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1 mensaje

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Interviews with our members

INTERVIEW WITH ROMÁN LARA, CHAIR COMSOC ECUADOR.

COMSOC LA CHAPTERS



Andrea Carrión



Román Lara

By Andrea Carrión - Global Communications Newsletter Committee, IEEE ComSoc Latin America Board I must say that it is a great pleasure to present the section of interviews to ComSoc members of Latin America in our monthly Newsletter. In this interview, Román tells us about his experience as president of ComSoc Ecuador in 2020 and shares the strategies that he considers helped the chapter to grow in membership, becoming the second chapter with the most members in Latin America.

Román Lara-Cueva (Senior Member, IEEE) received the B.Eng. degree in electronic and telecommunications engineering from Escuela Politécnica Nacional, Quito, Ecuador, in 2001; the M.Sc. degree in wireless systems and related technologies from the Politecnico di Torino, Turin, Italy, in 2005, and the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in telecommunication networks for developing countries from Rey Juan Carlos University, Fuenlabrada, Spain, in 2010 and 2015, respectively. In 2002, he joined the Departamento de Eléctrica, Electrónica y Telecomunicaciones, Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas (ESPE), Sangolquí, Ecuador, where he has been an Associate Professor, since 2005, and since 2016, he has been a Full Professor, where he founded and heads the Ad Hoc Network Research Center (CIRAD) and the Smart Systems Research Group (WiCOM-Energy), Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas ESPE, Ecuador. He received the Price to the Best Junior Researcher from Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas ESPE in 2014, and Best Researcher from IEEE Ecuador Section in 2017.

He has authored more than 45 referred and conference articles on topics related to wireless communications, signal processing, and machine learning. He is the author or coauthor in 13 publicly funded research projects and directed 8 of them.

Andrea: Hello Roman. Thank you for joining our first ComSoc interview. Tell us, what area do you currently work?

Román: Currently, my main research interests include digital signal processing and machine learning theory applied to wireless communications systems and volcano seismology, also in the scope of the internet of things by developing smart gadgets for smart cities. For the first, we are proposing to model semi-empirical wireless channels based on the theory of machine learning, while for volcanic seismology we are working to develop a real-time automatic recognition system of signals from Cotopaxi Volcano, and for the second we are working on developing smart meters to determine water flow and energy consumption.

Andrea: IEEE Ecuador Section recognized ComSoc as the best exemplary chapter of the Section. Tell us a little more about the achievements of the IEEE ComSoc Ecuador chapter?

Román: From the moment I was in charge of ComSoc Ecuador, and just with the experience to have worked as Counselor of ESPE Student Branch, I decided to join the student ComSoc chapters in order to propose and develop activities, after several meetings, I had the opportunity to

find extraordinaries capacities in student members of ecuadorian universities. We developed several webinars as Telecom and Teleweek, which were examples of co-working in the ComSoc Ecuador Society in Covid times, we decided to participate in the article contest promoted by ComSoc Latinoamerica with the article about this experience, and we had the opportunity to win. We were benefited with funds from ComSoc, we decided to use them in a training course for our members, we awarded scholarships to 20 members, between students and professionals, for the training course in Telecommunications Infrastructure, a topic requested by our members. After all our work during 2020, we were recognized as the best exemplar chapter of IEEE Ecuador Section, definitely an award to the work of all volunteers during 2020. This 2021 is a new challenge in our lives, we have to exceed expectations and everything that has been done in the previous year, it is going to be difficult, but we hope to accomplish the expectations.

Andrea: During 2020, the number of members of ComSoc Ecuador increased, becoming the second chapter with more members in the region. Based on his experience as chapter president, what strategies were used to achieve membership growth and especially member retention?

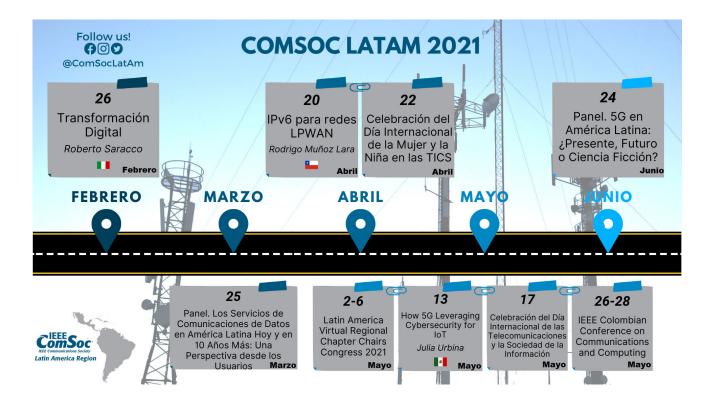
Román: As I mentioned earlier, the main strategy was to work with student volunteers, and develop activities for all our members, professionals and students, I think this allowed us to obtain the second place in membership growth and member retention in R9, according to the statistics given by ComSocLA. Currently our strategy is to get funds from companies to develop new initiatives and projects with all our partners, professionals and students, but in general, this year we want to achieve at least 25% of the activities developed by professional partners. With this I believe that ComSoc Ecuador will "lift off" in benefit of the entire of its members.

