

## Hong Kong November 2017

**T**he Hong Kong Section's 23rd Anniversary event was a two-day symposium themed "Developments in Broadcast Media Over IP and Immersive Technologies," held at the Kowloon Bay International Trade & Exhibition Centre and Hong Kong Design Institute on 2–3 November. The seminar featured creative minds along with industry experts for a series of presentations and discourses with the aim to cover the development and applications of the latest technologies in motion imaging.

The symposium, organized by SMI at The Metroplex, Kowloon, opened with the "HBO Camera Assessment Screening 2017" on 2 November, to a full house of 400 invited professionals. During the screening, HBO conducted a Camera Assessment screening, covering six significant cameras in professional cinematography in 2017. They included ARRI Alexa 65, Panavision Millennium DXL, Red EPIC-W 8K S35, Canon C700 Raw, Panasonic Varicam PURE, and Black Magic URSA Mini. During the 60-min documentary, the machines were evaluated with fair, yet ultimate, testing environments focused on dynamic range, mixed color lighting, motion, wardrobe color and patterns, skin tone, and available light, providing insights into the imaging capabilities of each camera together with professional, extensive commentaries from directors of photography, producers, and HBO executives on each of their performances.

The second day of the symposium featured a series of presentations, discussions, and demonstrations covering two major themes titled "SDI Transition to IP Network" and



Attendees view camera assessment screening during the Hong Kong Section's two-day symposium in November 2017.

"AR/VR." This two-track approach attracted 200 broadcasting and technology practitioners.

In the session on "SDI Transitions to IP Network," various speakers from sophisticated technical backgrounds shared the latest progressions and applications with a specific focus on realtime audio and video transmission. The speakers included Henry Goodman, director of product development at Calrec Audio Ltd.; David Smith, technology manager at Rohde &

Schwarz; Michael Proulx, media technologist; Addison Chi, and Raymond Lai, solution architects from Arista Networks; Mark Moore, vice president of international sales from Dejero, and Denis Pare, vice president of sales from Embrionix Design Inc.

During the session, it was suggested that transmission over internet protocol (IP) is now being considered as a replacement for serial digital interface (SDI) in various contexts, e.g., broadcasting



SMPTE Hong Kong Section members and guests attending the Section's two-day symposium in November 2017.

facilities, for its flexibility and agility in production planning and execution with the reduction of wiring. Additionally, software-based media processing on virtual machines with utilization of high-volume media servers could be executed more organically, in terms of virtualization. It was concluded that utilization of the IP network could set the new benchmark in media transition, taking over conventional SDI transition in the near future.

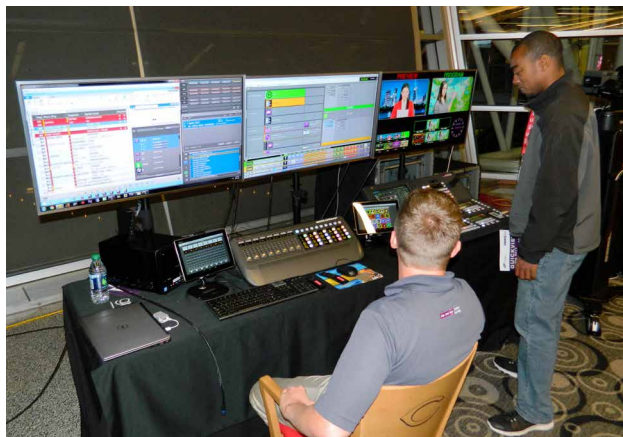
The “AR/VR” session included speakers Bernt Kåre Johannessen, vice president of production management from Vizrt; Nicolas Hatch, chief operating officer at Ncam Technologies; Fintan Mc Kiernan, chief executive officer of Ideal Systems Singapore; Percy Fung, production director, and Alex Cheng, IT Manager of Digital Magic; and Chen Dan, CEO of Kandao Technology. The speakers were invited to share their thoughts and showcase the cutting-edge insights in virtual reality (VR)

and augmented reality (AR). The discourse started with a discussion of the significance of applying AR technologies as strategies for audience engagement. Realtime applications in the AR and VR contexts were also demonstrated, suggesting the possibilities in future productions and live broadcasting implementations of blending reality with virtuality. Also, under the trend of popularization of VR technology, masterminds of the industry had demonstrated promising VR applications, such as 360 VR and panoramic stitching to 6 DoF reconstruction.

