

The 60 Years of HTE: The Hungarian IEEE Sister Society

By: Gyula Sallai, President of HTE, Csaba A. Szabó, Editor-in-Chief Infocommunications Journal, and Rolland Vida, Chair of International Affairs Committee of HTE, Hungary

2009 is a special year not only for the IEEE, which celebrates its 125th anniversary, but also for HTE, the Scientific Association for Infocommunications, Hungary, which was founded 60 years ago, on January 29, 1949. The organization, formerly known as the Scientific Society for Telecommunications, is a voluntary and autonomous professional society of engineers and economists, researchers and businessmen, managers and educational, regulatory, and other professionals active in the fields of telecommunications, broadcasting, electronics, information, and media technologies in Hungary. With a membership of over 1300 individuals and 100 corporate members (large companies, small and medium enterprises, research laboratories, and educational institutions), HTE has become one of the most important scientific associations in the country, with continuously broadening international relations and activities as well. Being an IEEE Sister Society has certainly enabled us to maintain or even further enhance our reputation as an important player in the field of infocommunications, for which we are of course grateful to the IEEE.

One of the important activities of HTE is the organization of high-quality international scientific conferences. Having organized the World Telecommunications Congress (WTC) in 2006 and the 16th IST Mobile and Wireless Communications Summit in 2007, last year we brought to Budapest the 13th International Telecommunications Network Strategy and Planning Symposium, Networks 2008. We are happy to say that the five-day conference was a great success, as it attracted more than 260 specialists from 30 countries, in addition to the 75 participants that registered only for the tutorial sessions that were held the first two days. The program of the symposium was divided in 21 technical sessions, which included 90 presentations altogether. In addition, there were plenary talks and panel sessions that involved prestigious speakers from regulatory bodies, industry, and academia. For more information, please visit the conference Website at <http://www.networks2008.org>.

And the 60th anniversary of founding HTE cannot be truly celebrated, of course, without organizing a similarly prestigious conference. That is why we are happy to help the Communications Society in organizing the IEEE Wireless Communications and Networking Conference (WCNC 2009), which will be held in Budapest in April 2009, after being hosted by cities like Hong Kong, New Orleans, and Las Vegas in the last few years. WCNC is the premier conference purely dedicated to wireless communications, and with a technical program including 10 tutorials and more than 500 research papers, it is certainly one of the major scientific events not to be missed by researchers and industry professionals.

Besides this, the entire year of 2009 will be celebrated by HTE as an anniversary year, with many dedicated symposia, workshops, and publications presenting the history of the association and the evolution of its activities. We have also to mention that in 2009 we significantly restructured the *Infocommunications Journal*, the scientific journal published monthly by the HTE. Until recently, our journal was a predominantly Hungarian language journal (in fact, the only one in our field), fulfilling the important mission of disseminating information on the state of the art in different areas in telecommunications and information technology among Hungarian professionals, while also trying to preserve and develop the professional language in this field. We also published English issues twice a year, which were compiled mostly from the best research papers published in Hungarian during the preceding half-year period.

As of January 2009, we are going to increase the number of English issues to four, with the objective to become a quarterly international journal. We intend to publish original research papers in the aforementioned areas after a rigorous peer reviewing process. Our newly appointed International Advisory Committee, consisting of high-standing representatives of the international professional community, supports the Hungarian editorial team in maintaining the quality of published papers. The *Infocommunications Journal* is intended to become a recognized international publication forum for researchers not only from Hungary, but also from neighboring countries and, in principle, from all over the world. We will be particularly happy to publish theoretical and experimentation research results achieved within the framework of European ICT projects.

As a conclusion, we hope that the 60th anniversary of our association will be celebrated through attractive high-quality events, and that in 2069 we will be able to inform you of another 60 successful years in the life of HTE.

***Highlights from BIHTEL 2008:
Implementation and Exploitation of
New Communication Technologies,
Applications and Services***
*By Kerim Kalamuji, University of Sarajevo,
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Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, hosted the 7th International Symposium on Telecommunications, BIHTEL 2008. It was held on 3–5 November 2008 at the state-of-the-art congress hall of UNITIC Business Center. BIHTEL is a traditional biannual international symposium, which, over almost 15 years, has grown into one of the most respected international conferences on telecommunications in the region.

BIHTEL 2008 was organized by the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the University of Sarajevo in collaboration with IEEE Bosnia and Herzegovina Section and IEEE Communications Chapter. This year's main theme was "Implementation and Exploitation of New Communication Technologies, Applications and Services," and it appeared to be a quite tempting and interesting theme for all those who wanted a glimpse of forecomming technologies.

The opening ceremony consisted of the welcome speech by the organizer, followed by two keynote speakers, both well-known leaders in their respective fields. The first keynote speaker was Prof. Branka Zovko-Cihlar from Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb, Croatia. Her speech was entitled "Broadcast Networks Planning for Digital Terrestrial Transmission." The second keynote was delivered by Prof. Gregor Rozinaj from Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava, Slovakia. His speech was entitled "Natural Communications with Computers."

BIHTEL 2008's three-day program consisted of five sessions, where 44 accepted papers were presented in a very relaxed atmosphere. Papers were submitted not only from Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also from other countries in Southeastern Europe; that was more evidence of the regional importance of this conference. It is important to mention that there were four student papers presented this year. It is a practice that will be continued in coming years, to inspire young students and entry-level engineers to do research, and afterward write and submit their papers.

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