

Chapter Highlights

The LEOS Chapter Awards were established to recognize the outstanding work and contributions of the local chapters. Each year the Chapters are requested to submit an Annual Report highlighting their chapter activities. The Chairs of the chapters submitting reports ballot to determine the winners of the awards. This year both the Italian and the Moscow Chapters were voted “Chapter-of-the-Year.” Our congratulations to the Chapter Chairs, Dr. Silvano Donati and Dr. Dimitry Sazonov, for their leadership.

LEOS Italian Chapter

The Italian Chapter was honored to be named ‘Chapter of the Year,’ sharing with the Moscow Chapter, in the recently-announced LEOS Chapter Awards for 2001.

The Chapter was formed in 1997 and previously was the winner of the ‘Most Improved Chapter’ awards for the years 1998 and 1999. During this period, membership of the Italian Chapter has steadily increased, from the initial 87 members in 1997, to 105 in 1999, to nearly double, reaching 172 in 2001.

The cultural program of the Chapter is shaped by the Officers and approved by the CEC (Chapter Executive Committee) in the fall meeting of each year. It consists of lectures, 1-day workshops and topical conferences.

About lectures, they include those of the LEOS Distinguished Lecturers programme plus a selection of National Lecturers from University, Research Centers and Companies (see <http://leos.unipv.it/Leconf2001.html>). The number of lectures offered by the Chapter has increased from 9 in 1998 to 14 in 2001. Lectures were mostly hosted at University of Pavia, where the Chairman and Chapter founder Silvano Donati is based, and provided a unique boost to regular lessons, very appreciated by post-graduated students and PhDs attending courses in optoelectronics.



Silvano Donati, with a few graduate and PhD students attending ODIMAP III in Pavia.

Attendance to lectures is mainly by students, either from Pavia or from neighboring Universities (Polytechnics of Milan and Turin), but a substantial fraction is also from scientist and technical people travelling from towns, even far away, attracted by the specific subject.

The 1-day workshops are organized by the Chapter with a rotation of venues on the territory and the cooperation of local member groups for the logistics. They are usually run in Italian as language of the meeting and speakers are on invitation only. Last workshop ‘Reti Ottiche di Nuova Generazione’ (New Generation Optical Networks), was held in Rome, Meeting Hall of the CNR, June 18, 2001. This workshop, featuring 10 presentations, attracted 85 delegates mostly from Italian companies and brought out a

90-page proceedings booklet (see [http://leos.unipv.it/ RetiOttiche.html](http://leos.unipv.it/RetiOttiche.html)). The workshop has been chaired by Roberto Sabella (a LEOS CEC member) and Marina Settembre, both with Ericsson Lab

Italy, who also provided an unparalleled support to get through the logistics. The workshop had a low \$70 regular registration fee, \$20 for students, and fell short to break even. This is the most desirable situation, once the Chapter has, like ours, a reasonable money reserve and can pursue its mission of offering cultural vehicles at the minimum, truly non-profit cost.

Next workshop for the year 2002, now under consideration, will probably be held in Naples, and will deal on 'Optoelectronic Components for Networks'.

Conferences are the most demanding effort, yet a feather in the Chapter's cap. Because of their personal scientific interest at that time, Silvano Donati (Chapter's Chairman) and Tiziana Tambosso (Chapter's Secretary) devised and started to organize in 1997 the 2-day Workshop on Fiber Optics Passive Components, or WFOPC. The first edition of WFOPC was run in Pavia, Sept. 18-19, 1998. It was attended by hundred delegates and generated a 180-page proceeding volume. The second edition, WFOPC'2000, was again held in Pavia (see a resume' in *LEOS Newsletter*, August 2000, p.9) and registered a very encouraging increase of participants (+30%) as well as of submitted papers (to 68, +15%) and proceeding pages (up to 288, +60%). Surplus of the two WFOPCs cashed some \$12,000 into the Chapter, freeing it from the worries that an organizer always faces when planning a new conference.

Incidentally, following the WFOPC Conference, a selection of papers was proposed for publication as a Special Issue of the IEEE Journal Selected Topics in Quantum Electronics. Alan Willner readily accepted the proposal, and the result was a fine, 220-page issue of *JSTQE*, vol.5, no.5, Sept/Oct. 1999, guest edited by S. Donati, K.Okamoto and T. Tambosso.

