

Minutes of CEDA Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting November 1st, 2009

Present: David Atienza, Forrest Brewer (CANDE), John Darringer, Rajesh Gupta, Andreas Kuehlmann, Enrico Macii (TCAD), Sani Nassif (ICCAD), Michal Odyniec (MTT), Donatella Sciuto, Barbara Wehner.

Call-in(s): Bryan Ackland (SSCS), Juan-Antonio Carballo (DATC), Tim Cheng (D&T), Al Dunlop, Bill Joyner, Shishpal Rawat, Yervant Zorian (CS)

Absent: Ramesh Chandra (DAC), Nanni De Micheli (Div. I Director), Steve Hillenius (EDS), Alan Mantooth (CAS), Jan Rabaey (SSCS), Dick Smith (C&B Comm), Marinos Vouvakis (APS).

The Meeting started at 1:05pm PDT.

Approval of previous meeting minutes – The minutes of the BoG meeting on July 26th are approved unanimously.

President's Comments – John explained the agenda and congratulated the new set of CEDA officers for the period 2010-2011. He went through the list of activities done by CEDA in 2009 and described the objectives and activities of the Design Technology Committee, formed in September 2009. Then, John presented the different concerns of CEDA after 2009, which mainly refer to the future of EDA conferences, the conference approval process that is creating a lot of pressure on the organizers and CEDA. Finally, he mentioned the idea of having CEDA as IT support provider for conferences management and paper submission.

Nominations – Al summarized the process to make the new BoG being ready to start operating with the new set of CEDA officers by January 2010. John acknowledged the effort of Al all these years on behalf of CEDA to make sure the organization structure works well.

Finance – Donatella presented an overview of the financial situation for 2009, where CEDA has 10 financially sponsored conferences, and mentioned that these conferences are the main challenge to make a correct estimation due to the lack of information sent from them to the BoG. She proposed the idea of enlarging the investment in DATE shares, since CEDA has only today 2.68%. In particular, although CEDA cannot really afford it today, a strategic decision can be considered in this direction in the near future. Next, she presented the 2010 budget, where the IEEE administration budget has recently increased around \$25K (\$134.5K instead of \$104.4K), but we could still be positive because we can use the contingency budget. Then, she explained the reasons for this large increase in IEEE administrative budget increase, which is mainly due to the direct infrastructure increase for CEDA in 2008 due to the global transfer of T-CAD overhead (instead of a pro-rata transfer). In addition, IEEE has not given us information about possible additional investment returns in 2010, they will only provide such information by end of November or December. Currently, she expects to have a positive finance report for CEDA in 2010. Then, she described the 2009 and 2010 committees' expenses (mainly related to technical activities and awards). Brian Ackland asked for more details about the DATE shares distribution currently and Donatella explained it. Andreas indicated that this administrative support increase, added to CEDA's costs, is a big challenge for CEDA's finance next year. The final conclusions in this topic are that we need to improve the connection with IEEE for better forecast, and obtain more information on revenue from CEDA related conferences. John congratulated Donatella because CEDA is still increasing its reserve, even in this very difficult period. Finally, Donatella called for a motion to get the budget approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Conferences – Bill showed the members of the Conferences Committee, and presented Sani Nassif as newly elected VP of conferences. He listed the CEDA sponsored conferences in 2009, as well as showing the chart with percentage sponsorship for EDA related conferences; he also indicated that this committee is working to renew the sponsorships with all these conferences for 2010. Next, he gave an update of the CEDA relationships with the main sponsored conferences, i.e., DAC, ASP-DAC and DATE. He indicated

that \$40K is finally the outcome from DAC; then, he mentioned that ASP-DAC has CASS as main IEEE sponsor, which is unwilling to share its participation with CEDA, so CEDA is negotiating technical cooperation again this year; next, he went over the discussion of increasing the participation of CEDA at DATE, and he would like to discuss this point with CS. This point will be discussed with Yervant Zorian and Tom Williams in the near future.

Then, Bill discussed the results of the meeting about future of conferences, which Andreas organized at DAC on July 29th. Interesting conclusions came up and he proposed to keep this meeting in the following years. Andreas mentioned that the activities and funding that CEDA provides to DAC are not acknowledged, including the scholarships, and it was proposed to have a fading process where each individual sponsor takes direct role and presence in their sponsored activities at DAC.

