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Highlights from the IEEE ComSoc Latin America Regional Chapter Chairs Congress 2024 in Medellín, Colombia

By Yessica Sáez, IEEE ComSoc Latin America
and Miguel Gutiérrez Gaitán, IEEE ComSoc Latin America Coordinator

The Latin America Regional Chapter Chairs Congress (RCCC) 2024 took place on November 5-6 in Medellín, Colombia, bringing together IEEE Communications Society leaders from across the region. The event provided a key platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and strategic discussions to strengthen IEEE ComSoc's presence in Latin America. With representatives from **Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay**, the congress underscored the region's diversity, fostering stronger connections and new initiatives.

A Milestone for IEEE ComSoc in Latin America

Led by IEEE ComSoc LA Director Yéssica Sáez, with support from the IEEE ComSoc R9 Board, this RCCC marked a significant milestone by **including students and IEEE Student Branches for the first time**. Their participation brought fresh perspectives and reinforced ComSoc's commitment to mentorship and leadership development for future professionals in communications. The group photo captured during the event reflects this unity, featuring IEEE ComSoc R9 Board members, Chapter Chairs, and students, all actively contributing to shaping the future of telecommunications in the region.

The event also featured a video message from IEEE ComSoc President-elect **Nelson Fonseca**, emphasizing the importance of connectivity, emerging technologies, and member engagement in advancing telecommunications in Latin America. **Stefano Bregni**, from the Global Communications Newsletter (GGN), shared insights on the role of local chapters and students in disseminating regional and global efforts, strengthening IEEE ComSoc's impact worldwide.

Key Discussions and Regional Collaboration

RCCC 2024 featured strategic sessions focused on strengthening regional engagement and empowering local chapters. Among the highlights were discussions on **gender diversity** in leadership led by Women in Communications Engineering (WICE), insights into cross-border collaboration through the Chile-Ecuador Sister Chapters Initiative, and a session on telecommunications for humanitarian efforts with contributions from the IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board (HTB). Chapter leaders and student branch representatives also exchanged best practices for enhancing member recruitment and retention.

Looking Ahead

The success of RCCC 2024 reaffirmed IEEE ComSoc's commitment to the region. The discussions and collaborations from the event help drive new initiatives, strengthen engagement, and expand IEEE ComSoc LA's impact worldwide.



In the picture, members of the IEEE ComSoc Latin America Board, Chapter Chairs, and representatives from IEEE ComSoc Chapters across various countries, along with IEEE ComSoc Student Branch members, gathered at RCCC 2024 in Medellín, Colombia.

COMSOC LATAM Student ICT Innovation Competition 2024

By Aris Castillo, COMSOC LATAM Student Activities Coordinator



In July 2024, the COMSOC LATAM Student ICT Innovation Competition was launched to provide students with the opportunity to submit their innovative ideas and projects. This initiative focused on applications of information and communication technologies (ICT) to address challenges related to climate change.

The winners of this year's competition were Luis Carlos Merón from the **Panama Chapter** and Jhon Cristian Quispe from the **Bolivia Chapter**. Luis' project leveraged NASA's ION implementation of the Delay or Disruption Tolerant Network (DTN) to improve communication in remote areas on Earth, showcasing a practical approach to overcoming connectivity issues in underserved regions. Jhon's project developed a monitoring network for climate alerts in Lago Titicaca, demonstrating how ICT can play a vital role in addressing environmental challenges.

As part of their recognition, both winners received flight tickets and registration to LATINCOM 2024, held in Medellín, Colombia. They have also participated in the Regional Chapter Chair Congress (RCC) 2024, where they had the opportunity to present their projects and connect with IEEE leaders and professionals.

Stay tuned for the announcement of the next student competition on **COMSOC LATAM's social media** channels, offering more opportunities for innovation and engagement.

Strengthening Student Engagement in IEEE ComSoc Argentina

By Milton D. Marche, IEEE ComSoc Chair Argentina

In 2024, IEEE ComSoc Argentina focused on student engagement and volunteer development amidst challenging circumstances. A strategic plan prioritized activities like promoting IEEE membership, supporting student branches, and organizing events to foster community and growth. Key initiatives included:

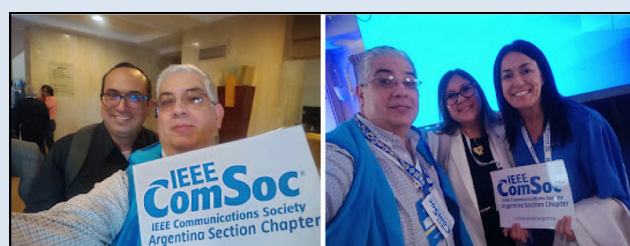
Café Científico Sessions: Held at Universidad Nacional de Tucumán and Universidad Tecnológica de Tucumán, these sessions introduced IEEE and ComSoc benefits to students, paving the way for new student chapters.