The story has not ended. To be truly international, WFOPC had to ultimately move away from Pavia. We thus decided to pass WFOPC to another LEOS Chapter. Careful hands will receive it, as the Scottish Chapter accepted to run the next edition of WFOPC. WFOPC'2002 is scheduled in Glasgow, Scotland 5-6 June 2002, with the chairmanship of John Marsh. And, as I am writing, the LEOS parent Society is considering to elevate WFOPC to an official LEOS international meeting. For the hard work of mine, Tiziana's, and the efforts of my staff, this is the most rewarding thing to happen.

Another scientific topic which is cultivated by the Optoelectronics Group in Pavia is interferometry. In 1998 we started a cooperation with the Group of Thierry Bosch at University of Nantes (France), to develop self-mixing interferometry under an EEC contract. Thierry Bosch was the Chair of the TC-16 (Laser & Electro-optical Systems) of the IEEE IM Society, and had just organized in Nantes the first edition of ODIMAP, the Conference on Distance Measurements and Applications, 1997, under the frame of EOS (European Optical Society). Our Chapter was asked and decided to take care of the next edition, ODIMAP II, which was held in Pavia, 20-22 May, 1999 (see briefing in *LEOS Newsletter*, Aug.1999, p.17). Another colleague of the Steering Committee was to take over him ODIMAP III, but then abandoned it. So, the Italian Chapter had to rescue and repeat the Conference in Pavia, in the spirit of serving a small but active and cohesive scientific community.

ODIMAP III was held in Pavia 20-22 Sept. 2001, and attracted a hundred delegates from all over the world (20% from Italy, 45% from the EEC, and 10% from North America, Japan, Africa and Asia each). The program of the 2 and 1/2-day conference featured 60 papers (+15%) plus 8 invited papers. The proceedings collecting the papers is a 440-page volume (10%) available from the Italian Chapter (<http://leos.unipv.it/odimap>). Invited papers were on the MOLA- Mars Orbiter Laser Altimeter (D. Smith, NASA and MIT), Testing of Historical Monuments by Interferometry (G.Macchi, CTP), Self-Mixing Techniques of Interferometry (G.Giuliani and N.Sarvegent,

Universities of Pavia and Nantes), Documentation and Discovery of Monuments (F. Bernardini, H. Rushmeier, IBM J.Watson Res. Center), The Matera Laser Ranging Observatory (G.Bianco, ASI), Coherence in Measurements (G.Hausler, University of Erlangen), Integrated Optics AOTF for FBG Sensors (M.Varasi, Alenia), and Microwaves vs Optical Methods of Dimensional Measurements (T. Bosch, ENSEEIHT, Toulouse). Sessions were run in the 14th century Aula Magna of the University, a unique ambient with marble columns, stuccos, frescos and oil portraits of Volta and other Italian scholars. The social dinner was held at the Castle of S. Gaudenzio, a 15th century piece of architecture recently restored and brought to a museum-class ambient.

Next edition of the Conference, ODIMAP IV, is tentatively scheduled for June 2003 in Madrid.

For the organization of ODIMAP II and III, the Chapter has taken advantage of the professional help of AEI, Associazione Elettronica Italiana, tied to IEEE by an agreement of cooperation first signed in 1969. AEI helped in the logistic matters on a sponsorship base (that is, sharing risk and surplus), whereas other Societies (OSA, EOS, SIOF) were non-sharing Sponsors offering publicization and scientific support. In reciprocation, the LEOS Chapter has provided support for workshops and conferences of the other bodies, notably the National 3-day Conferences Elettroottica and Fotonica which are run every other year by the AEI Optoelectronic Society (of which Silvano Donati was the Chairman formerly).

A special thank has to be expressed to the Rector of University of Pavia, prof. Roberto Schmid, for awarding the conference and exhibition rooms for free, as well as providing a monetary help and the full insurance coverage to the events organized by the Chapter.

The Chapter maintains its own website (<http://leos.unipv.it>) from which further information may be obtained, especially on the annual 500 \$ Prize to the 'Best Doctoral Thesis in Optoelectronics', on how to buy Proceedings of the Chapter Conferences, and on new initiatives of the Chapter.

Also, in a room made available at the Department of Electronics, the Chapter has established a LEOS corner, serving also the IEEE Student Branch formed last year, and where students can read LEOS publications and watch a collection of videotapes and CDs on optoelectronics.

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website:
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