GLOBECOM 2008, New Orleans, LA, USA: TAOS endorsed the same two symposia as in ICC2008. T. El-Bawab has been appointed co-chair of the *Optical Networks and Systems* symposium with F. Neri and R. Dutta, who were proposed by the ONTC.
- GLOBECOM 2008 *9th International Workshop on Optical Networking Technologies*, New Orleans, LA, USA, Nov. 2008, organized by T. El-Bawab.
- GLOBECOM 2009, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA: S. Bregni is Symposia Chair, reporting to the TPC Chair Mehmet Ulema. Alberto Bononi of TAOS is co-chair of the Optical Networks and Systems symposium. Tarek El-Bawab is co-chair of the Emerging Technologies for Access Systems and Networks symposium.
- *2009 NIST-ATIS Workshop on Synchronization in Telecommunications Systems (WSTS '09)*, Broomfield, Colorado, March 2009: TAOS endorses this conference and Ravi Subrahmanyam is on the steering committee.
- TAOS has no proposals for ICC 2009, but will provide TPC members.

Moreover, the following other important roles of distinguished TAOS members in the IEEE Communications Society were highlighted:

- S. Bregni has been Distinguished Lecturer (DL) of the IEEE ComSoc since 2005. His term expires with 2008.
- S. Bregni is voting member of the Globecom/ICC Technical Content (GITC) committee of IEEE ComSoc and Editor of the IEEE Global Communications Newsletter.
- S. Gorshe (former TAOS chair) has been recently appointed IEEE ComSoc Director of Magazines and also Associate Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE Communications Magazine.
- M. Kincaid (former TAOS chair) has been GIMS chair for the last 2 years.
- Wei Lan (Jennifer) Huang has been appointed TAOS representative on the Comsoc standards board.

2.5 Conference activities

Tarek El-Bawab is co-chair of the Optical Networking and Systems symposium at GLOBECOM 2008. Tarek described that an effort has been exercised to expand the symposium scope beyond networking issues to include also system issues. More work is needed in future symposia to accomplish this goal over time. Paper acceptance rate was 36% for this meeting. There is a need to emphasize systems aspects in order to improve the visibility of Optical Networking since it is shrinking compared with Wireless Networking.

The International Workshop on Optical Networking Technologies is a leading international workshop which has lasted 9 years.

Jafar Elmighani suggested co-membership with Optical Fiber Conference (OFC) and European Conference on Optical Communication (ECOC) in order to get more industry involvement in the symposium.

Ravi Subrahmanyam gave an update on thoughts about involving the Workshop on Synchronization in Telecommunications Systems (WSTS) with GLOBECOM in some form. Currently there is a time conflict in that WSTS is held in the spring (closer to ICC) and its sister conference in Europe, the International Telecommunications Synchronization Forum (ITSF) is held in November, close to GLOBECOM. It is being proposed that WSTS together with TAOS will do a 1-day symposium at GLOBECOM on Synchronization in Packet Networks. Mike Kincaid suggested starting to work on this now but to focus on GLOBECOM 2010, and to integrate it with the Expo track in order to increase the appeal to working engineers.

Stefano Bregni and Ravi Subrahmanyam gave an update on the proposal for a special issue on synchronization in packet networks, which was submitted to IEEE Communications Magazine in September. Approval from the editorial board is still pending.

2.6 Summary

S. Bregni encouraged TAOS members to propose candidates for Fellow grade and as Distinguished Lecturers. TAOS will resubmit the application of Dr. Kamal as DL after reviewing what was submitted last time. Stefano Bregni took the action item to find out information about the negative review this time.

Members were also encouraged to submit proposals for special issues on new topics and for workshops and symposia on topics of interest to the TAOS community.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.