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## Engineered in Japan



This 30-metre boat in Kobe is powered by a pair of superconducting electromagnetic motors.



Hashimoto-san, Kawamura-san (interpreter) and Iwase-san retrace the history of Sharp PC development.



Electric power generator exposed – world-class exhibits at the Tokyo Electric Power Museum (TEPCO).

For more on the editor's visit to Japan, turn to page 4.

## Borgert's departure leaves R8 vacancy

IEEE REGION 8 Secretary Christian Borgert is leaving his post to take on a position at Texas Instruments, based in Dallas. Christian has volunteered in IEEE since 1993 as a student in Bochum, Germany. He was later a founder member of German EMS chapter, and in 1997–2000 he was appointed R8 Electronic Communications, then in 2001–02 elected R8 Vice Chair Student Activities.

In 2004 Christian was elected to the demanding job IEEE Region 8 Secretary, taking over from Charles Turner (see photo taken in 2004). This volunteer job is closely involved with written communications and planning and reporting for R8 operating and committee meetings. After nearly three years Christian has resigned his position, beginning a full-time job in July with Texas Instruments in Dallas, Texas. We wish you continued success!

To learn more about the role of R8 Secretary, visit the Committee pages at [www.ieee.org/r8](http://www.ieee.org/r8). Note that the voting positions are those



Borgert (right) taking over from Charles Turner in 2004.

elected by members, so it is ultimately your votes that decide how our organisation operates.

If you are interested in filling the Secretary vacancy, or any other Region 8 position, contact the Nominations and

Appointments chair Baldomir Zajc at [b.zajc@ieee.org](mailto:b.zajc@ieee.org), who has the duty of finding capable and willing candidates to stand for election. Applicants should include a biography including his/her experience as an IEEE volunteer.

## York organises first student congress

THE FIRST Student Branch Congress ever held in the UKRI Section took place at the University of York on 1–3 June 2007. This event was particularly welcome as it

marks an expansion of student activities in IEEE UK&RI Section.

Sponsorship has been obtained from Google, Lockheed Martin, Praxis HIS, Sun Microsystems, Transitive and RS, and over a hundred students from more than 20 universities in the Section are expected to attend.

The organising team is led by Emine Gokce Aydal (left), a student in the High Integrity Systems Engineering Group of the Department of Computer Science, University of York.



## Will we recruit enough engineers?

THE IEEE, together with the VDE (Germany's institution of electrical engineers) and other professional organizations, is sponsoring an international conference entitled *Meeting the Growing Demand for Engineers and their Edu-*

*cators 2010–2020*. Held in Munich, Germany on 9–11 November 2007, the conference will bring together decision makers from industry, government, the pre-university education system and academia to discuss and plan

the preparation of future engineers and the people who educate them.

For more information, go visit the website: [www.ieee.org/go/demandsummit](http://www.ieee.org/go/demandsummit).

Art Winston  
[a.winston@ieee.org](mailto:a.winston@ieee.org)

# New membership development team focuses on growth in the region

THIS YEAR we have a new Membership Development Subcommittee with Rolf Remshardt (Chair), the past Chair Aleksandar Szabo and the R8 GOLD Coordinator Pilar Molina Gaudo. Our Vice Chair MA Marko Delimar is supporting our team as well and we will continue with the excellent work my predecessor has started two years ago.

The target of our R8 Di-

rector is focused on further membership growth in R8. Although we surpassed the 60,000-member total by year end 2006 (which is an increase of 7% in one year), R8 still has a high potential for further membership in-

crease due to its large population.

The IEEE Terminator program has put the high amount of 15 970 R8 members (or 25%), that did not renew until 23 February 2007 into arrears; which means IEEE service was terminated. Assuming we would be able to win back only half of them, R8 would face a tremendous growth by almost 8000 recovered members on top of our regular membership increase.

We therefore started a retention (arrear recovery) program in March. All section MD officers received a list of their members in arrear and they were asked to kindly remind them for renewal by email or telephone. Those who did not want to renew were asked to feed back their reason of dissatisfaction. Fortunately we received several responses. Assuming that the responses would be representative for all arrears, about 30–40% will renew or has done already. The rest complained about not receiving publications, high dues, and other well-known matters, which will be reported to IEEE and hopefully resolved.