IEEE ARGENCON 2024: Supported student participation with scholarships and coordinated a Communications Track, impacting over 80 students and 20 professionals from various countries.

RNR YP 2024: Facilitated student integration through scholarships, a Technical Chapters Fair, and networking events, with over 70 students benefiting.

With creative efforts like leveraging social media and launching a WhatsApp group for members, IEEE ComSoc Argentina continues to make strides in building a vibrant, inclusive community.

For updates, follow them on Instagram: [@ieeecomsocarg](https://www.instagram.com/ieeecomsocarg).



Promoting Women and Young Professional Inclusion in IEEE LATINCOM 2024: YP/WIE Panel on Innovations and Challenges in Telecom

By Gidy Florez Navarro, IEEE ComSoc LA WICE Coordinator, Esmeralda Asurza, IEEE ComSoc LA YP Coordinator and Miguel Gutiérrez Gaitán, IEEE ComSoc YP Standing Committee

IEEE LATINCOM 2024 featured a Young Professionals (YP) and Women in Communications Engineering (WICE) panel titled “Innovations and Challenges in Telecom”, emphasizing the role of diversity and inclusion in shaping the future of telecommunications. The session provided a dynamic platform for discussions on AI, 5G, security, and career development, fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and IEEE ComSoc members.

Expert Insights from Leading Professionals

Moderated by **Diana Briceño**, Vice Chair of the IEEE ComSoc Colombia Chapter, the panel brought together distinguished experts leading advancements in the field:

- **Julia Urbina Pineda**, cybersecurity specialist and Chair of IEEE ComSoc Guadalajara Section, focused on 5G/IoT security.
- **Yéssica Sáez Barrios**, IEEE ComSoc Latin America Director, integrating IoT and AI to address societal challenges.
- **Miguel Gutiérrez Gaitán**, Assistant Professor at PUC Chile and member of the IEEE ComSoc Global YP Standing Committee, providing insights on AI-driven wireless networks and IoT.
- **Sinem Coleri**, Professor at Koç University, expert in 6G, vehicular networks, and AI for wireless systems.

Addressing Innovation, Security, and Career Growth

The discussion delved into technological advancements and industry challenges, particularly the interplay between AI, 5G, and security. Julia Urbina stressed the importance of secure interoperability, advocating for stronger collaboration between academia and industry to develop adaptable security frameworks. The panelists also addressed career growth in telecommunications, offering insights into professional development, research opportunities, and leadership within IEEE ComSoc. Sinem Coleri stressed the differences between AI for communications and communications for AI.

Engaging with the Next Generation of Engineers

Engaging with an interactive audience, the panel welcomed questions from students and young professionals on AI's impact on networks, cybersecurity concerns, and the future of Open RAN. Conversations also highlighted the importance of mentorship, gender diversity, and creating inclusive environments to support the next generation of engineers.

A Commitment to Inclusion and Innovation

By amplifying diverse perspectives, IEEE LATINCOM 2024 reinforced its commitment to fostering innovation, leadership, and collaboration in the telecommunications sector. The panel provided invaluable insights into emerging trends, inspiring young professionals and IEEE members to contribute to the field.



In the picture, from right to left, Diana Briceño (Colombia), and the members of the panel: Julia Urbina Pineda (Mexico), Yéssica Sáez Barrios (Panama), Sinem Coleri (Turkey), and Miguel Gutiérrez Gaitán (Chile).

IEEE ComSoc Chile-Ecuador Sister Chapters: Strengthening ties of collaboration and leadership within the ComSoc Latin American Chapters

By Miguel Gutiérrez Gaitán, IEEE ComSoc Chile Chapter Chair
and Roman Lara-Cuevas, IEEE Ecuador Chapter Chair



In both pictures, from left to right, Miguel Gutiérrez Gaitán (UC Chile) and Román Lara (ESPE Ecuador). The pictures were taken at the Electrical Engineering Department of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, in Santiago, Chile.

