

IEEE Region 8 Student Activities Committee Report

Bucharest, Romania, 13–14 October 2007

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This report covers the time span from 1 January 2007 until 15 September 2007.

1. General

1.1. Region 8 Student Activities Committee

- Martin J. Bastiaans, Chair, m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org
- Marko Delimar, Past Chair, m.delimar@ieee.org
- Michael Gloegl, Student Representative, m.gloegl@ieee.org until 5 September 2007
- Pablo Herrero, Student Representative, pablo.herrero@ieee.org from 5 September 2007
- Pablo Herrero, Student Branch Coordination, pablo.herrero@ieee.org until 12 September 2007
- Emine Aydal,¹ Student Branch Coordination, aydal@ieee.org from 12 September 2007
- Luka Lugarić, Electronic Communications, llugaric@ieee.org
- Thomas Watteyne, Awards and Contests, thomas.watteyne@ieee.org

R8 SAC web site <http://www.ieee-r8sac.org/>

1.2. Goals and objectives

- Create more student membership benefits at all IEEE levels
- Develop student activities (including contests, awards and promotion programs)
- Foster Student Members' awareness of IEEE activities and existing benefits
- Support students' initiatives and inform other IEEE organizational units about them
- Represent student interests and voice student concerns
- Help with the formation of new Student Branches, Chapters, and Affinity Groups
- Help with communication between existing Branches, Chapters, and Affinity Groups
- Increase student membership and develop retention strategies
- Bring more fun to IEEE!

1.3. Student Branch statistics 31 July 2007 (31 December 2006)

- 268 (258) Student Branches
- 17 066 (18 652) Student Members [in March 2007 reduced to 13 000+ after the action of the 'terminator']
- 10 976 (10 772) Student Members in Student Branches (i.e. 65% of the total number of Student Members) [in March 2007 reduced to 8 100+ after the action of the 'terminator']
- Number of Student Members in a Student Branch ranges from 0 [8 Branches] to 466 (472).
- 108 (99) Student Branches [with a total of 956 (806) Student Members] have less than 20 members
- Average number of Student Members in a Student Branch: 41.3 (41.8)
- 176 (172) Student Branches [with a total of 2 896 (2 924) Student Members] are below average
- 90 (86) Student Branches [with a total of 8 080 (7 848) Student Members] are above average
- Median number of Student Members in a Student Branch: 73 (72)
- 44 (41) Student Branches [with a total of 5 534 (5 383) Student Members] are above median
- 26 (25) Student Branches [with a total of 3 996 (4 019) Student Members] have more than 100 members

In 19 Sections, the percentage of Student Members in Student Branches is less than average (65%); in 10 Sections, this percentage is even less than 50%. This includes some large Sections (with 10 686, 6 796, and 3 332 members) having a large number of Student Members (2 545, 1 374, and 689, respectively).

1.4. New Student Branches, Branch Chapters, and Branch Affinity Groups

New Student Branches in 2007

- Austria, Upper Austria University of Applied Science, Wels
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Džemal Bijedić University of Mostar
- Egypt, Modern Sciences and Arts University, 6th of October City, Cairo
- France, Institut National des Télécommunications, Evry
- Morocco, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fes
- Morocco, University Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech

¹To be approved.

- Nigeria, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt
- Poland, Opole University of Technology
- Qatar, Qatar University, Doha
- Ukraine, Institute of Radiophysics and Electronics, Kharkov

New Student Branch Chapters in 2007

- Croatia, University of Zagreb – Communications Society
- Croatia, University of Zagreb – Computer Society
- Germany, University of Passau – Computer Society
- Ukraine, Institute for Radiophysics & Electronics of Nasu – Microwave Theory and Techniques Society

New Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Groups in 2007

- Benelux, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Netherlands
- Jordan, University of Jordan, Amman
- Spain, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia
- Turkey, Bilkent University, Ankara

2. Awards and Recognition on Region Level and Above

2.1. General awards for active IEEE Student Members

IEEE Student Enterprise Award

The IEEE Student Enterprise Award, with funding from corporate partners and individuals, was created by the IEEE to support Student Branch projects. Beginning 2006, a generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, is providing \$ 9 000 annually to fund the award for the next five years. Up to \$ 1 500 in funding is available for project proposals developed by teams of IEEE Student Members from Student Branches established at over 1 400 universities and colleges around the world.