Besides the retention we also have other member recruitment and promotion programs:

- Ideal events for promotion are IEEE conferences, since many non-members are attending as well. We do plan not only for our R8 conferences but in particular for the many IEEE Society conferences held in R8, an IEEE table/booth (with IEEE material and a volunteer) as well as a promotion talk at the conference opening or dinner. This should be organized by the local section volunteers. R8 MD together with the R8 Conference Committee will encourage and support our sections to get in contact with chairs of conferences, which are planned in their area (see also IEEE Conference Calendar).

- The bonus for recruiting a new member was raised to \$15 per full member. This reward can either be used to pay for IEEE products and services or donated to the IEEE Foundation.

- R8 MD publishes a regular R8 MD newsletter containing news and MD reports from IEEE and R8. It will be distributed to section MD officers and chairs by email and is not intended to compete with this printed R8 newsletter. Reports from your section MD activities are highly welcome.

- We are working on a new way for communication with

our MD officers via the Internet. We are planning for a webcast meeting to train and educate groups of new section MD officers and other volunteers, to provide them with ideas how to run MD in a section, to exchange information, for Q&As, and to help solving any member problems.

- All sections should have received a MD Kit from IEEE. If not, please ask [member-services@ieee.org](mailto:member-services@ieee.org) or <http://ieee.org/mdsupplies>. I also recommend to have a look in the new 2007 MD Manual. You will find answers to all membership related questions, please view our new R8 homepage [www.ieee.org/r8](http://www.ieee.org/r8), select MD and download the MD Manual. If you still have questions or problems, please contact our R8 MD Subcommittee members.

Let's face it! There is still a lot of room in R8 for further significant improvements in IEEE member services and benefits.

Membership development and recruitment is a job for all of us, volunteers, staff and regular members. Let's start working on it altogether and enjoy a growing family of happy R8 volunteers and members.

Rolf Remshardt  
[r.remshardt@ieee.org](mailto:r.remshardt@ieee.org)

## Photo quiz AUG 2007



This electrical component is found in transmitting electrical power installations. But what else can you tell us about it? This month, we'd like you to answer the following two questions...

1. Describe its purpose, and material of construction.
2. How many volts?

Email your entry to [R8News@ieee.org](mailto:R8News@ieee.org) with the subject line *Photo Quiz August 2007*. Please include your name, membership number and postal address. The answers will appear in the next issue.

## Voluntary contributions fund report

IN 2006, 38 requests were received for support from the VCF, mainly for travel assistance, student branch activities, and other IEEE related initiatives. About \$19,000 was approved and distributed, providing members and volunteers with an important way to support professional activities in our region.

Vlatko Stoilkov  
IEEE R8 VCF Coordinator  
(2005-06)

## Region 8 to host transnational pilot project for volunteers

REGION 8 has been chosen as the host region for a pilot project aimed at strengthening the link between volunteers (particularly Section and Chapter officers) and the IEEE staff in Piscataway.

Most volunteers do not normally meet IEEE staff members and have only limited contact with them, for example through e-mail, etc. In many cases where problems of Section administra-

tion arise, more help from the staff would be welcomed. In fact, the wide knowledge and experience of IEEE staff are invaluable assets.

The staff members know how the best performing Sections operate, and they also understand how basic problems can lead to failure.

The principal objective of the pilot project is, therefore, to provide easier access for volunteers to these resources

by increased personal contact.

The main activity of the 2007 Pilot Project will bring staff and volunteers together at the two Region 8 Committee meetings, in Sofia and Bucharest, to allow a free exchange of views and experiences related to Section and Chapter operations.

Charles Turner  
2007 TC Pilot Project  
Co-ordinator

## RAB seeks committee candidates

THE IEEE Regional Activities Board RAB Nomination & Appointments wants Region 8 nominees for 2008.

In accordance with the IEEE globalization initiative and in an attempt to ensure that the RAB is globally balanced, nominations from all Regions are called for. Questions regarding nominations for committee positions can be directed to the Committee via [ra-admin@ieee.org](mailto:ra-admin@ieee.org).

# More GOLDen events are on their way in 2007

TIME FLIES and we're very happy to say that GOLDen activities in Region 8 keep evolving at very fast pace. In March 2007, Gerald and Eva participated in the RAB GOLD Committee Meeting in Boston and took new ideas and several projects back in their luggage.