In 2024, the IEEE ComSoc Chile-Ecuador Sister Chapters strengthened their role as a leading example of international collaboration, demonstrating how regional partnerships can drive research, education, and professional growth. Their outstanding performance earned them funding from the IEEE ComSoc Sister Chapters Program, further supporting joint initiatives in technical training, student engagement, and research development.

With a growing presence in major IEEE ComSoc events, the **Chile-Ecuador partnership** has positioned itself as a regional ambassador for the global ComSoc Sister Chapters Program, showcasing how cross-border cooperation enhances IEEE's global mission. The activities in 2024 included participation in **Telecom 2024 in Ecuador**, where experts discussed advancements in 6G, IoT, and Agile Methodologies, and **RCCC 2024 in Colombia**, where they shared best practices and reinforced collaboration with student branches and IEEE leadership.

The partnership also played a key role in **ETCM 2024**, where they co-chaired a telecommunications track featuring research on AI-driven networks, smart IoT applications, and future wireless technologies. In addition, their commitment to student development was evident through the **IEEE Virtual ComSoc Training Course**, a 20-hour certified program that provided members with advanced insights into modern telecommunications.

The **Student Membership Competition** further encouraged student involvement, with the Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas ESPE earning support to enhance its academic and technical initiatives.

By securing funding and expanding their influence, the IEEE ComSoc Chile-Ecuador Sister Chapters have set a benchmark for regional collaboration. Their efforts continue to foster technical advancements and professional growth, ensuring that their work serves as a model for other IEEE ComSoc chapters worldwide. With new projects on the horizon, they remain dedicated to advancing research, education, and professional development in telecommunications.

UPCOMING COMSOC EVENTS



IEEE WCNC 2025

IEEE Wireless Communications and Networking Conference 2025
24 - 27 March 2025 • Italy



IEEE/IFIP NOMS 2025

IEEE/IFIP Network Operations and Management Symposium 2025
12 - 16 May 2025 • Honolulu, United States

IEEE ComSoc International Women's Day 2025 Exemplary Contest

By Yessica Saez, Sai Prashanth Mallellu, Megha Quamara,
IEEE ComSoc WICE Student Activities Team



Dear IEEE ComSoc Student Member,

First of all, thank you for being a valued student member of the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc). We are writing to you as the Women in Communications Engineering (WICE) committee's student representatives to introduce ourselves and share an exciting initiative we'd love for you to participate in.

WICE is a standing committee of ComSoc society, dedicated to encouraging the participation and membership of women in communications engineering. It provides a platform for their growth and leadership in ComSoc. This group welcomes everyone, regardless of gender, who supports its mission and activities.

How Are You Celebrating International Women's Day?

If you're passionate about increasing the representation of women in communications engineering, we invite you to share your ideas and collaborate with us. We are excited to launch the third edition of our International Women's Day Exemplary Contest, with this year's theme: "Accelerate Action."

We encourage you to plan an event to celebrate International **Women's Day (March 8, 2025)** as part of this contest. The most inspiring and exemplary events will be rewarded! Participants will need to provide evidence of their organized events, and the top three teams will receive cash prizes, while all participants will receive certificates of recognition.

Visit our [website](#) to review the official rules and complete contest details.

Stay Connected & Get Involved!

We will be announcing additional projects and activities throughout the year, so stay tuned! In the meantime, we would love to hear your thoughts, ideas, and feedback. You can reach us via email at yessica.saez@ieee.org.

To stay updated, visit the [WICE website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to explore our initiatives, including events at conferences, awards, student activities, travel grants, mentoring programs, and childcare support.

We look forward to your participation!



"International Women's Day 2025 Exemplary Contest"

Share your events for celebrating the International Women's day
for a chance to win \$400

ComSoc
WICE

Deadline: April 8, 2025

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DLT COORDINATOR REPORT

Michele Nogueira's IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer Tour in Latin America

By Francisco Braga, IEEE ComSoc Latin America Coordinator

Dr. Michele Nogueira's IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer Tour (DLT) in Ecuador and Panama was a remarkable success, engaging students, professionals, and researchers in discussions on the latest developments in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

In Ecuador, Dr. Nogueira delivered insightful lectures at several prestigious institutions. At Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas ESPE, she was hosted by Dr. Fausto Granda, who facilitated discussions on AI-driven cybersecurity solutions. At Universidad de las Américas (UDLA), coordinated by Alexis Tinoco, she interacted with faculty and students, addressing the challenges of machine learning applications in cybersecurity. At Escuela Politécnica Nacional (EPN), welcomed by Soraya Sinche, she delved into DDoS attack prediction using deep learning techniques, sparking engaging technical debates.

