



Through networking to success — a case study of IEEE Communications Society

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Outline

- ▶ Networking in general
 - Notion of networking
 - Benefits of networking
 - Social media or personal contacts?
- ▶ Networking – ComSoc's case
 - IEEE Communications Society
 - Benefits
- ▶ What to do?
- ▶ Conclusion



Networking in General

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Notion of Networking

- ▶ Networking is defined as the act of making contact and exchanging information with other people, groups and institutions to develop mutually beneficial relationships (www.yourdictionary.com)
- ▶ Important features
 - Keeping it active through regular communication
 - Keeping it for mutual benefit
- ▶ Relationships are the catalyst for success. People do business with those they like and trust
- ▶ Serve as a resource, help others succeed

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Networking is about the long term

- ▶ Networking is not about asking for one-time favors, and should not include cornering a hiring manager at a party and asking for a job
- ▶ Networking is about getting to know people, hopefully creating long-term relationships that benefit all parties

Personal Contacts vs. Social Networks

- ▶ **Meeting people is still important**
While experts disagree on the relative importance of meeting real people in this digital age, many allow that there is still room for some in-person networking
- ▶ Social media networking
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - LinkedIn
 - ResearchGate
 - And others

Benefits of Networking

- ▶ Sharing knowledge
- ▶ Creating connections
- ▶ Raising your profile
- ▶ Getting advice and positive influence
- ▶ Opportunities
- ▶ Increasing confidence

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Sharing Knowledge

- ▶ Networking is great for sharing ideas and knowledge
- ▶ An opportunity to learn and avoid some of the common pitfalls other members of your network experienced
- ▶ Lifelong learning opportunities within professional organizations

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Creating Connections

- ▶ Networking provides you with a great source of connections, and really opens the door to talk to highly influential people that you would not otherwise be able to easily talk to or find
- ▶ Connections can be of a great value when searching for a new position or to expand an existing practice

Raising Your Profile

- ▶ Being visible and getting noticed is a big benefit of networking. Make sure you regularly attend business and social events that will help to get your face known
- ▶ Association with a brand of excellence
- ▶ CV enhancement

Getting Advice and Positive Influence

- ▶ Networking is a great way to tap into advice and expertise that you would not otherwise be able to get
- ▶ People in the network can help you to grow and thrive as a researcher, business person or any other professional

Opportunities

- ▶ Opportunities like partnerships, speaking and writing opportunities, joint ventures, client leads, business or asset sales, etc.
- ▶ Opportunity to take part in developing the standards and best practices of their profession
- ▶ Membership group discounts: Most organizations get group discounts on a wide range of products and services, for example reduced conference fees, hotel rebates, medical insurance, and many others. These discounts alone or often worth more than the cost of membership

Increasing Confidence

- ▶ By regularly networking, and pushing yourself to talk to people you do not know, you will get increased confidence
- ▶ Networking is great for people that are not confident as it really pushes them to grow and learn how to make conversations and lasting connections with people they do not know

Networking – ComSoc's case

IEEE Communications Society

- ▶ IEEE ComSoc is a leading global community comprised of a diverse group of professionals with a common interest in advancing all communications technologies. To that end, the Society sponsors publications, conferences, educational programs, local activities, and technical committees
- ▶ IEEE ComSoc promotes the advancement of science, technology and applications in communications and related disciplines. It fosters presentation and exchange of information among its members and the technical community throughout the world

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Sharing Knowledge – ComSoc's Case

- ▶ Staying up to date and get exposed to new research areas
- ▶ Publications
 - *IEEE Communications Magazine* (included in the membership)
 - IEEE Transactions and Journals, magazines
- ▶ Conferences
- ▶ Courses
- ▶ Talks
 - Chapter activities
 - Distinguished Lecturer Tours and Distinguished Speaker Program

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ComSoc's Conferences

- ▶ Flagships
 - IEEE International Conference on Communications ICC
 - IEEE Globecom
 - IEEE/AFCEA Military Communications Conference MILCOM
 - Optical Fiber Communication Conference and Exposition OFC
- ▶ Core conferences (IEEE CCNC, IEEE CNS, IEEE DySPAN, IEEE HEALTHCOM, IEEE IM, IEEE INFOCOM, IEEE NOMS, IEEE SmartGridComm, IEEE WCNC)
- ▶ Regional Conferences (IEEE ANTS, IEEE BlackSeaCom, IEEE ICC, IEEE LATINCLOUD, IEEE LATINCOM)
- ▶ Small Conferences and Workshops
- ▶ (Financially) Co-Sponsored Conferences
- ▶ Industry Events (IEEE 5G Summit)

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Creating Connections – ComSoc's Case

