

South Africa Section

Shaun Kaplan

Getting Closer to Industry

- The Section has had a steady stream of continuous professional development (CPD) applications. We are in the process of re-evaluating the fees charged and the process of application to reduce workload, increase income for the Section and provide better service to the applicants and our members.
- The Section has close ties with SKA South Africa and is building ties with the Center for High Performance Computing (CHPC).
- The Section lists events and job offerings on the website as a service to our members.
- The Section is still working on job and consultant networks and related resources.
- The Section is in a close cooperation with the SAIEE, South African Institute for Electrical Engineers (whom has a high percentage of industrial sponsorship), which permits to run the events together and increase visibility and promotion of IEEE to the industry.
- The Section is planning on running Senior Membership workshops to promote more of the industry members to SMIEEE grading and hence pave the way to better membership retention and improved membership development.

Students and Young Professionals

- There are ongoing EPICS in IEEE projects hosted by the University of Johannesburg.
- The Section is working on revitalizing some student branches.
- The Central University of Technology has expressed interest in starting a student branch.
- The University of KwaZulu Natal is considering revamping their student branch.
- The SKA South Africa is to work with the Section and student branches.
- Distinguished Lecturer visits and STEP events work well in the section.
- There is a need to improve communication with the student branches. This is being worked on.
- Two Women's Month events hosted by the UCT SB.

Section Vitality

- Section newsletters are well received. The Section continues its interaction with the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE). The IEEE PES chapter has monthly joint meetings with the Power and Energy Section of the SAIEE. The section and, in particular, the Western Cape office of the SAIEE share event invites.
- There have been a number of applications for conferences in the Section which will provide the members with more opportunities to present and publish their research.
- We attempt to keep our members and interested parties informed through various channels, e.g. the Section website, twitter, newsletters.
- The Section covers a large geographical area and it is a challenge to have events spread widely to provide value to all our members.
- There is a newly created IEEE EMBS chapter.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The South African Rand has decreased in value significantly, by about 1.5 times, as compared to US\$. This has caused the cost of membership to increase and in some cases beyond the means of our members.
- A proposal is that member fees be set annually in the local currency, at least for student membership fees. This year there was a noticeable shortfall in the collected UCT SB fees due to the devaluation of the Rand and so the Section had to cover the difference.
- The Section has supported a number of initiatives, including Several conferences
- 5G and Cognitive Networking Workshop and Summer School 2016
- Summer school "Antennas for Radio Telescopes - 2016"
- The Section has recently hosted the IEEE President and CEO, Professor Barry Shoop, whom gave a number of talks in different parts of South Africa and interacted with various IEEE, academic and industry stakeholders
- The Section is a supporter of the IEEE Africa Area with the Section chair being on the Area sub-committee.
- The Section's constitution and registration is progressing.
- There is a proposal to work with The Healthiest Village (<http://www.healthiestvillage.org>).