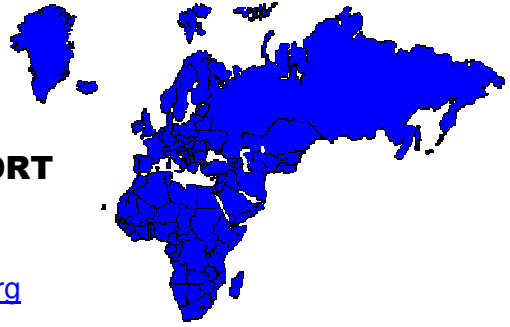


REGION 8

STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

April'04 - Krakow, Poland



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1. REVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Since the past Region 8 report there have been the following updates on the current programs:

1. Voucher Program Campaign has been ongoing for the 2004 renewal campaign. There have been more requests than in the previous year.
2. Active membership renewal campaign was launched and membership decrease ratio has changed from -4% (December) to +1.3% (February). E-mail was sent to all R8 Students on an individual basis with up to date information on IEEE membership.
3. Virtual Community chats with Student Branch officers are held every month.
4. Region 8 News contributions from all the Student Branches have increased and this is a very successful program.
5. Support to Student Branches with Activities Money:
 - a. Nnamdi Azikiwe Student Branch 500\$
 - b. Thessalonica Student Branch in Greece 300\$
 - c. Erciyes Student Branch Turkey 250\$
 - d. METU Student Branch 500\$
6. Active presence of R8 Students at IEEE technical conferences by two means:
 - a. Continuing the Voucher program.
 - b. Organization of IEEE Student Activities during technical conferences by a student receiving a grant to travel to the teleconference. Ongoing. First example has taken place in Greece. More publicity needed.
7. Cooperation project with Microsoft for several activities of interest to our students. So far two face to face meetings have taken place in Madrid with the following outcome:
 - a. Construction of an enhanced R8 portal with support from Microsoft. Beta version should be ready for the SBC in early September. Project leader identified: Ricardo Varela.
 - b. Sponsorship for several things
 - c. Local contacts for further sponsored activities depending on location.
 - d. Possible prizes for R8 IEEE students
 - e. Working on a possible "memorandum of cooperation".

8. Currently working on ideas for a Student Branch REJUVENATION program (to be presented at this meeting)
9. Currently under development: Counselor support program. 3,500\$ still available.
10. Currently ongoing: 2004 Highest Membership Increase campaign, prizing up to 5 branches with 800\$ each.
11. Support for branches willing to organize region-wide contests. Successful example: Chess Contest currently ongoing.
12. Web Contest 2004 is currently being judged at the regional level. Soon to take place: World finals.
13. Attendance to a meeting with several other Student Organizations in Europe (among others EESTEC, ESTIEM, JADE, ELSA, AIESEC) by Basak and Ricardo Varela. Meeting was to determine the idea of a common portal to all of them.
14. Presence of Basak and Pilar in the IEEE-SAC meeting that took place in New York in March 2004. The next SAC meeting will take place in Region 8.
15. Need for promotional material for Students and Student Branches has been detected and we are working on a program to be presented at this meeting.
16. R8-SAC meeting to take place 23 April, 2004, prior to the R8 meeting.

2. REVIEW OF UPCOMING STUDENT-RELATED EVENTS

1. R8 STUDENT BRANCH CONGRESS in Passau, Germany, 4-7 September 2004.
 - a. Sponsors are being contacted
 - b. Registration process is online
 - c. Program is almost finalized
 - d. Funded attendees selection to take place in early May
2. Student Paper Contest 2004 is ongoing. Jury and finalists are selected. Finals will be in Dubrovnik in May, 2004 during MELECON.
3. Best Student Paper Awards and Student Social Events will also take place at MELECON.
4. Student Membership promotion will be organized at MELECON. Promotional materials will also be included in the Student Conference Kit.
5. IEEE Student Members Social Activity in a technical conference in Athens in March.
6. National Branch Congress of all Turkish Student Branches (February, 2004) with support from R8-SAC. R8-SAC has so far helped National Branch Congresses in Spain, Czechoslovakia and Turkey.
7. Preliminary work is being done for a Regional Robotics competition to take place later in this year or early the next one. Region 3 is organizing this competition each year and there is cooperation with them in order to organize a joint competition with the winning teams of each region. IEEE FAP (Financial Advantage Program) will support this activity in Region 8.
8. EESTEC-IEEE Cooperation: EESTEC-IEEE is organizing a joint student conference on engineering education. IEEE Student Branch and EESTEC Local Committee in Cosenza/Italy are the local organizers of the conference. IEEE Foundation is supporting this conference by 15 000\$.
9. IEEE SPAA (Student Professional Awareness Activities): SPAA are common in Regions 1-6 and are supported by IEEE-USA. There have been some initiatives of this event in Region 8 such as in Malta, Nigeria, etc. IEEE SAC formed SPAA Committee in order to investigate and initiate SPAA in R7-10.

3. MODELS AND ISSUES

1. Contacts with Microsoft as an expandable idea with other companies.

2. PROBLEMS: Supposed officers of a Nigeria Student Branch soliciting visas. Cooperation with two Student Branches (Patras, Greece and Alsonso X, Spain) and it all resulted in a delinquent activity.
3. R8-SAC leadership is strongly pursuing the Help-A-Student program of the IEEE. The idea is that students with weak financial backgrounds are being subsidized by other students. Currently, we are deciding on the rules and mechanisms to implement the program.

4. COMMENTS

The Region 8 SAC team wants to thank Laura, Christine, Barbara and Cecelia for all their help and support.