MESSAGE FROM ADRIAN PAIS
2009 MGA GOLD Committee Chair

Dear IEEE GOLD members,

In an article entitled “Volunteers Are the Greatest”, published in the June 2009 edition of *The Institute*, IEEE President John Vig mentions that without volunteers, IEEE could not be the “leading professional association for the advancement of technology.” A back-of-the-envelope calculation revealed to him that there are hundreds of thousands of volunteers contributing to the IEEE each year. This is absolutely incredible!

John Vig also pointed out the importance of finding meaningful ways to involve young professionals in IEEE and the fundamental role that GOLD has in achieving this. There is certainly no lack of recognition from the IEEE President and other senior IEEE leaders that GOLD is essential to IEEE and the profession.

I am privileged to be part of the IEEE and to have the opportunity to work with so many great volunteers from around the world. In mid-May 2009, the GOLD Committee had its two-day annual meeting in New Jersey, USA. In attendance were GOLD representatives from various Regions and Societies, as well as GOLD representatives on IEEE Major Boards and Committees, IEEE staff members, and senior volunteers.
SIBCON2009: IEEE GOLD Italy and IEEE GOLD Siberia together for the first time

By Cosimo Stallo (IEEE Italy GOLD Chair)

The 8th Siberian Conference on Control and Communications (SIBCON) was held in Tomsk, Russia on 27-28 March, 2009. The meeting, which takes place every other year, was sponsored by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research with technical co-sponsorship from the Russia Siberia Section. It was organized by the Tomsk Electromagnetic Compatibility Society Chapter and the Siberian GOLD Affinity Group, chaired by Oleg Stukach.

The technical program was divided into several oral sessions on contributed papers. Conference attendees discussed many papers on a wide range of scientific topics. The main aim of the conference was to bring together researchers from various fields in order to present advances in state-of-art theory and technology in communications and control. The intended result was to develop unified perspectives in this interdisciplinary field of advanced research.

Many participants also showed interest in sharing experiences and opinions from a cultural and historical perspective, which proved particularly rewarding for everyone. This brought additional value to the conference and made it truly memorable. Tomsk is one of the oldest towns in Siberia and has always played a very important role in both the scientific and the cultural life of Russia. The participants at the conference had the opportunity to enjoy Tomsk’s historical sites, museums and the Voskresenskaya Mountain, where a stone monument to the city’s foundation stands. The conference banquet was held in the “Scientific Palace”, located in the historical part of the town.

SIBCON was a great opportunity to create a bridge between experienced IEEE members and newcomers. It also provided an excellent starting point for innovative business ventures and strong relationships between the Italian and Siberian GOLD Affinity Groups. We hope you might consider participating at the next SIBCON which will be held in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, in 2011: you will not be disappointed.

Further information about SIBCON can be found at http://www.comsoc.org/tomsk/sibcon/

Comments on this article?
Write to our Reader’s Forum at GOLDRush@ieee.org