

Report on the Meeting of MTT-S Chapter Chairs from Region 8 in Munich

A Region 8 Chapter Chairs' Meeting is annually organized by the AdCom Membership Services Committee in order to maintain linkage throughout the Society and to help Chairs in managing the Chapter. In recent years this meeting has been organized within the Microwave Week, the most important event in Europe in the field of microwave technology.

Last meeting took place on 8 October at the International Congress Center in Munich, Germany. Currently, there are 38 Chapters in Region 8 and their chairs or representatives were invited to Munich. From this number, 22 Chapter representatives attended the meeting. In addition, 9 invited speakers and 9 prominent guests participated in the event.

Jan Zehentner, Region 8 Chapter Vice-coordinator in the AdCom Membership Services Committee, opened and conducted the Meeting. He welcomed in particular representatives of two new IEEE Chapters established this year in Romania (MTT) and Norway (MTT/AP), and wished them good luck and prosperity in the future.

Robert Weigel, Head of the Local Organizing Committee and Region 8 Chapter Coordinator in the AdCom Membership Services Committee, welcomed the representatives and reported on the activities of the Chapters in the last year.

Fred Schindler, President of the MTT Society, gave an overview of the Society's activities and emphasized the most significant actions of the AdCom (publications, education programs, support for the membership fee in minimum income countries, Distinguished Microwave Lecturer program, etc.). In addition, he gave a talk providing a comprehensive view of the IEEE, especially from the aspect of finances.

Tony Davies, Director of the Region 8 Operating Committee, gave a talk about the Chapter's role. He emphasized that the principle of voluntary work is the basis of the whole activity of the Chapters.

Lorenz-Peter Schmidt, General Chairman of EuMW 2003 and Chairman of the European Microwave Conference 2003, warmly welcomed the participants.

Roberto Sorrentino, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the European Microwave Association, spoke about this organization, plans for the near future, collaboration with the MTT Society, etc.

Josef Modelski, Chair of the AdCom Membership Services Committee, presented the situation in Region 8, compared with the situation and trends in nine other Regions.

Dick Sparks, MTT Society Administrator, informed the representatives about the programs of Chapter support, and discussed how they were and should be used.

Wolfgang Menzel, Distinguished Microwave Lecturer (DML) Speaker Coordinator, introduced the mission of DML program, presented a current list of speakers and explained the process leading to invitation of a speaker.

George Ponchak, responsible for student membership development in the AdCom Membership Services Committee, focused his presentation on an analysis of the causes of the drop membership, which is a source of concern for all Society officials. He analyzed particular objective and subjective factors affecting development of the membership in recent times, and tried to outline possible measures to be taken in order to improve the current trend.

The speeches of invited officials were followed by a discussion. Chapter Chairs had the opportunity to obtain the answers to many questions and to give their comments and suggestions.

Vera Markovic from Serbia and Montenegro, representative of the Yugoslav MTT-S Chapter, reported on the Chapter's activities, with the accent on the successful Conference on Telecommunication in Modern Satellite, Cable and Broadcasting Services, held in Nis just a week before the Meeting in Munich.



Vera Markovic, representative of the Yugoslav MTT-S Chapter, reports on Chapter's activities and TELSIS conference

Josef Modelski announced that the winner of the Chapter of the Year Contest organized by the Region 8 Committee for 2002 is IEEE Joint Novosibirsk MTT/ED/CPMT/COM/SSC Chapter. Fred Schindler handed over Certificates of Appreciation awarded to selected Chapter Chairs. At the end the requirements, recommendations and suggestions given by Chapter representatives were summed up.

It should be emphasized that all Chapter representatives received printed transactions of the Chapters' activities, which present a picture of how particular Chapters fulfill the basic mission of IEEE MTT Society in practice.

The next Chapter Chairs Meeting will take place in Amsterdam in October 2004.

*(Based on the report of Jan Zehentner,
Region 8 Chapter Vice-coordinator)*