- 25 January 2007: Student Branch University of Jordan, Amman, received an amount of \$ 1500 for the proposal entitled “Method and System for Imaging Display and Interface.”

► Deadline for the 2007 award: 15 November 2007

IEEE RAB Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize annually, in each Region of the IEEE, the student most responsible for an extraordinary accomplishment associated with IEEE student activities. The value of a pattern of dedicated, ongoing service to a branch is certainly recognized. This award is designed to reward a particular event or product of IEEE activities.

- 8 nominations [Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Oman, Serbia and Montenegro, United Arab Emirates (2), United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland] have been received for the 2007 award.
- The winner will be announced at the R8 Committee meeting in Bucharest.

► Deadline for the 2008 award: 31 March 2008

2.2. Student Branch awards

IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award

- 3 nominations [Denmark, Turkey, United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland] have been received for the 2007 award. All three nominated Student Branches qualified for the award:
 - Aalborg University, Denmark
 - Middle East Technical University, Turkey
 - University of York, United Kingdom

- Aalborg University, Denmark, has been nominated for the 2007 IEEE Outstanding Student Branch Award.

► Deadline for the 2008 award: 31 January 2008

Outstanding Branch Counselor and Advisor Recognition Program

- No nominations have been received for the 2007 program.
- ▶ Deadline for the 2008 program: 28 February 2008

IEEE Darrel Chong Student Activity Award

The purpose of this new recognition system serves to change the mind set of our student groups from being number-driven to become value-driven and acknowledge exemplary student activities around the world. The eventual goal is to improve the quality of the activities and foster knowledge sharing among students. Ultimately, the initiative is targeted at improving student membership growth. This will encourage and motivate students to continue to innovate and implement meaningful ideas.

- Student Branch Twente, Enschede, Netherlands: Silver Award for organizing the Region 8 Student Robotics Contest, 27 May 2006, Enschede; presented on 10 April 2007, see Sect. 4.3.
- Student Branch Boğaziçi University, Istanbul / Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey: Silver Award for organizing the 3rd Science Parks Summit, 3–4 November 2006, Istanbul; presented on 1 September 2007, see Sect. 4.6.
- ▶ Submissions are welcome throughout the entire year; decisions are made once a year during the October SAC meeting. Activities submitted after 30 September will be judged the following year.

RAB Student Branch Membership Growth Award

- The 2006 recipient of Region 8 is the University of Southampton, United Kingdom.
- Each year a Student Branch in each Region is recognized as having achieved the highest rate of growth. The greatest level of growth is based on a composite rating, considering the highest percentage of increase in membership and highest increase in new elections relative to other Student Branches within each Region.

Branch Centers of Excellence Program

Student Branches can submit proposals to establish Branch Centers of Excellence. Funding from the IEEE Life Member's Committee (up to \$ 20 000 annually) is available for grants up to \$ 5 000.

- ▶ Deadlines 1 April and 1 December

Information on these and other awards and recognition programmes for Students and Student Branches is available on the R8 SAC web site as well as on the IEEE student concourse.

3. Contests on Region Level and Above

3.1. IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest

The 2007 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest received 16 papers from 14 Student Branches in 11 countries: Belgium (2 papers from 1 Branch), Denmark (2 Branches), Egypt, Germany, Greece (2 papers from 1 Branch), Israel, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa (3 Branches), Turkey. The oral finals took place in Warsaw, Poland, on 11 September 2007, as part of IEEE Region 8 EUROCON 2007, the International Conference on "Computer as a Tool" (9–12 September 2007).

The three winners were

1. Wilm Decré (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) Application of a generic constraint-based programming approach to an industrially relevant robot task with geometric uncertainties
2. Aleš Zamuda (University of Maribor, Slovenia) Modelling, simulation, and visualization of forest ecosystems
3. Jan Verwekken (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) Design of inverse controller with cross-coupling suppression for UPFC series converter

The other two papers selected for the oral finals were

- Emre Ayranci (Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark) Enhancement of VCO linearity and phase noise by implementing frequency locked loop
- Michael Rapson (University of Cape Town, South Africa) Pareto analysis of controller design methodologies for integrator plus dead time processes

The five jury members for the 2007 SPC were Kamel Hassan, Cairo, Egypt; Carlos López-Barrio, Madrid, Spain; Kurt Richter, Graz, Austria; Ryszard Romaniuk, Warsaw, Poland; and Martin Bastiaans, Eindhoven, Netherlands (Chair).