In Panama, she participated in Congreso FIE as a keynote speaker at the IESTEC Conference, an event organized by the IEEE ComSoc Panama Chapter under the leadership of Stephanie Black. She also took part in an esteemed panel discussion on AI-driven cybersecurity, where she shared insights alongside renowned experts, reinforcing the significance of AI in modern network protection and threat mitigation.

The tour was expertly coordinated by IEEE ComSoc chapters in Ecuador and Panama, with substantial support from key organizers and institutions. Beyond fostering knowledge exchange, the event facilitated opportunities for potential research collaborations between Dr. Nogueira's research group and Latin American institutions. The impact of her visit was further amplified through social media outreach, showcasing IEEE ComSoc's commitment to advancing cybersecurity education and innovation.

Special appreciation goes to all local hosts, organizers, speakers, and attendees who contributed to making this Distinguished Lecturer Tour an outstanding achievement for the IEEE ComSoc Latin America community.



EPN - Ecuador



UTP - Panama



UDLA - Ecuador

Awards: Celebrating Excellence in IEEE ComSoc Latin America

By Andrés Navarro, Awards Committee and Past Director
and José David Cely, Membership Development Committee

The IEEE ComSoc Latin America Board proudly honors two outstanding members for their remarkable contributions and leadership with the 2024 Regional Awards. This year's recipients exemplify excellence in research, service, and community impact, reflecting IEEE's mission to advance telecommunications and foster professional growth.

Miguel Gutiérrez-Gaitán, recipient of the Young Professional Award, has made significant contributions to telecommunications research, leadership, and community engagement. With over 60 peer-reviewed publications in venues such as IEEE GlobeCom, IEEE WF-IoT, IEEE WCNC, and IEEE Latincom, he has advanced research in overwater and real-time IoT communication. He has also played a key leadership role as Chair of the IEEE ComSoc Chile Chapter, Member of the Board of IEEE ComSoc Latin America, and Member-at-Large of the IEEE ComSoc YP Standing Committee, strengthening student and young professional engagement across the region.

Román Lara Cueva, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, has been instrumental in regional collaboration and professional development. His leadership in the Sister Chapters initiative between Ecuador and Chile has fostered cross-border cooperation, while his efforts in ETM, Telecom 2024, and the Distinguished Lecturer Tour (DLT) program have greatly benefited the IEEE community in Ecuador and Latin America. Notably, he pioneered a free training program which is now being extended to Latin America, creating valuable opportunities for students and young professionals.

These awards recognize their dedication to advancing communications technology and their leadership in shaping IEEE ComSoc in Latin America. Join us in congratulating Miguel and Román for their well-deserved recognition and lasting impact!



MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

IEEE ComSoc Membership - Get Connected With ComSoc and Make Our Community Your Community



WHY JOIN IEEE COMSoc?

As a member of this distinguished, global community, whether you are an undergraduate student, graduate student or an experienced professional, you will receive exclusive personal, career, and business benefits and enjoy access to top-quality communications technology resources. As a ComSoc member you will:

- **Discover the latest** breakthroughs, cutting-edge information and research on communications technologies with access to diverse ComSoc [magazines, journals](#) and [conferences](#).


New Benefits:

- [Select two additional free electronic subscriptions when you join or renew your 2025 membership!](#)
- Free access to our "Light-based Wireless Communications" training course through 2024, available by logging into the ComSoc Media Center.
- **Stay relevant and deepen your understanding** of key aspects of communications technologies through quality [training](#), certification programs and [Technical Committees](#).
- **Connect and collaborate** through networking opportunities and participate in local technical activities with any of our 200+ [chapters](#) and 300+ [student branch chapters](#) around the world.
- **Award and recognize** the outstanding contributions of fellow members in the fields of communications and their service to the society through ComSoc [awards](#) program.
- **Achieve more** with special discounts on member pricing for key IEEE ComSoc publications, conferences, and professional development programs.



March 2025

Share Your News with
IEEE ComSoc Latin America!

Submit your chapter updates,
student activities, and reports to
the Newsletter's Editor-in-Chief,
Miguel Gutiérrez Gaitán, at
 miguel.gutierrez@uc.cl.

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