Publications – Rajesh summarized the activities done in the publications committee. He indicated that two issues of IEEE Embedded Systems Letters (ESL) have been already published and that the EiC search for ESL will be done in 2010. Then, Rajesh showed the publications committee budget, where he insisted on the effort to be done with Enrico and, moreover, the next EiC to reduce the TCAD editorial office part. Next, he summarized the ESL status, where 83 papers have been already submitted. The current acceptance rate is 13.5% and the final decision (from the moment of submission) is taken in only 32 days. The page budget has been reduced by one third for 2010, but the financial impact analysis is still pending. The next challenge of ESL is building a readership base. Finally, regarding technical issues, the biggest problem in publications is cross-checking for the novelty and replication of already published content by IEEE, which has to be done manually with the IEEE database for the time being.

Then, Rajesh summarized the TCAD publication status, where one key success is that the current turnaround time due to Enrico went down to 71 days and the impact factor went up to 1.4666. Next, he discussed the decision of the EiC search, where Sachin Sapatnekar has been appointed as EiC TCAD for the next two years.

Enrico Macii discussed the submission figures of TCAD and indicated the effort to reduce the number of major resubmissions in such a way that faster and high-quality is preserved. The current acceptance rate is 39.9% (from the previous 60% in 2005). He indicated that the number of out-of-scope submissions is increasing and CEDA has to be careful about this. Then, he mentioned that the current backlog is just 51 papers, so just 4 months of delay for publication of new papers. Finally, he explained the budget estimations for 2010. Next, it was indicated as action item for 2010 to revise with the new EiC the way to handle the ethical issues of authors that resubmit rejected papers from major conferences or even from the same TCAD journal without any major change of content. Also, Enrico discussed the issues with the unpaid invoices of TCAD papers, as the papers that go beyond 9 pages can voluntarily pay for the extra pages, and it is clear that the EiC cannot chase the authors, as IEEE requests nowadays. Andreas indicated that this issue should be clarified with IEEE as soon as possible. Finally, John congratulated Enrico for the outstanding work he has done with TCAD as EiC.

Tim Cheng summarized the situation of D&T and mentioned that the journal financial budget is very stable, and CS is currently accepting this new status after years of discussions about profit margins. The current acceptance rate of D&T is 28% and the impact factor is 1.785. Tim will complete his 2nd term as EiC at the end of 2009. Krishnendu Chakrabarty has been appointed as new EiC of D&T, which will be effective in January 2010. Finally, it was discussed the ownership of D&T by CEDA, and Rajesh mentioned that this part will be negotiated with TTTC in the near future, when the financial situation of CEDA allows it.

Finally, Rajesh summarized that this committee is now expanding our reach to the embedded Systems community by using volunteer bandwidth and the overall budget request is \$20K. Finally, one important point is that there is an overall shift in trends on submission to journals by moving away from North America to Asia. Enrico mentioned that we should clarify the publication channel, and the role of conferences and journals.

Website – David summarized the list of services available now in the CEDA website, including the design of the website, the new CEDA mailing list and graphical subscription interface, the wiki, the blog and the internal storage area for documents and events sponsored by CEDA. It was discussed the idea of how to make this part more visible to the EDA community and Rajesh indicated that we need to put the related

conferences to advertise the CEDA website and supported services. Finally, Andreas suggested using the Google App support for adding support for CEDA in the next year. Finally, John congratulated David for all the work he has done in the IT support part of CEDA, and brought up the point of urgently discussing how to take over and move on this work when David leaves the secretary position to take over the VP of finance role in January 2010, which implies that he will not have time for IT aspects.

Technical Activities – Shishpal described the update on 2009 activities and the upcoming CEDA events in 2010. He described the CEDA lunch reception at DAC 2009 given by Jeannette M. Wing, the DAC Young Faculty workshop with SigDA (with around 40 attendees), the CEDA lunch reception at ICCAD, and the CEDA Webcast of ICCAD Keynote on Monday. He mentioned the active push of this committee to publicize CEDA events, activities and awards. Finally, he indicated that there was a minimal chapter activity in 2009, where two chapters were initiated (in Benelux and Tunisia) but no active interaction has occurred since then. It was also discussed the concept of local chapters and it was proposed the idea of having one in Asia and get the sponsorship of the BoG to be advertising there this type of activities and how to create them.

Finally, Shishpal discussed the plan for 2010, where this committee will continue to build on 2009 themes. One idea to work on is making attractive the idea of distinguished lectures on the CEDA website. Another point is enhancing the level of support for conferences and workshop, as well as expanding the usage of DUDE, and announcing awards/best papers in newsletter and press releases. A very important point is to start the discussions with conferences and events to revisit EasyChair and determine the next steps about needed services in this tool. Sani suggested the idea of combining the distinguished lecture support at the same time as enhancing the work with chapters.