- ▶ Deadline for the 2008 Contest: 15 December 2007

3.2. IEEEXtreme 24 hour Programming Challenge

The Challenge took place on 2 December 2006, with 47 teams; 28 teams from Region 8.

- The winner was Team 1 from the Universidad Polit cnica de Catalunya, Spain, with 829 points.
- Five more teams from Region 8 made it to the top 10:
 3. University of Cyprus (Team 1, 674 points)
 4. Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Netherlands (Team 1, 664 points)
 5. University of Zagreb, Croatia (Team 2, 617 points)
 8. University of Zagreb, Croatia (Team 1, 596 points)
 10. University of Cyprus (Team 3, 573 points)

► The 2007 Challenge will probably take place on 1 December 2007.

3.3. IEEE Student Branch Web Site Contest

23 submissions [Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Nigeria (2), Russia (Siberia) (2), United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Spain (5), Turkey (7), United Arab Emirates] have been received for the 2007 contest. The three Region 8 winners

1. University of Southampton, United Kingdom, with 86,2 points
2. Universidad Polit cnica de Valencia, Spain, with 82,0 points
3. Etisalat University College, United Arab Emirates, with 80,4 points

were sent to the global contest. The submissions that also made it to the top 10 are

4. Universidad Alfonso X el Sabio de Madrid, Spain, with 76,8 points
5. University of Zagreb, Croatia, with 73,4 points
6. Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Nigeria, with 72,2 points
7. Istanbul Technical University, Turkey, with 71,0 points
8. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, with 70,6 points
9. Aalborg University, Denmark, with 69,6 points
10. Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain, with 69,2 points

The jury consisted of Michael Gloegl, Region 8 Student Representative; Mohd Kharbat, 2nd place of the 2006 edition; Khanh Luu, IEEE Entity Web Hosting administrator; Thomas Watteyne, R8 SAC Electronic Communications Coordinator; Alex Williams, Google; and Amine Yazidi, Region 8 Student Branch Congress 2006 organizer.

► Deadline for the 2008 contest: 15 March 2008

3.4. IEEE Region 8 Student Promotional Multimedia Contest

A call for papers is to be sent to all Region 8 students and Student Branches. Participating branches will need to create promotional multimedia for advertising IEEE to students, outlining basic benefits. There will be no defined technology, and participants will be allowed to use any software for desktop publishing such as Corel or Photoshop to produce images, any kind of video editing software to produce short movies, possibilities on producing Flash animations, PowerPoint presentations, leaflets and flyers. The content of the promotional item must be constructed such that it will be applicable to most or all Student Branches in Region 8, and not just locally. All received promotional items will be displayed on the R8 SAC web site. The winning branch will be awarded \$ 500, second best \$ 300, and third best \$ 200. The action will be coordinated by members of R8 SAC. Results will be made a part of an electronic promotional package, which will be put on the R8 SAC web site for all branches to use.

► Scheduled for 2007; deadline to be determined

3.5. IEEE Region 8 Ethics Competition

The IEEE Ethics and Member Conduct Committee (EMCC) wants to raise the ethics awareness of IEEE members while they are still in school. To this end, the committee is launching the IEEE Student Ethics Competition, which is designed to provide student members with experience in applying ethical concepts to situations that might arise in the workplace. The competition also wants to increase the visibility of the IEEE Code of Ethics, according to EMCC member Gerald Peterson, chair of the ad hoc committee that developed the competition program.

► Scheduled for the next Region 8 Student Branch Congress in 2008

Information on these and other contests is available on the R8 SAC web site as well as on the IEEE student concourse.

4. Student Branch Congresses on Section Level

4.1. Serbia and Montenegro, Novi Sad University, Serbia, 9–11 February 2007

This was a joint IEEE/EESTEC event with IEEE and EESTEC tracks and some joint events. Attendance: 7 Student Branches, from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Banja Luka, Sarajevo), Bulgaria (Sofia), Croatia (Zagreb), Macedonia (Skoplje), and Serbia (Beograd, Novi Sad).