Andrea: Thank you Roman for sharing your activities and ideas with our members. Finally, I would like you as a member of ComSoc to tell us, what do you think is the role of ComSoc in industry and research in Ecuador?

Román: Telecommunications in Ecuador are really important, due to reach the 3% of the PIB in our country, in this sense as ComSoc member, I think is in our hands the possibility to help in the develop of this sector with our members:

- a) Students members.- by helping in their formation, with principles and ethics, in addition to find trend topics which allow them to know new technologies, and find knowledge gaps for being developed in their titulation works as research projects, and
- **b) Professionals members.-** by keeping updated them, this allow them to find gaps to research with industry point of view, which allow them to develop the Telecommunication Sector by considering trend topics like Machine Learning, Big Data, IoT, Smart Cities applied to Telecommunication Sector.

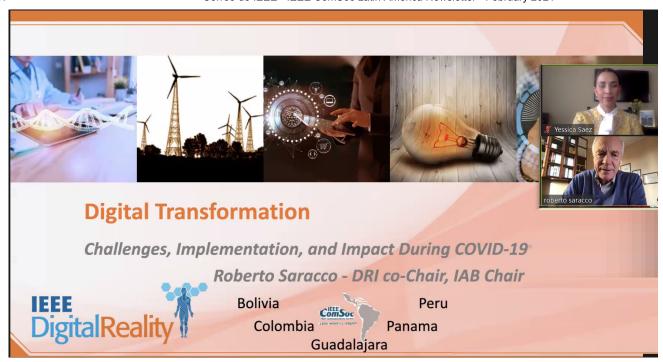
What's new at ComSoc LA?



ComSoc Latin America Calendar for the first semester of 2021!

We share with our members the upcoming events that will take place in ComSoc LA, stay connected with our social networks and website for more details of the scheduled events.

On February 26, the first IEEE ComSoc Latin America Region Webinar was developed, with the theme "Digital Transformation", dictated by Dr. Roberto Saracco. This event was developed with the support of the Panama, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia and Guadalajara chapters.

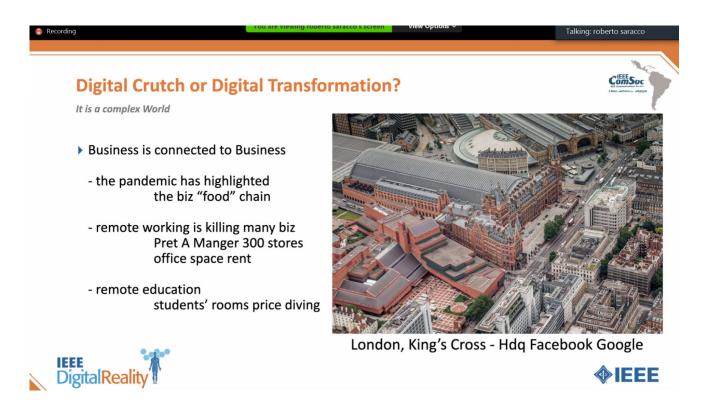


Dr. Roberto Saracco is a Senior Fellow of the IEEE, Co-Chair of the IEEE Digital Reality Initiative, and Leader of the Industry Advisory Board of the Future Directions Committee. He is a distinguished professor at IEEE, in addition to being a professor at the University of Trento.

In his presentation, he addressed the challenges, implementation, and impact of digital transformation during Covid-19.

The presentation is available to our members, download here.

If you want to know more about this topic, Dr. Saracco has a recently created course on the IEEE Learning Network platform: Understanding Digital Transformation: The Key Concepts.



Upcoming events



Latin America Regional Chapter Chairs Meeting 2021

The ComSoc Latin America Board is pleased to announce the Regional Chapter Chairs Meeting to be held in the month of May. Resources with broad, current and focused content will be offered to chapter chairs. The agenda will be sent later with detailed information about the event.











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Membership and Subscription

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