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Membership Section

IPS Member Spotlight on Tiziana Tambosso

Chair of the IEEE Photonics Italy Chapter from 2002 to 2012



When Tiziana was elected the Chapter Chair of the IEEE Photonics Society (IPS) Italy Chapter, she took over the chapter from the founder and first chair, Silvano Donati. The chapter, founded in 1997, was still young and in need of consolidation, both scientifically and structurally. One of Tiziana's first goals was to develop and encourage participation from the chapter's members and Executive Committee.

She set out to enhance her chapter's best practices of developing an environment in which IEEE Photonics Society members can network and enhance their professional skills, benefits vital to a successful career in the photonics industry. In her tenure, she developed Cultural/Professional Programs, robust student member activities, collaborations with other chapter chairs within IPS to improve and enlarge her chapter's technical events, and cultivated relationships with national industries and other IEEE societies. Through implementing these efforts, her chapter has won several awards and recognitions, such as Chapter of the Year of IEEE Region 8 in 2002, IPS Chapter of the Year 2008, IPS Most Improved Chapter 2010 and IPS Most Innovative Chapter 2013.

In Tiziana's words, "The IEEE is like a family, and if you feel to be part of it, give all you can generously. You will find that the good returns to you and, even more important, you feel yourself enriched in your mind and your spirit."

Tiziana has been dedicated to the advancement of the laser, optoelectronics and photonics community as well as the success of the IEEE Photonics Society for years. Her fresh perspectives and innovative ideas as Italy's IPS Chapter Chair have truly enriched IPS and the society is very grateful for her service. A member like Tiziana keeps the IEEE Photonics Society motivated and fosters the positive social change our membership needs in order to continually excel.

In this article, you will learn more about Tiziana as a colleague and gain helpful advice that she hopes other chapters and members can benefit from.

Advice on Workshops & Conferences

"It [a conference] is a painstaking and rewarding piece of work." Almost everybody thinks it's much better to spend time in his/her own research, but this is not completely true. By organizing a workshop one can promote the advancement of knowledge and science, bring together international experts and specialists. Listening to peers presenting their research and discussing with them often triggers new breakthrough ideas."

Tiziana was co-founder of an international workshop, WFOPC (Workshop on Fiber Optic Passive Components), held at the University of Pavia. At the time, the event was still in infancy and needed strong support to become an established event of IPS. Tiziana was enthusiastically proactive to foster this unique opportunity, and worked to make WFOPC have an international focus by advising and cooperating with the IPS Scotland Chapter.



T. Tambosso (right) with Leda Lunardi (left) and Marina Meliga (center) at the IPS Annual Meeting.

Another big success of Tiziana's, after her relentless efforts to launch the WFOPC workshop, was to establish a brand new and



T. Tambosso lecturing on Photovoltaics at University of Wollongong - Sidney.

very cutting edge Bio-Photonics Workshop. The workshop was such a success and continued with a second edition with the IPS Taiwan Chapter, which was held in Taipei, July 2013.

Tiziana informs chapters that, "If you have been lucky to start an event, let it grow up! Don't monopolize it in your location, let the other chapters share with you in the great opportunity and attract new participants. Continue to seed the discussions and allow the scientific cross-fertilization of ideas. This is the target every Workshop organizer should aim at, if you really love your field of research and wish to see it grow and attract consensus".

Her best practices for managing major

events are:

- Choose cutting edge topics, but don't duplicate existing events
- Budget attentively, target 20% surplus
- Choose attractive venues, but not the most expensive
- Encourage participation of students, don't be afraid to seek help

Another piece of advice from Tiziana from the perspective of a workshop starter/organizer:

"If your subject is new and cutting edge, think of proposing a Special Issue of an IEEE Photonics Society journal after the Workshop. This shouldn't be merely the collection of reprints of the Conference Proceedings, rather, it is an opportunity offered to presenters that have discussed with peers of their research in the Conferences, to digest it a little bit more their findings, and come out with a more mature, extended and, frequently, a much more authoritative paper."

Tiziana's Experience With Chapters

Another concern for Tiziana when she started overseeing the IPS Italy Chapter was the support from her Section, at the time virtually inactive. Through her efforts she helped championed the proposal of the Italy section, merging the the North and Central-South Sections. This happened in 2005 and the Italy Section became, with its 4500 Members, the 3rd largest section in Region 8.