4.2. Portugal, Universidade de Coimbra, 2–5 April 2007

Attendance: expected number of participants about 300. Not only Student Branches from Portugal Section are invited to the '1^o Encontro Nacional de Estudantes de Engenharia Electrotécnica (I^oENE³),' but also from Spain Section.

4.3. Benelux, Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands, 10 April 2007

First IEEE Benelux Student Branch Congress. This one-day Student Branch gathering was built around the visit to the Benelux Section by president-elect candidate Marc Apter.

Attendance: 5 Student Branches, from Belgium (Leuven, Liège) and the Netherlands (Delft, Eindhoven, Twente), with a total of 35 people. During the Congress, the first Silver Darrel Chong Student Activity Award was presented to Twente by Darrel Chong and Marc Apter, see Sect. 2.2.

4.4. Serbia and Montenegro, Čanj, Montenegro, 16–17 May 2007

IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Student Branch Section Congress, organized by Student Branch Novi Sad in conjunction with the 47th International Electrical Engineering Student Gathering "Elektrijada 2007." Attendance: 39 IEEE and EESTEC representatives and members from Beograd, Niš, and Novi Sad (Serbia), Podgorica (Montenegro), Sarajevo, Banja Luka, and Tuzla (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Rijeka (Croatia), and Skoplje and Bitola (Republic of Macedonia).

4.5. United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, University of York, United Kingdom, 1–3 June 2007

First IEEE UKRI Student Congress, organized by the University of York Student Branch. Attendance: 110 attendees from 43 universities. This number excludes company representatives, guest lecturers, IEEE R8 and UKRI guests. The event received the IEEE Foundation Award.

4.6. Turkey, Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, 30 August – 3 September 2007

Attendance: nearly 50 Student Branches from Turkey with IEEE student and GOLD members. ISBIR Workshops and Company Representatives were also present at this Congress. During the Congress, on 31 August 2007, the Silver Darrel Chong Student Activity Award was presented to Boğaziçi University and Middle East Technical University by Başak Yüksel, see Sect. 2.2.

5. Recent and Upcoming Major Events

5.1. IEEE Student Branches Industry Relations (ISBIR) program

The IEEE Student Branches Industry Relations (ISBIR) Program has recently been approved with high priority as 2007 IEEE New Initiative by the IEEE Board of Directors. Being the first and only initiative proposed by IEEE student volunteers, ISBIR will combine all industry related activities of student branches in one program and establish a platform where IEEE volunteers can share their best practices and experience about industry relations. Student branches can benefit from the ISBIR Program by implementing their local industry related activities and making permanent collaborations with companies. For more information see <http://www.isbir.org/>.

5.2. Careers in Europe Forum

- Berlin, Germany, 3–4 May 2007
- Brussels, Belgium, 13–14 December 2007 – applications open from 1 June 2007
- Berlin, Germany, 6–7 May 2008 – applications open from 1 January 2008

Twice a year (Berlin in May and Brussels in December), Careers in Europe holds a unique, invitation-only event at which top international employers meet and interview the very best graduates and early-career professionals for a wide variety of positions throughout Europe. This is a unique opportunity to meet the people that can build our GOLD Members' international careers – at no charge for them. For more information see <http://www.careersineurope.com/>.

- In the beginning of March 2007, 19 868 personalized email messages were sent to all Region 8 Student Members.
- In the beginning of October 2007, personalized email messages will be sent to all Region 8 Student Members, not only to alert them to the Careers in Europe Forum (deadline 31 October), but also to the elections (by Graduate Student Members) for President and Director elect (deadline 1 November) and to hint them to the Member-Get-A-Member program.

5.3. IEEE Workshop Zvùle, Czech Republic

5th International meeting of PhD students from Czech and Slovak Republic, Camp Zvùle, Kunžak, Czech Republic, 27–29 August 2007.

Attendance: 49 participants. A SAC-suggested membership campaign resulted in 17 new IEEE members!

5.4. Knowledge Fest 2007 – Mobile and Wireless Communications in Nigeria

Lagos State University, Epe, Nigeria, 31 August – 1 September 2007.

