

IEEE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS' NEWS

powered by IEEE Meetings Conferences & Events

January 2020

"The Web as I envisaged it, we have not seen yet. The future is much bigger than the past."
~ Tim Berners-Lee, Inventor of WWW

Inside the January Issue:

- **2020 Trends for a New Decade of Convening**
- **Announcing IEEE Member Validator**
- **IEEE ChileCon - Turning a Crisis into an Innovation Opportunity**
- **Conference Education Updates**

2020 Trends for a New Decade of Convening

Happy 2020!

After reviewing leading event industry blogs, newsletters and websites for trends for 2020 and the future, below are a handful that may be interesting to IEEE conference organizers.



Demand and Price Increases

- Demand for meeting and event will continue to outpace supply.
- CWT Meetings & Travel predicts 5-10% growth in demand. At the same time, the development pipeline is slowing.
- This could lead to increasing hotel group rates. AMEX Meetings & Events Forecast predict growth of 2.41% in North America, while CWT expects increases of 3.7%.

'Bleisure' Travel Continues to Influence Choices

- 71% of respondents to a recent Experience Institute survey indicated that the destination is a consideration in the decision to attend a meeting; with 20+% saying, it is the deciding factor.
- Organizers must balance affordable, successful destinations with attendee interest in combining vacation experiences.

Attendees Desire More Face-to-Face Time

- Organizers will have to create ample opportunities for networking and spaces for scheduled face-to-face meetings, outside of the formal agenda.
- Private meeting and gathering spaces enable and foster informal discussion, engagement and interaction. 'Hall-way' sessions are as important as general ones.

Event Sustainability

- Still top of mind with attendees, public and organizers. Organizers will have to seek all opportunities to reduce carbon impact.
- Many event venues are committing to the Meetings Industry Association's **#20PercentLess** single-use plastic campaigns for instance.
- Expect to see other efforts with future strategic implications.

Food & Beverage

- Food related sustainability becomes a norm. Local or homegrown organic ingredients are expected.
- Emphasis on limited packaging.
- Interest in decreasing event food waste.
- 'Flexitarians' shape new expectations. Increased use of meat substitutes, along with making the choice of the "right" carbs and proteins will challenge organizers.

Contact MCE to learn more.

[Contact MCE](#)

Share this Newsletter with Others!

Why not forward this newsletter to any colleagues who would benefit from the monthly conference information and updates?

Anyone with an interest in IEEE organizing conferences - **New conference committee members or organization unit leaders, etc**

Encourage them to subscribe today!

[Subscribe to IEEE Conference Newsletter](#)

Announcing IEEE Membership Validator



IEEE conferences and meetings can now easily validate IEEE member status and membership by utilizing IEEE **Membership Validator**.

This new online utility, developed by the MGA IT Coordination and Oversight (ITCO)* committee, meets a long-standing conference need.

Membership validator allows volunteers and staff to check IEEE member status, grade, and society memberships easily and securely and offer discounts available exclusively to IEEE members.

A member number or a primary email address is needed to verify status. Access to Membership Validator is automatic for IEEE volunteers with recorded roles and all IEEE staff; sign-in with IEEE account is required.

A membership validation API is available when integration with a custom registration system is required. Contact mga-im@ieee.org for more information.

[IEEE Membership Validator](#)

* The MGA Information Technology Coordination and Oversight (ITCO) Committee is responsible for collecting IT requirements for MGA and coordinating/advocating their design, development, deployment, training, and usage. ITCO reports to the MGA Board.

[Contact MCE](#)

2019 IEEE ChileCon – Turning a Crisis into an Opportunity for Innovation

With political unrest threatening IEEE ChileCon (October 2019), co-chairs Gastón Lefranc, Claudio Cubillos Figueroa, and Cristian Duran-Faundez decided to reschedule and convert the conference into a hybrid model to ensure attendee safety.



Conducting a virtual conference in November 2019 left the organizers only one week to formulate and execute a new approach. To help accomplish this task, the chairs turned to IEEE for guidance and support. A cross-functional team comprised of staff from MGA, IT, and MCE was formed to collaborate with the committee.

MCE lent event management, emergency response and virtual event production expertise. The conference organizing committee communicated revised plans with the 230+ attendees and authors, covering seven time zones.

It was critical that authors meet their oral presentation requirements in the new virtual format. Authors had the option of live streaming their presentations or pre-recording their sessions.

The IEEE team devised a three-pronged event technology strategy to accommodate various content types:

1. Cisco WebEx® Events for hosting live presentations
2. Smartsheet® software for the virtual event agenda and research paper access
3. Workplace by Facebook for sharing pre-recorded content.

The team's hard work and dedication paid off! Over the 11 days of IEEE ChileCon 2019, more than 190 attendees viewed the live event, including 33 author presentations and 10 invited keynote talks. In parallel, over 160 conference attendees viewed more than 200 pre-recorded paper presentations in Workplace. Attendees had on-demand access to all conference materials posted to the group through the end of 2019.

After the whirlwind of planning and executing the virtual component, Co-chair Gastón Lefranc commented, "The team's ability to transform a seemingly insurmountable challenge into a 'successful and professional' event was a real accomplishment." In addition to the time crunch, obstacles included conference accessibility in some geographic areas and the limitations of some technological tools.

Planning is currently underway for a March 2020 in-person event, but the virtual offering serves as an important example of how IEEE Conferences can innovate in the face of unexpected disruptions.

Contact MCE to learn more.

[Contact MCE](#)

Conference Education Updates



January Webinar- The Peer Review Process

Date: Thursday 30 January 2020

Sound peer review is fundamental to producing a high quality technical program. Join the upcoming MCE Conference Education webinar to learn more about managing the peer review process for an IEEE conference.

Fred Schindler, *IEEE Conferences Committee-Past Chair* will lead the discussion and cover the following topics -

- Why peer review?
- What is Review?
- Finding Reviewers
- Estimating timelines
- Acceptance Rates
- Author Feedback
- And, more!

Date: Thursday 30 January 2020

Time: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM [Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-05:00)]

[Register - 11:00 AM](#)

[Register - 3:00 PM](#)

Quick Bits



Did you know? Being invited to review after authoring a paper was the most cited reason for becoming a peer reviewer (41%).

Source: [Publons State of Peer Review 2018](#).
Registration required to download the report.

Resources for Conference Organizers and Volunteers



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