One of these is called the 'student transition project'. The aim here is to reach out to the very recent graduates by sending them a letter indicating the benefits of IEEE membership beyond the student branch walls. Region 8 GOLD will pilot the letter

project in up to 10 sections in 2007. In one section the full RAB project will be implemented and a graduation reception being held in the course of the year to bring together young IEEE members and local section leaders.

## Interaction of GOLD and Societies

Another task that Gerald as the RAB GOLD Society Overseer is working on is strengthening the interaction between GOLD and societies. Every society is encouraged to nominate a GOLD representative and to

organize events focusing on graduates and young professionals. A very good example for such an event is holding a reception at one of the technical conferences organized by the society where both its members and GOLD members can mingle and share ideas and experiences. Lisa Lazarek, representative to the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, is organizing the second EMBS GOLD reception this summer in Lyon, France. A second GOLD reception is planned during Africon 2007 in Windhoek, Namibia. We are

also interested in interacting with societies at the chapter level. If you are interested in supporting IEEE's activities in this area, please get in touch with Gerald Anleitner ([g.anleitner@ieee.org](mailto:g.anleitner@ieee.org)) to discuss further details.

## GOLDen benefits

Remember that IEEE life after graduation is not boring at all, indeed it remains highly powerful and active. There are lots of things out there for you to explore and add more value to your membership! Currently we're focusing not only on the social networks

that IEEE GOLD offers you but also on more professional activities such as planning a job fair for Eurocon 2007 in conjunction with R8 PA, joining efforts with R8 SAC and R8 MD, and also working on the IEEE jobsite to fit it to the needs of our most precious resource – you, the Region 8 members.

As always, we highly appreciate your ideas and your support, so please feel free to contact us by sending an email to [r8gold@ieee.org](mailto:r8gold@ieee.org) or by visiting [www.ieee.org/r8gold](http://www.ieee.org/r8gold).

*Pilar, Eva and Gerald*

## Latest professional activities taking place in Region 8

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES include a broad range of activities brought to you by Region 8 volunteers as well as services from IEEE-USA and IEEE headquarters in Piscataway.

Your local contact for PA topics is your section's PA officer. If you do not know about your section's PA officer, get in touch with your section chair. If your section does not have a PA officer, why not volunteer to take over this position?

A typical PA activity in your section would be an evening lecture about a PA-related topic followed by a get-together to exchange ideas and thoughts among the participants. If you are looking for a lecturer for such an event, your region-level PA volunteers might be able to help

### PA web site

IN THE March issue of the R8 PA Column, we explained the way we plan to shape professional activities as a service for you as an IEEE member in Region 8. As time passes, we are happy to provide you with some updates on our work in this area. On the Region 8 web space, you can

now find information on how to apply for support in organizing a professional activities event in your section. Apart from the already well-known and established workshop program, you are also able to request support for single lecture events. Also note that we plan to do a number of pilot activities during the remainder of this year. This should allow us to gain some experience in PA events. If, being a section volunteer, you are interested in having such an event in your section, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Gerald Anleitner ([g.anleitner@ieee.org](mailto:g.anleitner@ieee.org)).

### IEEE job site

R8 is currently on its way to establish the IEEE Job-site as a major recruiting site. To demonstrate the value of the job site for employers in Region 8, we ask you to create your profile at the site itself (<http://jobs.ieee.org>). Also note that if you would like to recommend your employer, an initial job posting will be available for free ([www.ieee.org/jobs/r8promo](http://www.ieee.org/jobs/r8promo)).

### PA lecturer

As mentioned above, we are establishing a lecturer pro-

gram in Region 8 with topics in professional activities. If you are interested in volunteering as a lecturer, please get in touch with Gerald Anleitner ([g.anleitner@ieee.org](mailto:g.anleitner@ieee.org)). Obviously it would be great if you could also send a list of topics which you would be able to bring forward in a PA lecture. Nevertheless, we also have a set of available topics for which we are looking for capable lecturers.

### More topics

In 2007, Charles Turner will lead the efforts regarding Professional Activities in Region 8.

The main aim of PA (Professional Activities) in 2007 will be to establish a solid basis of services for you. This will be done in a joint effort together with R8's GOLD activities as well as R8's student activities.

If you are interested in volunteering for professional activities or have any feedback or comments, please get in touch with me ([g.anleitner@ieee.org](mailto:g.anleitner@ieee.org)), as I have the honour to coordinate the 2006 R8 PA ad-hoc sub-committee activities.