Attendance: about 200 participants. Some outcomes of the event were (i) technical and practical knowledge of telecommunications technologies and roles of various organizations in Nigeria imparted; (ii) opportunities for industrial attachments for year four students; (iii) 10 new members joined the IEEE; and (iv) 23 new (female) members joined Women in Engineering.

► The 2008 edition of this conference will be hosted by the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Student Branch.

5.5. Kenya IEEE Students' Exhibition

Sarit Center Exhibition Hall, Nairobi, 14–15 September 2007.

The event is organized by the IEEE Kenya Section. It aims at bringing innovative students in touch with the Industry. There are 144 groups of at most 2 students. Most of them are from Kenya, some from other countries such as Sudan. The main room consists of 134 stands, each of which presents a demo of the innovation. There are three areas: software engineering, electrical engineering, and electronic engineering. As an important outcome of this very successful event, an IEEE Student Activities Task Force has been established, consisting of four active students, with objectives like (i) creating a Kenya website, (ii) communicating about how to become member and creating a Student Branch, and (iii) publicizing their activities through the R8 channels: r8web, r8sacweb, r8news.

5.6. Region 8 Student Branch Congress 2008

The call for proposal was published in mid-April. SAC has chosen Queen Mary, University of London, as the venue¹ for Student Branch Congress 2008.

5.7. Numerous activities organized by our Student Branches

For more information, log onto our web site and follow the Region 8 News. See also Sect. 7.6.

6. Meetings and Visits

- Marko attended the Student Branch Congress in Novi Sad, Serbia, 9–11 February 2007 (Sect. 4.1).
- Marko and Martin attended the OpCom Meeting in Nice, France, 24 February 2007.
- Marko, Martin, and Michael attended the RAB SAC Meeting in Boston, MA, 16–18 March 2007.

¹To be approved.

- Pablo attended the EESTEC International Annual Congress, Budapest, Hungary, 24 March – 1 April 2007.
- Martin attended the Student Branch gathering in Eindhoven, Netherlands, 10 April 2007 (Sect. 4.3).
- Luka, Marko, Martin, Michael, Pablo, and Thomas attended the Region 8 Committee Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria, 14–15 April 2007. R8 SAC had its meeting on 13 April.
- Thomas attended the Student Branch Congress in York, United Kingdom, 1–3 June 2007 (Sect. 4.5).
- Marko and Martin attended the OpCom Meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia, 20–21 July 2007.
- Marko and Martin attended the GOLD Summer Working Retreat in Zaragoza, Spain, 23–24 August 2007.
- Marko and Martin (and Luka as an author of two papers) attended EUROCON 2007, the International Conference on “Computer as a Tool,” in Warsaw, Poland, 9–12 September 2007.
- Thomas attended the Kenya IEEE Students’ Exhibition in Nairobi, Kenya, 14–15 September 2007 (Sect. 5.5).
- Emine, Luka, Marko, Martin, Pablo, and Thomas will attend the Region 8 Committee Meeting, Bucharest, Romania, 14–15 October 2007. R8 SAC will have its meeting on 13 October.
- Marko, Martin, and Pablo will attend the RAB SAC Meeting in Santiago, Chile, 24–25 October 2007, held in conjunction with Region 9 Student Branch Congress, 25–28 October 2007.

7. Ongoing Programs and Activities

7.1. Membership campaigns

Since September/October (which is also the start of the academic year) is the best time of the year to join the IEEE, R8 SAC and participating Student Branches continue to organize membership campaigns in these months. In December/January our focus changes to retention. In April/June, joining as a Student Member for the second half of the year is beneficial, which is something that Student Branches can use in their membership campaigns.

- In the beginning of March 2007, 5948 personalized email messages were sent to students who did not renew for 2007.
- In September 2007, Student Branches will be alerted to organize membership campaigns at the start of the academic year.
- In October 2007, personalized email messages will be sent to all Region 8 Student Members to hint them to the Member-Get-A-Member program.
- In the beginning of November 2007, personalized email messages will be sent to all Region 8 Student Members to alert them to renew their membership for 2008 and to remind them to the Member-Get-A-Member program again.