All in all, the two-day event was a success, pushing forward the standard and understanding of the frontline of media transmission and VFX applications, as well as facilitating the connections among the industry’s minds and creative talents. For more information about the symposium and SMPTE-Hong Kong, visit <https://www.smpete-hk.org/>.

## Ohio November 2017

**T**he Section meeting on 8 November was held by both the central Ohio area SBE Chapter 52 and the



The formal presentations were made in the “Champions Room” (shown above) at the Great American Ballpark, in Cincinnati. Grass Valley presenters during the evening included: Tim Walker, Chuck Garfield, Kevin Hart, and Wayne Schrand. John Pattnosh with Telemetrics, also contributed a presentation to the more than 25 members/guests in attendance.

Southwestern area Chapter 33. The meeting was held at the Great American Ballpark Champions Room, Cincinnati, in conjunction with the Grass Valley Group News, Sports, and Production road show. Wayne Schrand, senior account executive at Grass Valley Group, opened with introduction of the Grass Valley team and GVG partner, Telemetrics, Inc.

Tim Walker and Chuck Garfield covered the latest production switcher, routing, and playout solutions, for traditional production and, most importantly, for multiple social media, web, and internet outlets. Walker emphasized that today's production environment requires one to look at the entire media ecosystem and the need to provide content suited for different audiences and screens.

On the camera side, Kevin Hart provided the latest camera solutions related to triax, fiber, and especially IP environments. Hart gave a

current real-world example of how multiple full bandwidth 3Gbit/s bidirectional IP camera feeds are being transported over 40 Gbit/s fiber "pipes" from various venues throughout Europe to NEP Studios in Amsterdam for integration with graphics and replay. He indicated that the reason for this solution is to save production costs with very little latency or other technical penalties.

Lastly, John Pattnosh with Telemetrics Inc. provided an overview of on-set robotic camera solutions with particular attention to systems that track talent using the latest facial recognition technology with little operator intervention.

The meeting ended with a tour of the Great America Ball Park media control room, and related ballpark venues. Generous refreshments during the evening were provided by the Grass Valley Group.

—Ed Shrider  
Section Manager

## Washington, D.C. November 2017

**W**ashington, D.C., Section members stayed busy in November, with the Section organizing three separate events during the month, all within a few days of each other. The first was the Section's regular meeting, the second was a meeting, luncheon, and tour of the Library of Congress Packard Campus National Audiovisual Conservation Center (NAVCC), and the third



Dave Caulwell




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A holiday party held in conjunction with the Washington, D.C., Chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers rounded out Section activities for November.

was a holiday party held jointly with the Washington, D.C., Chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers.

The regular monthly meeting was held on 16 November, at the headquarters of the National Association

of Broadcasters in downtown Washington, and featured Riedel Communication's business development manager for the U.S. northeast, mid-Atlantic, and central Midwest regions, Dave Caulwell, who provided

information on audio networking. His presentation covered state-of-the-art networking technology, including optical and time-division multiplexing, dynamic allocation of bandwidth, workflows signal processing, and more.

The second Section activity of the month occurred on 18 November and featured a tour of the Library of Congress NAVCC located in Culpeper, VA. The five-hour event began at noon and included a luncheon and briefing by the facility's senior systems administrator, James Snyder, on the scope of the center's film, video, and audio recordings, as well as challenges faced in preserving such content for 150 years or longer. Although the facility is located about 70 miles from downtown Washington, attendance was very good, with some 50 persons participating. Attendees included members of the SMPTE Student Chapters from both Baltimore's

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Loyola University and George Mason University, which is located in Fairfax, VA.

Rounding out the Section's activities for the month was a holiday party on 29 November, held at the Gordon Biersch restaurant in downtown Washington. The party was a combined SMPTE Section and Society of Broadcast

Engineers D.C. Chapter event and attracted nearly 100 people. There was no formal program, just plenty of good food, drink, and fellowship. The party was timed to coincide with the first day of the annual Government Video Expo trade show, which was located at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, just a few blocks from

the restaurant. Members of the Washington, D.C., Section staffed an information booth at the show, providing information about SMPTE, and encouraging attendees to join our organization.

—James E. O'Neal  
Section Manager



Library of Congress National Audiovisual Conservation Center staffer Frank Wiley (left) explained operations within the facility's large film processing laboratory during an 18 November tour event sponsored by the Washington, D.C., Section.



(L-R) Section members Bill Weston and James Snyder joined Section Chair Tom Hackett, and Section Manager James O'Neal at the SMPTE booth during the 29–30 November Washington, D.C., Government Video Expo to provide information about SMPTE and encourage new memberships.

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