

History Section

Significant Events of 1998

In 1998, PES continued great strides in its efforts toward globalization through the implementation of a new organizational structure designed to better serve the needs of a diverse membership as well as several

other global initiatives. It also made significant progress towards the implementation of improved dissemination of information and services. What follows is a summary of some of the highlights of the year.

Reorganization and 1998 Goals

At the 1998 Winter Meeting, B. Don Russell, PES president, delivered an opening address presenting the Society's new organizational structure and 1998 goals. The new structure reduces the total number of Governing Board members by eliminating some positions deemed no longer necessary, and realigns and re-titles many of the remaining positions. It also adds specific representation for each Region or geographic area. The new configuration is better able to serve the membership in light of industry change and international membership growth. The reorganization addresses several needs:

- Better representation for worldwide membership
- More streamlined and efficient structure
- Attention to a changing industry
- New information dissemination technologies

The Society developed a number of ambitious goals in 1998, some scheduled for current implementation, and others planned as future accomplishments:

- Create a strategic plan to support and promote the educational infrastructure in electric power engineering
- Re-engineer PES general meetings to better serve member needs. Commencing with the 1999 Winter Meeting, technical sessions will be planned by Technical Committee Program Chairs, a new volunteer position for each Technical Committee. The TCPCs will review abstracts of Proceedings papers, a new category of technical paper submitted in response to a Committee's publicized preferential topics. Additionally, each meeting will distribute a published *Proceedings* which will comprise abstracts of Transac-

tions papers presented at the meeting, summaries of panel and educational sessions, and feature the full text of the meeting's Proceedings papers.

- Create and implement a strategy for promoting and organizing international meetings
- Evaluate ways that PES can better interact with supporting industry
- Evaluate and increase the involvement of PES in the public policy arena
- Increase the use of electronic means of information dissemination, including electronic publishing.
- Re-organize PES's Technical Information area with the formation of individual editorial boards headed by an editor-in-chief for each *Transactions*.

A New Advisory Council

At the April meeting of the PES Executive Committee, the decision was made to establish an Advisory Council. This council, to be made up of high-level representatives from all constituencies of all segments of the power and energy community, was to advise the PES Governing Board on how better to reach out to all aspects of power engineering. The membership of the council was established and it met for the first time at the Summer Power Meeting in San Diego in July. A primary result of this meeting was the development of topic lists for "theme tracks" for the technical programs of upcoming general meetings. The Council will also advise the Governing Board as to the strategic positioning of PES to meet the challenge of the future.

Globalization

Cigré (the International Conference on High Voltage Electric Systems) by invitation of PES, has employed the Winter and Summer meetings as a venue for committee sessions for the past several years. In August, for the first time, PES was invited to host an exhibit at Cigré's biennial meeting in Paris as part of the two societies' efforts to work together to further their overlapping interests.

Continuing its initiative to reach out to its growing international membership, the Power Engineering Society's Executive Committee held its Fall, 1998 meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica. This meeting was held in conjunction with the Region 9 PES Chapters Meeting. Coupling

these two meetings enabled the Executive Committee members to meet and interact with the seventeen Region 9 Chapter members in attendance. Discussions are underway toward the goal of holding a general meeting in Region 9 sometime after 2000.

Planning for the 2000 Winter Meeting in Singapore moved forward through a meeting of the PES Executive Director and PES President Elect with local representatives in Singapore. A prominent result was the establishment of the roles of all involved and the understanding that the local people will play a dominant role in the 2000 meeting.

Electronic Publication

The Power Engineering Society is moving forward with the development of a process to receive, route, review, track, produce and publish technical papers electronically. The transition phase of the conversion

to an electronic review process will begin in 1999 through a program developed by the IEEE Publications and Information Technology departments.