7.2. Launch a new Student Branch initiative

A pilot project in 2005, it appeared extremely successful and was continued in 2006. The project, which needs the cooperation with Section Student Representatives and Section Student Activities Chairs, will be continued in 2007. A branch (or group of branches) that helps a new branch to be established, will receive an amount of \$ 200: \$ 100 when the new Branch has been established, and the additional \$ 100 when the new Branch has completed its first year of operation.

7.3. Waking up dormant Student Branches project

This is a slow, but successful project of contacting last-known Branch officers and Counselors (or other IEEE Members) at the Branch location in an effort to reactivate inactive Branches. On Region 8 initiative, RAB SAC passed an action item to develop a knowledge tool for helping SAC and the Branches keep continuity of previous activities. A ‘wake up kit’ is being prepared to be sent to Section Chairs, Section Student Activities Chairs, Student Branch officers and Counselors (also to be included in Student CD RAB SAC initiative).

7.4. Student Branch support

R8 SAC supports its Student Branches with seed money for their major activities. This is a successful program with increasingly more requests than we can handle. Only those activities may qualify for financial support, in which more than one Student Branch is involved and/or from which more than one Student

Branch will benefit. R8 SAC expects the Section to support the activity with at least the same amount of money.

7.5. Section's welcome to graduating Student Members

Section Chairs are invited to welcome recent graduates into the Section as voting members and possible new volunteers. We strongly believe that such a personal contact at the Section level is very important for retention. Not very successful up to now, we keep insisting on it in our Region Meetings.

7.6. Region 8 Student News

Almost half of the Region 8 News (our regional newspaper, distributed to all Members) is based on SAC articles, Student Branch articles, awards, contests, major events, . . . in every issue. Recent student articles include:

- Aalborg University, Denmark: Student paper conference sees 55 entries (26-01-2007)
- Ajman University of Science & Technology, UAE: Embracing special needs with WIE
- Ajman University of Science & Technology, UAE: SB attend WETEX 07 (13/15-03-2007)
- Al Balqa' Applied University – Faculty of Engineering Technology, Amman, Jordan: More innovative ideas spring from BAU–FET
- Al Balqa' Applied University – Faculty of Engineering Technology, Amman, Jordan: BAU–FET mixes pioneering with superiority
- Al Balqa' Applied University WIE: WIE SB AG celebrates achievements
- Alexandria Student Branch, Egypt: Project fair exhibits new electronics
- American University of Beirut, Lebanon: Student societies host annual Iftar
- American University of Beirut, Lebanon: AUB at Comms workshop (24-03-2007)
- American University of Sharjah, UAE: AUS visits substation (01-03-2007)
- Benelux Student Branch Congress: Twente wins Chong award at congress (10-04-2007)
- Bogazici University, Turkey: Robots play soccer and sumo (12/13-05-2007)
- CETTI (Center of Technological Electronics and Interconnection Techniques), Romania: Report on events at the end of last year
- Jordan University of Science and Technology: IEEE/WIE help at SOS village
- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium: Finding jobs in small tech (06-12-2006)
- Lebanon Section: Bustling with activity
- LEOS Benelux Student Branch Chapter: ASTRON visit reaches to stars (19-10-2006)
- LEOS Benelux Student Branch Chapter: Belgian sorting technology visit is the BEST (16-02-2007)
- Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria: IEEE Nigerian Section gathers at OAU (25-11-2006)
- Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria: OAU visits top telecoms in Lagos
- Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg, Germany: Two days spent in Munich labs (26/27-10-2006)
- Shoubra Faculty of Engineering, Egypt: New SB hosts ESBM06 (06/07-12-2006)
- Student Branch Graz, Austria: From Curie to Tesla – Graz reloaded
- Student Branch Karlsruhe, Germany: One for the road (12/13-12-2006)
- Student Branch Karlsruhe, Germany: Imaging the Earth from outer space (22-01-2007)
- Student Branch Zagreb, Croatia: IEEE Week success (05-09/03-2007)
- Suleyman Demirel University, Turkey: SDU sets up branch
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria: Conference pursues career objectives (22-11-2006)
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria: A look at the comms industry (18-01-2007)
- University of Jordan: SB establishes regular lectures
- University of Seville, Spain: Use your Imaginatica! (05/09-03-2007)
- University of Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina: Tuzla SB is established
- University of York, UK: Meet, greet and eat – do not wait! (21-11-2006)
- University of York, UK: Students make a day of it at Praxis (07-02-2007)
- Time management: a vital tool for every student
- York organizes first student congress
- 'Young ÖVE' joins IEEE

News of a more urgent nature is published at the R8 SAC web site and in the monthly R8 SAC News Letter.

