AUPEC 2016 was held at the University of Queensland during 25-28 September 2016. The conference was well attended by a mix of industry and academia with total of 150+ delegates. This conference was supported by power industry, CIGRE, IEEE and Australian Power Institute (API). IEEE PES was the technical co-sponsor of the conference. More than 100 research articles were presented in the conference and papers will be published in IEEE Xplore.

On the first day, Prof Tapan Saha welcomed the delegates from the AUPEC local organising committee. The conference was opened by Prof Stuart Crozier from UQ and Terry Effeney, Interim CEO, Energy Queensland from the local power industry. Prof Crozier welcomed the delegates on behalf of UQ. Mr. Effeney discussed the importance of changing power system dynamics and need for innovation. He presented 2027 outlook of power system of future where the grid is going to be more digital, self-monitoring and self-healing”. The key note speech was delivered by Prof. Miroslav Begovic from Texas A&M University, USA. He is the Past president of IEEE Power & Energy Society. He focused on role of renewables and effect of solar PV on distribution system. He also touched on the importance of Synchrophasor in managing system security in USA. The second day included a panel session on ‘Energy Storage and PV’ which was moderated by Prof. Peter Wolfs of Central Queensland University. The panellists were Mr. Peter Price (Energy Queensland), Mr. Paul Liddell (Redback Technologies) and Prof Simon Bartlett (UQ). The panel discussed the future of battery technologies, need for innovation and customer sentiments around use of batteries with PV. In the afternoon poster session and GHD-CIGRE NGN innovation poster competition was arranged, which attracted participants from industry and academia. Dr Geoff Garrett, Queensland Chief Scientist was the speaker in the prize award ceremony and highlighted the importance of innovation for power industry. Prizes were given by Mr. David Bones – CIGRE NGN Innovation Awards, Mr. Mike Griffin – API Travel Awards & Mr. Ed Wilson – Wilsons Transformer Company Awards. There was an Industry Forum: ‘Is the Future of the Power Industry in Our Hands?’ and Panel Moderator was Mr. Nic Pappapetros from Ergon Energy and Panel members were Mr. Gerard Reiter & Mr. Ed Wilson (API Board members), Mr. Matthew White, Mr. Brian Joseph & Ms. Dan Tang were API bursary holders, & Ms. Emma Rodgers (NGN member).
Prof Miroslav Begovic delivering his keynote address

The conference dinner was held at Shore restaurant, Southbank. During the dinner 20+ travel and registration awards were presented by Prof Tapan Saha, General Chair of AUPEC 2016. Dr Nilesh Modi, PES Queensland Chapter Chair presented PES Queensland outstanding engineer award to Prof. Simon Bartlett (UQ). Two technical site visits were organised on Wednesday afternoon at University of Queensland Gatton Solar Research Facility and Noja Power and Energex Battery Trial. API Bursary award function, API Board Meeting and ACPE Professors meeting along with API-ACPE Professor dinner was also held during the AUPEC conference.

Dr Nilesh Modi, with PES Queensland outstanding engineer award winner Prof. Simon Bartlett (UQ).