

Farewell Remarks, December 31, 2009

Elya B. Joffe, President, EMC Society

"And now, the end is near", so sang Frank Sinatra in his everlasting song *"My Way"*

As my term as President of the EMC Society winds down I wish to begin by welcoming our incoming President, Francesca.

"One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh; and the earth abideth for ever." So spoke Koheleth, also known as King Solomon the wisest man of all (Ecclesiastes Chapter 1).

Such is the nature of the leadership of our Society: Tomorrow, January 1, 2010, Francesca will take over as our President while I assume the role of Immediate Past President. But as quoted from Winston Churchill: *"This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."* The Society is well positioned to reach even greater heights in future under Francesca's leadership, building upon its past accomplishments.

Legacy... Accomplishments Then and Now

"Vision without action is a dream; Action without vision is simply passing the time; Action with vision is making a positive difference" (J. Barker)

As I look back at the past two years, several initiatives were put into action, through the relentless efforts and teamwork of officers and members of the BoD as well as many other dedicated volunteers. I therefore take this opportunity to name few of the significant (from my perspective) accomplishments of our Society over the past two years:

- i. **Strategic Plan:** After 50 years, the Mission, Vision and Strategic Goals of the EMCS are clearly spelt out and a roadmap for our future actions is being laid out.
- ii. **Chapters:** Chapter development continues "full steam", much thanks to the effort of Francesca as Chapter Coordinator. New chapters were recently founded in South Africa (Region 8, *1st EMC Chapter in Africa!*), Harbin (China, *4th Chapter in China!*), and Hyderabad, India (Region 10), while others are still in process e.g., Vancouver, BC, Canada (Region 7) and Shanghai, China (Region 10).
- iii. **GOLD Representative:** A GOLD Representative position was created on the BoD and the first was appointed. The GOLD Representative will assist in outreach to students and graduates within and beyond the EMC Community.
- iv. **Video Distinguished Lecturer Program:** The **Video DL program** expands the traditional DL program. This program is unique to the EMCS and was **recognized by IEEE/TAB**.
- v. **Respected Speakers Bureau (RSB):** The RSB program will further enhance the services provided to chapters by an array of high-quality speakers.
- vi. **Completed Career's Committee (CCC)** and has been instrumental in developing manners for honoring deceased members of the Society.

- vii. **EMCS Newsletter:** Continued publication of the best Society newsletter within the IEEE.

"There are costs and risks to a program of action but they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction" (John F. Kennedy)

Time will tell as to the impact these achievements will have on the future, but overall, I believe we have left a positive mark on the path of the EMC Society.

Global Outreach Activities

"I've lived a life that's full. I've traveled each and every highway..." ("My Way")

An accelerated global outreach initiative continued in the recent two years. A direct consequence of this was the increased global visibility of the EMCS and the formation of several new IEEE EMC Chapters.

"It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to" (Bilbo to Frodo in J. R. R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings").

Here are some of the visited locations since the beginning of 2008:

- **Regions 1-6 (USA):** Pittsburgh, PA, Philadelphia, PA, Phoenix, AZ, Huntsville, AL, Greenville, NC, Salt Lake City, UT, Detroit, MI, Long Beach, CA, Austin, TX
- **Region 7:** Quebec, Canada
- **Region 8:** Switzerland, Germany, Croatia, Israel, Poland, Lithuania, United Kingdom, Russia, Greece, South Africa
- **Region 9:** Colombia, Argentina
- **Region 10:** Korea, Australia, Singapore, Japan, India, China and Hong Kong

In total, I travelled more than **150,000 km** and spent **more than 150 days** *in each of the past two years* on IEEE and EMC-S related travel...

Much more to do...

*"Regrets, I've had a few;
But then again, too few to mention.
I did what I had to do
And saw it through without exemption.
"Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew
When I bit off more than I could chew.
But through it all, when there was doubt,
I ate it up and spit it out.
I faced it all and I stood tall;
And did it my way."*

("My Way", Paul Anka/Frank Sinatra)

At the start of my term I had many more plans than was able to accomplish, but, "*you can't bite off more than you can chew*"... Budgets and time resources are limited and so...-

...The Show Must Go On!

*"I have named the destroyers of nations: comfort, plenty, and security – out of which grow a bored and slothful cynicism, in which rebellion against the world as it is, and myself as I am, are **submerged in listless self-satisfaction**" – so said John Steinbeck.*

I wish to apply John Steinbeck's clever observations to the EMCS: The EMC Society was faced with, and successfully overcome, numerous challenges along the years, but the biggest danger of all still awaits us – that of **self-content**.

The spirit and viability of the EMC Society of the IEEE are embedded in the IEEE letters: *Inspire, Enable, Empower, Engage*. Let us strive to further build upon the foundations set by our predecessors knowing there is always, always much more we can do for the further growth of the EMC Society. "*Ask not what the Society can do for you, but what YOU can do for the Society...*"

Into the Sunset...

In closing, my term as President is even closer to its end and Francesca prepares to assume the duties as President. I am certain that she will be given by us all the same support and encouragement I have received over the years. I will certainly be there for her to help her just as Andy assisted me as I took over the reins a couple of years ago.

This would be the appropriate time to express my deep gratitude to Andy for his encouragement and support during my term as President and for his hard work and outstanding service to the Society in his recent 5 years as service as President Elect, President and Immediate Past President.

*"Generations are as the days of toilsome mankind.... **What the father has made, the son can make and enjoy but has also work of his own appointed him...; nothing is ever completed, but ever completing.**" (Thomas Carlyle)*

I look forward to the years to come. Even as my term as President comes to a close, my commitment to and active involvement in the EMC Society will carry on.

"Closing Time" (Joseph Heller)

Serving as President of the IEEE EMC Society for the past two years has indeed been a privilege, a unique experience and... a major challenge. I would like to respectfully express my gratitude for the honor bestowed upon me in granting me the opportunity to serve as President for the past two years. **I hope I have fulfilled the expectations placed in me.**

I hope that "on the fly" I did not offend any of you in any way. If I had, please accept my apologies.

*"To think I did all that;
And may I say - not in a shy way,
No, oh no not me,
I did it my way."*

*"For what is a man, what has he got?
If not himself, then he has naught.*

*To say the things he truly feels;
And not the words of one who kneels.
The record shows I took the blows -
And did it my way!"*

I thank the Lord who gave me the wisdom and strength to carry out my leadership duties; I thank all others who had shown me the way to accomplish my plans. **Most of all, I am deeply grateful to my Wife, Anat and my Daughter, Tami Lee, for their love, endurance, tolerance and support** during these very demanding years.

תודה	thank you	mahalo	merci
danke	gracias	graci	Ευχαριστω
köszönő	děkuji	спасибо	شكرا لك
धन्यवाद	ありがとうございます。	감사합니다	Dziękuję
谢谢	ممنون	Ačiū	aitäh

(my apologies if your language did not appear here)

Happy New 2010!