

A Different Conference Experience: Short Report on SoftCOM 2011

By Dinko Begusic, Nikola Rozic, Josko Radic, and Nicolae Oaca

The 19th International Conference on Software, Telecommunications and Computer Networks (SoftCOM 2011) was held in attractive ambience of the Amfora hotel at the island of Hvar on September 15 & 16, and aboard the cruising ship "Marko Polo", September 17, visiting the beautiful town of Dubrovnik. The Conference has been organized by the University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture and CCIS (Croatian Communications and Information Society) under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, and the Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development. The Conference has been technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc) and IEEE Electromagnetic Compatibility Society.

Researchers and experts from industry, research institutes and universities from 31 countries all around the world have submitted in total 172 papers for presentation on SoftCOM 2011. Submitted papers have been reviewed by more than 200 scientists from universities, institutes and ICT companies all over the world. All accepted papers have been carefully selected based on their contribution, relevance, conceptual clearness and overall quality. Nearly 54% of submitted papers have been recommended for presentation within the technical program.



The plenary speech titled "Electronic Communications in Croatia: Opportunities and Challenges" was held by Dražen Lučić, PhD (executive director of the Croatian Posts and Electronic Communications Agency, HAKOM)

The conference program featured ten general conference sessions, a symposium on RFID technologies and the Internet of things, a symposium on environmental electromagnetic compatibility and three special sessions dedicated to the most actual topics in the area of mobile and wireless

communications. A professional workshop dedicated to the wide spectra of topics in ICT was held too. In addition three half day tutorials have been held by worldwide recognized experts. A special session dedicated to PhD students featuring presentations of research topics has been organized, too.

At the opening ceremony the participants have been welcomed by: prof. Tomislav Kilić, (Dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture in Split, University of Split), prof. Pascal Lorenz, University Haute Alsace, France, Visko Haladić (Deputy Governor of the County of the Split and Dalmatia) and Mr. sc. Danijel Mileta, State Secretary, Ministry of sea, transportation and infrastructure).

During the conference luncheon Antun Carić received the IEEE Communications Society Croatian Section award for his contribution to establishment of collaboration between the industry and academy in the area of ICT.

The workshop on "The Electronic Communications Regulatory Challenges - Experiences from the Looking to the Future Project" was chaired by Antun Carić (HAKOM) and Ignac Lovrek (Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Zagreb) and presented the progress of the national broadband project aiming at establishing a medium term strategy on competition and regulation, as well as a long term strategy for technology and investments..

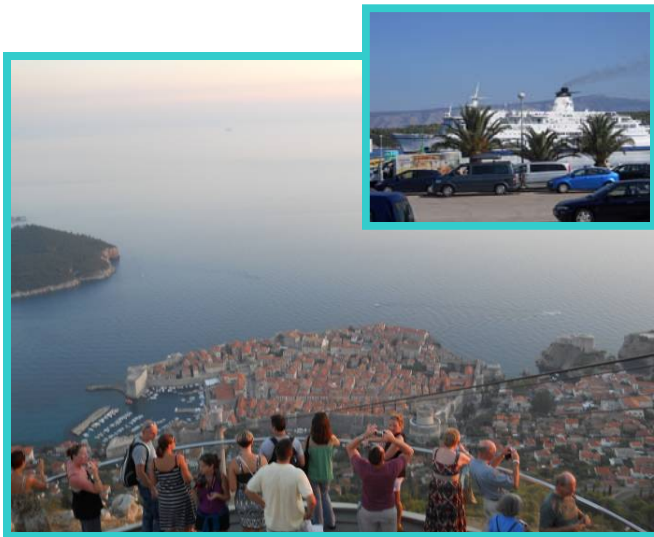
Nicolae Oacă (National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications of Romania) presented a talk titled "CEE Regional Working Group - a cooperation project in our region, a project for strengthening cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe on the harmonisation in usage of digital dividend band. The project aims at creating a regional portal, managed by the regional working group, consisting of at least one representative of 12 authorities form 11 countries in our region. The regional portal, www.CEERegionalWorkingGroup.net, a one-stop-shop for information in our region is in construction - an in-house version was created and filling national relevant statistics is in progress. Krešo Antonović (Director-General, Electronic Communications and Postal Service Directorate, Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, Croatia) held a talk titled "Amendments to Electronic Communications Legislation - Towards Better Regulation and Consumers' Protection".

Ericsson Nikola Tesla Summer Camp 2011 projects pursued during the summer at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture in Split was presented in a special session dedicated to education in ICT which was chaired by Saša Dešić (Ericsson Nikola Tesla).

The special event held in conjunction with the SoftCOM 2011 conference was a Symposium on scientific work and achievements of Ruđer Bošković, the famous Croatian scientist and philosopher, which was organized in the memory of his 300th anniversary.

The fruitful collaboration with the universities from Ancona, Lecce, Bari, Colmar and Zagreb has contributed to the quality of the Program significantly.

In conjunction with the SoftCOM 2011 conference a Business Forum has been organized featuring workshops, invited talks, round tables, presentations with participation of managers, executives, experts, government and institution representatives who discussed and exchanged opinions and experiences on a number of hot topics in contemporary and future ICT industry and market including business, technological and social aspects.



SoftCOM 2011 participants enjoying the unique panorama of the ancient city of Dubrovnik from the top of the hill Srđ

The conference participants had an opportunity to visit the city of Split, the town of Hvar and the town of Dubrovnik, highly appreciated touristic resorts.

At the welcome reception, in Diocletian Palace Basement in Split, ms. Branka Ćosić greeted the participants in the name of the Mayor of the Town of Split. Popular old Dalmatian songs performed by native vocal group Filip Dević offered the participants the attractive glimpses of the tradition and culture of Dalmatia.

At the island of Hvar participants had an opportunity to take a walk around the ancient fortress.. In Dubrovnik the participants were taken to the trip to the top of the hill Srđ by cable car to enjoy the panorama of the city. After that a guided tour through the city has been organized.

More information about the SoftCOM 2011 conference may be found at the address <http://www.fesb.hr/softcom>