

# HISTORY SECTION

## Significant Events of 1997

Chen-Ching Liu, *Chair*

PES History Committee

### 1. The First Power Engineering Society General Meeting Outside North America

The first PES general meeting outside North America was held in Berlin, Germany, during July 20-24, 1997. The Summer Meeting was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Energietechnische Gesellschaft (ETG) of the Verband Deutscher Elektrotechniker (VDE). The three sessions of the first day of the meeting were focused on the technical issues faced both by PES and ETG. Translation into English and German was provided. This successful, historical event was attended by a total of 1,426 participants from all over the world.

### 2. Major Reorganization of the PES

Major reorganization of the Society was proposed by the Organizational Task Force of the PES Governing Board. The restructuring is expected to improve the Board's operational efficiency and to better serve the PES membership. Based on the restructuring plan, the PES Governing Board approved the revised Bylaws at the 1997 Summer Meeting, pending approval of the amendment to the Constitution by the PES membership.

### 3. Mill Creek Reaches Historic Milestones

A new Electrical Engineering Milestone was dedicated during 1997. The power engineering milestone, Mill Creek No. 1 Hydroelectric Plant, was built by Redlands Electric Light and Power Company; it is located near the city of Redlands in San Bernardino County, CA. The Mill Creek plant began operating on September 7, 1893. It was foremost in the use of three-phase alternating current for commercial application. It was also influential in the adoption of three-phase power throughout the U.S. The PES History Committee and Governing Board worked with the IEEE Center for the History of EE and American Society of Civil Engineers to recognize the historic project.

### 4. PES Special Activities on Edison Sesquicentennial

Thomas Alva Edison, born on February 11, 1847, has been one of the most important inventors and entrepreneurs in history. To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Edison's birth, PES Public Affairs Council organized a special plenary session titled, "Edison Sesquicentennial: The Celebration of the Advent of Electrotechnology Entrepreneurship," at the 1997 Winter Meeting. For the occasion, the PES History Committee produced a booklet titled, "Thomas Alva Edison and Electric Power Engineering," with the IEEE Center for the History of EE.

### 5. Abstracts on the PES Web Site

Starting 1997, abstracts of the approved technical papers are made available on the IEEE PES Web site. This new information service helps PES members and others stay current with the technology; it also helps to allow time for preparation of the written discussions for the technical papers.

### 6. PES Transactions in a CD-ROM

A CD-ROM was produced for publications of the 1996 IEEE PES Transactions on Power Delivery, Power Systems, and Energy Conversion. This CD-ROM also includes the 1997 PES Organizational Manual and Committee Directory. This novel form of electronic publication greatly improves the way technical information is disseminated by the PES.

### 7. Mini Courses at Winter and Summer Meetings

The PES Technical Council announced that it sponsors mini-courses at the PES Winter and Summer Meetings, beginning in 1998. The mini-courses will cover topics of current industry interest and will be taught by experts in the subject field. Mini-courses are intended to supplement tutorials that are offered at Winter and Summer Meetings. By being shorter in duration, these mini-courses are expected to attract more meeting attendees.

### 8. Publication of Power Engineering Letters in the Review

A new feature of the Power Engineering Review called "Power Engineering Letters" is initiated. The Letters are intended to cover short contributions in areas of interest to members of the IEEE PES. Letters afford the authors the opportunity to publish contributions within 4 months of submission to ensure rapid dissemination of new ideas.

### 9. Pacific Rim Meetings of the Executive Committee

The PES Executive Committee continues its globalization effort. Following the meeting in Spain and Germany in 1995, the Executive Committee met with the Tokyo Chapter and held a meeting in Singapore in October 1997. Singapore is hosting the PES Winter Meeting in the Year 2000.