7.7. Communications

- *R8 SAC web site* <http://www.ieee-r8sac.org/>. R8 SAC maintains a web site (which includes a discussion forum) with news about student activities and a knowledge database about student issues.
- *E-notice and email lists*. Region 8 students receive SAC announcements and notifications via E-notice and email lists.
R8 SAC is presently conducting a small project with the ultimate aim of compiling a true and current list of active student branches and their leaders. This will include contacting people from lists currently available on-line, like Chairs, Student Activities Officers, and Student Representatives of the different Sections in the Region.
- Operation of the *Virtual Community* was discontinued in mid-April 2007.
- The first monthly *R8 SAC News Letter* will be published soon.

7.8. Student professional activities

- *SPAC/SPAV support*. Student Professional Awareness Conference/Venture support funds are available.
- *Region 8 Workshops*. Workshops on Leadership skills and Project management are successfully organized throughout the Region, and are attended by many IEEE Student Members.

7.9. Students at IEEE technical conferences

- *Region 8 Voluntary Contribution Fund*. Not just intended for students, the fund helps also needy students to attend technical conferences (limit \$ 1000 per person in a lifetime).
- *R8 SAC Voucher Program*. Student Members attending an IEEE technical conference in any year, may receive a voucher to be used for their IEEE membership dues in the subsequent year. The number of requests increases from year to year. We may have to end this program because of decreasing budgets.
- *Organization of IEEE student events at technical conferences*. Students organizing such events may receive a travel grant to the conference.

7.10. Help needy volunteers project

R8 SAC runs a project for subsidizing 50% of the IEEE student membership dues for needy volunteers. This program is very successful and has a low financial impact. We are currently developing new ideas for subsidizing IEEE student dues for needy Members at the global IEEE level.

7.11. Counselor support program

This program has been pending for some years now and may be restructured in 2007.

7.12. Region 8 Student Branch Events and Activities Information Warehouse

R8 SAC is in the process of creating a web-based, information-sharing platform for Student Branch projects. This 'information warehouse' would consist of documents created during the course of planning, executing, and closing of events and activities in Student Branches throughout Region 8. The proposed solution is planned to include data as, for example, project charters, project plans, promotional material templates, funding requests, budget plans, advertising material, . . . – any and all documentation produced within projects established during all phases of past events and activities.

8. Partner Organizations

We are exploring the possibility to enhance cooperation with our partner organisations like

- *EESTEC*. The Electrical Engineering Students' European Association is an organization of and for electrical engineering students from universities, institutes or schools of technology in Europe that award an engineering degree. The primary aim is to promote and develop international contacts and exchange ideas, as well as improve the technical knowledge of electrical engineering students. The association also aims to introducing students to the industry and the educational system of other countries. For more information see <http://www.eestec.org/>.

- *BEST*. The Board of European Students of Technology is a non profit student organization, run by students, working for students. Its purpose is to promote Europe among Europeans. BEST strives to help European students of technology to become more internationally minded, by reaching a better understanding of European cultures and developing capacities to work on an international basis. Therefore it creates opportunities for the students to meet and learn from one another through its academic and non-academic courses and educational symposia. “Learning makes the master,” but the final goal is a good working place, therefore it offers services like an international career center to broaden the horizons for the choice on the job market. For more information see <http://best.eu.org/>.

9. Region 8 Specific Problems

- Some Region 8 areas experience severe delays with receiving IEEE publications.
- Some Region 8 areas experience credit card problems and high fees for money transfer and cheques (payment of dues).
- Cashing Rebate checks from Piscataway is expensive and sometimes impossible.
- Gross Domestic Product and Purchasing Power Parity per capita vary significantly within Region 8, with a ratio in the order of 1:100 between the lowest- and the highest-income country. In the US, this ratio is less than 1:2 between the different states. In several Region 8 countries, the US-based prices for IEEE products and services are extremely high.

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