

**RIO DE JANEIRO CHAPTER**  
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**Presentation**

***"Forming a ComSoc Chapter in Rio de Janeiro"***

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The suggestion of forming the Rio de Janeiro Chapter first came from Dr. Marcello de Campos, the Latin America Regional Director, who was persuasive enough to motivate us in starting this crusade.

The first step was the Chapters Manual reading. The manual was very clear and, well, picking up some signatures in a petition and submitting it to the Section Executive Committee should not be that hard. However, the section *Starting New Chapters* couldn't highlight the challenges we faced later. The real challenge was indeed to convince people that Chapter's activities were something cool.

After this initial homework, the approval from the IEEE came quite fast, in May 2001. We then entered the mailing list of Carole Swaim and Kathy Worthman – and we felt, for the first time, we were part of the team! The next step was the first election and the only candidates, us, were elected. Prof. Mauro Assis, from the Brazilian Military Institute of Engineering – IME (our institution), joined us as the Chapter Secretary-Treasurer.

Despite the natural beauties of Rio that could somehow impair fast e-mails replies, this time, it worked well and the electronic election took no more than two weeks and we were finally elected the Executive Committee of the Rio de Janeiro Chapter. At that time we were so eager to start working that we answered the Chapter questionnaire applying for financial support on this very same day.

The first social event, a lunch where all members were invited – several times! – was a complete success. This success, thanks God, was not measured in terms of number of participants but came as some very kind words pronounced by our president, Roberto de Marca, who remarked the significance of the formation of a Communications Society Chapter in Rio de Janeiro, wished for approximately ten years.

Then came the first technical meeting, a lecture entitled "*The Future of The Future*" as part of the DLT program. For this particular lecture we were very proud for the big audience of more than fifty people. Of course, the merit must all be dedicated to Dr. Roberto Saracco for his brilliant lecture. We suggest the readers to visit the Telecom Italia Lab (former CSELT) homepage at [www.tilab.com](http://www.tilab.com) and look at the "*disappearance of telecommunications*".

Let's talk about another interesting result. Thanks to the Chapter's activities, we established some closed contacts with the Getúlio Vargas Foundation – FGV (the MBA guys). Getting acquainted with this class of professionals, generally more involved in business administration than in engineering, we figured out that they were actually becoming very interested in the communication matters (a hot topic!). These folks formed part of Dr. Saracco's audience. Moreover, after the first DLT, we received e-mails from about 35 people interest in ComSoc activities. We felt like doing a good homework embracing one of the most notorious duties of a chapter: bringing new members for our Society.

We are now arranging the second DLT and also constructing the Chapter's homepage. In short, we should say that the formation of the chapter was worth mentioning as a challenge and that we have till now gathered the experience to enhance the activities of the Rio de Janeiro Chapter. Our primary goals for a near future are the improvement of the social activities, the increase of members effectively participating in our activities, the organization of Brazilian lectures, and our commitment to jointly work with our Brazilian Sister Society, the Sociedade Brasileira das Telecomunicações – SBrT, in organizing its main technical event, the Brazilian Symposium in Telecommunications in Rio de Janeiro, 2003.