Tambosso awarding the Best PhD Dissertation Award of the IPS Italy Chapter to M. Benedetti.

During this time Tiziana managed the IPS Italy Chapter as a totally self-sufficient body and gained extensive experience of IEEE's working rules. Due to her knowledge and leadership abilities, she was later appointed Chapter Coordinator of the Italy Section, advising and instructing the Chairs of 32 Chapters and 2 Affinity Groups in Section 8. Tiziana assisted chapters on how to manage funds and organize workshops and lectures. She helped newly elected chairs with program support and strategic planning. She was then appointed Section Program Coordinator, transferring her experience of conferences on the local lever to the Section level.

To improve the structure of a chapter, Tiziana states from her experience that, "It's

advisable to have an Executive Committee made up of one third each of academia, research and industry to discuss strategic planning." A productive Executive Committee is made up of 12-18 members who are committed to really bringing ideas to the table and are receptive to proactive society discussions. The Executive Committee's she instated are very active in recommending and administering workshops and member activities. For example, the series on Photovoltaics recently held in Padova, Milano and Palermo. The committee came up with ideas to improve attendance rates by offering free-participation workshops on the photovoltaics and established an award for the Best PhD Dissertation in Photonics to IPS students and GOLD Members.

Tiziana also stressed the importance of the

IPS Distinguished Lecturer Program, utilizing the lecturers often for the Italy Chapter's workshops, conferences and chapter meetings. "Invite Distinguished Lecturers to your chapter events. They usually can come for free and travel to chapters with their DL allowance. Also, invite national company CEOs to illustrate their industry activities, which usually follows with invitations to visit the factory or premises of the company," Tiziana encourages. She is determined to enhance the experiences of her members through all avenues, making the IPS Italy Chapter's events original.

Though Tiziana's term is over with the IPS Italy Chapter as Chapter Chair, she is always happy to help other chair of the IEEE Photonics Society.

Chairs and members can contact Tiziana at:

Email: tiziana.tambosso@ieee.org

Personal website: <http://www.ttambosso.it/>

Professional webpage: <http://www.studiotambosso.it/index.htm>

For more information in the IPS Italy Chapter, please visit <http://www.ieee-photonics.it/>

CV

Tiziana Tambosso (M'94, SM'02) received the Laurea degree with honors in Electronic Engineering and the PhD in Optoelectronics from University of Pavia, Italy, in 1983 and 1988. Presently, she is Visiting Professor at Da Yeh University, Dacun, Taiwan, lecturing on *Green Photonics and Laser Instrumentation*. In 2012 she was a lecturer of Master course on *Photovoltaics* at University of Palermo. From 2006 to present, she is a consultant in communications and optoelectronics field, and co-founder of Tambosso and Associates.

She was the head of fiber optic devices group, called SIRTI, R&D Division (1989–93), and project leader at the SIRTI Company (1993 to 2005) for fiber optic components and amplifiers, photomixing, wireless sensor and RFID. Her main research interests are now on laser instrumentation and green photonics. She holds dozens of patents and has authored or co-authored 50+ papers on journals and conference proceedings. From 1993 to 1997 Dr. Tambosso acted as Secretary and Vice-Chair of SC86B on Fiber Optic Interconnection Devices and Passive Components. She has co-chaired or TPC chair-ed, three editions of WFOPC, the Workshop on Fibers and Optical Passive Components of IEEE-LEOS, Pavia (1998 and 2000) and Taipei (2007).

She has served as Guest Editor of the IEEE Selected Topics in Quantum Electronics of Sept. 1999 on Fiber Optic Passive Components. Dr. Tambosso was Chairperson of IEEE IPS Italy Chapter from 2002 to 2012. Presently she is Chapter Activity Coordinator and Section Program Chair of IEEE Italy Section.



A meeting of the Executive Committee of the IPS Italy Chapter: back row: S Riva-Sanseverino, S. Selleri (2013 Chair)

S. Donati (IPS Italy Chapter Founder), A Galtarossa, A. Vannucci, G. Chiaretti; front row: S. Pietralunga (Secretary) and T. Tambosso (2002–2012 Chair).