- ▶ Technical Committees
- ▶ Conferences
- ▶ Chapter activities
- ▶ Industry – Academia relations

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IEEE ComSoc Technical Committees

- ▶ Ad Hoc & Sensor Networks
- ▶ Cognitive Networks
- ▶ Communications and Information Security
- ▶ Communications Quality and Reliability
- ▶ Communications Software
- ▶ Communications Switching and Routing
- ▶ Communications Systems Integration & Modeling
- ▶ Communications Theory
- ▶ Computer Communications
- ▶ Data Storage
- ▶ E-Health

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IEEE ComSoc Technical Committees

- ▶ Green Communications & Computing
- ▶ Information Infrastructure & Networking
- ▶ Internet
- ▶ Multimedia Communications
- ▶ Optical Networking
- ▶ Power Line Communications
- ▶ Radio Communications
- ▶ Satellite & Space Communications
- ▶ Signal Processing & Communications Electronics
- ▶ Transmission, Access, and Optical Systems
- ▶ Wireless Communications

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Industry – Academia Relations

- ▶ An opportunity for people from industry to meet people from academia
- ▶ An opportunity for people from academia to meet people from industry
- ▶ Standardization activities

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Raising Your Profile – ComSoc's Case

- ▶ Conferences
 - Active participations in sessions
 - Social events
 - Conference organization
- ▶ Publications
 - Joining editorial boards
- ▶ Technical Committees
- ▶ Chapter activities
- ▶ ComSoc Student Competition
- ▶ EMEA Young Researcher Award

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ComSoc Student Competition

- ▶ The competition *Communication Technology Changing the World* recognizes students or teams of students who demonstrate the capacity to improve the lives of people, through the application of communication technology and the development of projects that meet the human needs of people



Prizes:

- 1st: US\$ 2000 + plaque
- 2nd: US\$ 1000 + plaque

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Getting Advice and Positive Influence – ComSoc’s Case

- ▶ Keynotes at conferences
- ▶ Chapter activities
- ▶ Technical Committees
- ▶ Courses
- ▶ DLTs

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IEEE Chapters

- ▶ The technical sub-unit of one or more IEEE Sections
- ▶ Society/Technical Council Chapters consist of members from one or more IEEE Societies/Technical Councils who share technical interests and geographical proximity
- ▶ Chapter activities may include guest speakers, workshops, and seminars as well as social functions
- ▶ Chapters provide Society members with valuable opportunities to network at a local level, enabling their personal and professional growth
- ▶ Formed to serve IEEE members by holding meetings at the local level

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Opportunities – ComSoc's Case

- ▶ Conference participation
 - Reduced conference fees for members
- ▶ Technical Committees
 - Meeting top experts in many areas

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Increasing Confidence – ComSoc's Case

- ▶ Conference organization
- ▶ Participation in reviewing

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What to do?

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What to do?

- ▶ If you are not a member, join an IEEE society
- ▶ Attend Technical Committee meetings of your choice held during major conferences
 - Serve as a volunteer organizing conferences
- ▶ Participate in lectures offered by your local chapter
- ▶ Submit a brief article to Global Communications Newsletter

Be Active

- ▶ ComSoc as many associations are run by just a small handful of people, many of whom also juggle full time jobs. This means they are thrilled for any assistance, particularly from a motivated person. Consider volunteering for a task that will help build your experience (writing an article for their newsletter, organizing an event, designing a new feature of their website)
- ▶ Volunteer for leadership roles



Thank you for your attention

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Abstract

The aim of the workshop is to show how to facilitate the career advancement of young professionals by active participation in professional societies. Although the example of IEEE Communications Society will be used, the workshop will be generic, applying practically to any discipline as well as covering both academic and business careers. The workshop will underline the importance of professional exchanges of ideas by various means, including social media, but stressing contact in person. Some possible ways to become involved in the activities of professional societies will be presented and discussed, including participation in local chapters, technical committees, conferences, lectures, certification programs, standardization activities, as well as award programs. The workshop will involve multiple interactions between its participants and the presenter.

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Workshop Presenter's Bio

Andrzej Jajszczyk is a professor at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow, Poland. He served as the founding Director of the National Science Centre, a Polish research funding agency. He graduated from Poznan University of Technology. He was a visiting professor at the University of Adelaide in Australia, Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, and Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications de Bretagne, France. He is the author or co-author of 12 books and over 300 research papers, as well as 19 patents in the areas of telecommunications switching, high-speed networking, network management and reliability. He has been a consultant to industry, telecommunications operators, and government agencies in Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Poland, and the USA. He held important positions in IEEE Communications Society, such as Director of Magazines and Vice President – Technical Activities. He currently is ComSoc's Director of the Europe, Middle East & Africa Region.