Awards – Andreas summarized the list of members of the committee and summarized the existing CEDA awards. Andreas indicated that the 2009 Kaufman Award is giving a lot of visibility to CEDA and that the members of the BoG are more than welcome to come to the Kaufman Award Dinner on Wednesday during ICCAD. John is discussing and working on elevating the Kaufman Award as an IEEE Field Award. Next, Andreas mentioned that the amount that CEDA will spend sponsoring the McCalla Award in 2009 is \$6K, but he will work with SIGDA to bring it down to \$3K. Then, Andreas summarized the effort on the Early Career and the Distinguished Service awards, where he and Sani will finalize the description of the procedure. Finally, Andreas summarized the funding budget of the CEDA awards. Tim mentioned that it would be good to increase the number of IEEE Fellow nominations from CEDA, especially since even nomination related to CAD have gone through other societies instead of CEDA. Andreas suggested that CEDA sends out an e-mail to its mailing list and information in the newsletter that describes how to nominate fellows a couple of months before the deadline. Also, it was proposed to put a link on the CEDA website to the list of IEEE Fellows. Finally, it was suggested the idea of creating the position of Fellow Nomination coordinator to identify CEDA-related IEEE Fellows, as it is not clear who they are.

Reports

DAC – Bill and Al reported on the DAC status, and the points related to the PDF being mentioned in the last DAC ExCom meeting. It was specifically mentioned the part of fading this PDF part in the budget of DAC and then each sponsoring body of DAC could take a more visible recognition by acting directly, independently from DAC organization.

ICCAD – Sani reported on the ICCAD status. He indicated that ICCAD has tried to reduce their operation costs, and that currently there is a \$12K surplus, mainly coming from the workshops, which has to be discussed with CEDA. He indicated that the conference had to cut a lot of expenses to make its budget even this year, but the forecast is showing that there are a lot of questions about future location (maybe in Austin) and possible further reductions in budget cuts. John mentioned that maybe the best idea would be to group all the workshops with ICCAD, as part of the conference, similar to the ESWeek structure.

CANDE – Forrest summarized the conclusions of the 2009 CANDE workshop, where there were 50 attendees. It included talks about green computing, bio-EDA related techniques, 5-year technology prediction, and companies' founding and development issues. CANDE showed this year a slight nominal profit. It was mentioned that CEDA will lend the money for the CANDE event in 2010.

CS – Yervant Zorian commented on the issues with DATE regarding the access to IEEE PDF eXpress. Donatella will follow-up on this topic to try to give pointers to Yervant to explain the current issues. Finally, Yervant indicated that DATE is still strategically important for CS.

MTT – Michal Odyniec indicated that the MTT conference is getting a good set of attendees in the society, and that the workshops are very important for its revenues (almost representing 50% of the total of the conference). He indicated the interest of this society to create workshops in cooperation with CEDA. Thus, Sani proposed to identify one motivated person in this society and then propose a joint workshop at ICCAD. Also, John proposed to create a session between MTT and DATC.

DATC – Juan-Antonio informed about the election of a new president and that their new committee is already working on the next DATC workshop. It was discussed the idea of having joint workshops with other societies, as discussed with MTT.

SSCS – Bryan discussed that the ISSCC conference was seriously affected by the recession and the number of attendees went down dramatically, up to the point of having around \$90K net loss this year. To promote the conference attendance, it has been discussed the idea of removing the presentations from Xplore, and only being given into the DVD of the attendees to the ISSCC conference. Then, he mentioned that the society magazine has become very important for all professionals in this community. Finally, there is an increasing importance being discussed internally to link this society to the biomedical field.

Open discussion – Andreas mentioned the need to have a thorough discussion about publications and how CEDA gets revenues in a global perspective. Rajesh mentioned that it would be useful to discuss in the near future the links between CEDA and TTTC. John mentioned that we should start the discussion by analyzing which type of joint cooperation is possible. Then, John mentioned that it would be useful for CEDA to having a 5-page strategy document. Next, it was discussed the idea of having the awardees of CEDA in the list of distinguished lecture speakers and trying to increase the visibility of this technical activities and awards work. Shishpal will follow-up on this idea. Finally, John discussed the possibility of having a shorter meeting or a phone call for the ICCAD meeting instead of physically meeting. It was mentioned the problem of having only phone interaction, and that the 4-hour meeting seems too long. However, Rajesh and Forrest mentioned the benefit of having a visual interaction in the BoG meetings to make sure the attention is kept. Finally, Andreas gave the “hammer plaque” to John to recognize his great work for CEDA in these last two years as President. John thanked all the work of all the officers of CEDA in these two years of his mandate.

The Meeting finished at 16:57 PDT, and it was adjourned by unanimous agreement.