

How to promote IEEE activity in a post-communist country in the economic crisis conditions

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Central Ukraine Chapter

About KPI



- Established in 1898
- Collects 20 faculties and 9 institutes in engineering areas
- Over 2 500 professors and teaching staff
- Over 40 000 students
- Over 500 PhD students

Outline

1. Situation in Ukraine
2. Possible IEEE contribution to change situation for the better
3. Experience of Central Ukraine Chapter
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Situation in Ukraine

Background

- There is deliberate necessity to join the efforts around the world for scientific and technology progress.
- IEEE Societies try to support engineers and scientists in countries that faced now with permanent and deep economic crisis.

Potential

- Post-Soviet republics (Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia, etc.) possess high potentials in science due to formerly good-established education.
- In those countries, science was previously one of the most prestige field of human activities so many gifted and active persons aspired to this area willingly.
- Russian and Ukrainian mathematics, physicists, programmers are desired for collaboration as in Europe so in the USA.

Post-communist reality

- Still there is “cool relations” to western support from the old generation of eastern colleagues
- Financial difficulties of young scientists and engineers in post-communist countries.
- “Science and engineering” sink their positions in young people estimation due to heavy leaving conditions in a crisis time.

Old minded former party lobby

- Topping positions everywhere in previous Soviet society were held by active people that cannot realize themselves without high posts in communist party.
- Many of these people still now occupied current position (as directors, presidents, managers, etc.) in the universities, in electronics firms, as well as in the government organizations.
- Even at present time, being more than middle-aged, those people are ahead of the most important scientific, education and productive fields. They support each other, and it is not easy to overcome their joint policy.
- Unfortunately, as a rule, they cannot communicate in English, they have problems with computers, distrust to Westerns, sorry for previous times, etc.

Scientific life

- Engineers and scientists of such a large and powerful country (as Soviet Union was) more than 70 years were perfectly separated from the Western countries.
- It was impossible for most of us to visit abroad conferences and to invite foreigners to their firms.

Scientific life

- Previously, hardware and software developments in the area of electronics and communications were considered as a big secret from both sides (Eastern and Western).
- This is at the bottom of eastern scientists and engineers elaborated their own original ways in telecommunication and electronics that might be a good reason for nowadays collaboration because this would have interest for western engineers.
- On the other hand, the information about western decisions was rather difficult to obtain in Soviet countries, and this motive now leads to collaboration as well.

Today's problems

- Still in Ukraine there are problems with English language education, with computers purchasing, especially for students.
- Talented young people try to migrate to another countries, and it looks like they are not hurry to return back. They can not find prosperity in their country with extremely small salary in the absence of rapid rise: situation destroys every hope of success.
- The lowering of young talented people afflux to national electronics is a plausible reason of scientific potential decrease.

Possible IEEE contribution to
change situation for the better

- In Ukraine, an extremely low salary for scientists and engineers very limited the possibility to pay fee and journals` subscriptions.
- Most of engineers have no clear idea about IEEE potentialities. Therefore, we need to find a way out of the impasse.
- IEEE uses some possibilities to support eastern engineers and scientists to take part in IEEE Societies.
- This support should be given first of all to the young persons.
- The necessary criterion is to provide the large-scale information about IEEE potentials (Journals, Meetings, Internet contacts, etc.).

In other words, IEEE Societies could demonstrate their friendly and open policy to eastern scientists and engineers, including:

- limited free memberships;
- limited free subscription for journals;
- partial support scientific conferences;
- partial support Ph.D. students to participate conferences;
- proclamation the competition and award for best Ph.D. students, award for best publications, etc.;
- promotion some well-deserved people to Senior membership, etc.

Experience of Central Ukraine

Chapter

IEEE policy to Central Ukrainian Chapter

- IEEE ComSociety (as well as MTT-S) promotes in Ukraine *free membership support*
- All these members have got Internet access to IEEE publications.
- They should share current information about IEEE events between their colleagues that strongly works in favor of Society.

Support young scientists

- Last (2005) year Center Ukraine Chapter realized a Project while *ComSoc supported 5 Ukrainian Ph.D. students* to participate Ukrainian annual International Conference “Microwave & Telecommunication Technology”, CriMiCo-2001. Each of these five Ph.D. students has got a support of \$100.
- In Ukraine, this money is quite enough to pay student` registration fee, and to participate conference in another town. Above-mentioned Ph.D. students have presentations in conference.
- Members of Central Ukraine Chapter are regularly informed about scientific meetings organized by IEEE all over the World.

Other forms of support and promotion

- IEEE performs distinguished lecturer program
- Under this program our Chapter has welcomed:
 - June 2005: Dr. Albert Wang (EDS),
 - January 2006: Dr. Alex Gelman (ComSoc).

Explore local conferences potential

- The annual *CriMiCo* conference devoted to “**Microwave & Telecommunication Technology**” is located in Sevastopol, South Ukraine, Crimea (peninsula in Black Sea), and held at the second decade of September.
- At CriMiCo-2005, September 12-15, we have 240 reports from 17 countries. CriMico-2004 was visited by scientists from 15 countries and published 230 reports.
- This year **CriMiCo-2006** is planned at **September 11-15, 2006**. It makes sense to arrange continual support for this Conference from the IEEE.
- Central Ukraine Chapter strongly supports this conference.

Proposals

- Sponsor Ukrainian Conferences and Seminars, for example, the annual International conference ***CriMiCo***. If this conference will be provided under the aegis of EDS and MTT, this event will interest much more scientists and engineers to participate this Society;
- Chapters should stimulate students group activity.
- Persuade companies in Ukraine to support IEEE membership.