

IEEE SMC Chapters Get Together @SMC 2024

On October 7, 2024, the IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics (SMC) Society hosted its first **Chapters Get Together** event during the annual SMC 2024 conference in Kuching, Malaysia. This event gathered Chapter Chairs and members interested in joining or opening a new SMC Chapter.

Prof. **Mariagrazia Dotoli**, the **IEEE SMC Vice President for Membership and Student Activities**, kicked off the event. She welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the **Membership and Student Activities Committee's** efforts to support the growth of the SMC Society through the creation and expansion of Chapters and Student Branch (SB) Chapters worldwide.



Figure 1: Prof. Mariagrazia Dotoli (left) welcoming the attendee and final group photo (right).

One of the core topics discussed was opening new Chapters and SB Chapters. Attendees were informed about the essential steps, and practical advice for navigating the establishment phase was shared. This segment was particularly insightful for participants exploring the idea of forming new chapters at their universities or in their countries.

Furthermore, several financial support programs were presented, including the newly established **Chapter and SB Chapter Initiative Grants** and the **Chapter and SB Chapter Start-up Grants** (designed to support new chapters' creation and early-stage development. The latest **call for EDI proposals** was also presented, inviting chapters to submit initiatives focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion. This call is still open until the end of 2024, while all the above initiatives will also be available in 2025—so stay tuned for further opportunities!



Figure 2: Attendees at the event.

The event concluded with an engaging discussion on membership, mentoring, and future initiatives within the Society. Attendees exchanged ideas on expanding chapter activities, attracting new

members, and increasing the Society's presence in diverse regions. Special thanks should be given to Prof. **Chao Shen**, Chair of the **Xi'an Chapter**, and Prof. **Li-Wei (Leo) Ko**, Chair of the **Taipei Chapter**, for sharing their best practices and contributing to the lively discussion.

The event provided an excellent platform for fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among chapter leaders. Given the positive feedback, this event will hopefully become a fixed feature at future SMC conferences—so stay tuned for more opportunities to connect and collaborate!



Figure 2: Prof. Chao Shen, Chair of the Xi'an Chapter (left), and Prof. Li-Wei (Leo) Ko, Chair of the Taipei Chapter (right), sharing their best practices and contributing to the lively discussion.

- More info about the committee is available here: <https://www.ieeesmc.org/about-smcs/governance/society-committees/#membership>
- More info about the Chapter and SB Chapter Start-up Grants is available here: <https://www.ieeesmc.org/chapters-communities/support-for-chapters/>
- More info about the call for EDI Proposals is available here: <https://www.ieeesmc.org/chapters-communities/equity-diversity-and-inclusion-subcommittee/>