*Gerald Anleitner  
geribald@mac.com*



cartoon © Byron Angus

## Agenda is announced for standards seminar

THE IEEE, in collaboration with the Tunisian Ministry of Communication Technologies, presented a seminar on Global Standards and Developing Economies: Broadband Access and Infrastructure seminar in Tunis, Tunisia, on 9–10 May 2007.

Presented by the IEEE Standards Association, the seminar was aimed at those in industry and government affected by the digital divide. It provided an overview of the issues faced by today's policy makers and industry leaders, and highlighted how local en-

ties can participate in and make use of global standards and best practices. Leaders from industry, government and standards bodies presented case studies on wireless and wired access.

The keynote was presented by the Tunisian Ministry of Communication Technologies and presentations were led by executives from global companies such as IBM, HP, Intel, Nortel, Sony, Mentor Graphics and France Telecom, as well as leaders from global standards bodies of ETSI, ITU-D and ITU-T.



Roland Saam



Başak Yüksel

# Editor takes a tour of Japan's best in electro-engineering

FULFILLING A life-long wish to visit Japan, I flew to Tokyo at the end March to experience the culture and customs of an oriental kind.

Several days were needed to become accustomed to jet-lag, to new food (tasty!), gorgeous countryside, and efficient transport (many trains, and always on time!). Japan has invested heavily in many parts of the country, building roads, railways and factories. So on the tourist trail quite often the ancient and the new are side-by-side. The ancient have often been newly re-built, because of frequent earthquakes, and a seeming disposable approach to buildings.

From my volunteer work continuing over many years with the IEEE History Committee I had the pleasure of knowing several IEEE members. They arranged several visits to museums with an Electro-technical connection.

The Tokyo Electric Power Museum (TEPCO) has the most outstanding exhibits of electrical machinery which have been uncovered to display how they work. There is a great advantage to seeing the real article – for example a 400 megawatt generator, with multiple steam turbines – cut apart.

Everything is explained: principles of operation, typical operating conditions, safety features, how power is distributed, and so on. Indeed

the transition from Direct to Alternating Current power is a well-illustrated story. Don't miss it!

Other museums had different characters: the National Science Museum in Uedo Park, Tokyo is focused on more general principles; the Toshiba Science museum (Yokohama), and the Sharp Corporation R&D museum (Tenri, near Kyoto) are more product oriented. The achievements of Japan's electronics companies have much to do with their highly efficient manufacturing as well as skillful product design.

In Kobe's Maritime Museum I saw a boat 30 metres in length powered by twin superconducting electromagnetic motors (the magneto-hydro dynamic principle).

At the Graduate School of Univ. of Hyogo it was a great thrill to talk to IEEE Kansai Section, about IEEE History Activities in Region 8. Near the end of my three-week visit I met with a group of electrical engineers and computer programmers who had developed the Sharp pocket computers and programmable calculators – an exciting afternoon which brought together participants in a story of an outstanding product series.

There was much to see and soon there will appear some interesting photographs on the R8N website.

Roland Saam

See the front page for photos of Roland's visit to Japan

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## REGION 8 OPERATING COMMITTEE

Bylaws and descriptions of the committee offices — refer to [www.ieee.org/r8](http://www.ieee.org/r8)

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**Submitting articles** We welcome news, articles and letters from any member of the IEEE. Please send these to the editor as plain text by email to [r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org), remembering to put *Region 8 News* in your email subject line. If sending photos or graphics, please make sure they are high-resolution files. Read our full guide to writing and submitting articles at [www.ieee.org/go/r8news](http://www.ieee.org/go/r8news).

### Deadlines for upcoming issues

October 2007 issue ..... deadline: 1 August 2007  
December 2007 issue..... deadline: 1 October 2007  
March 2008 issue ..... deadline: 1 January 2008

## What's new in the Spain Section

THE IEEE Spain Section has in total 3,200 active members (12 Fellows, 145 Senior Members and 1,100 Student Members).

The Section continues to collaborate actively with AEIT (Asociación Española de Ingenieros de Telecomunicación). It is in progress

to promote a Joint Award related with historical scientific-technological aspects in Spain.

Other activities include:

- New WEB page of the Spain section from December 2006.
- New Bylaws of the Spain Section pending to approve

by Spanish Administration (Home Office Ministry).

- New Student branches pending.
- Ceremony in Madrid related with a Milestone recognised by the IEEE (March 2007).

*José A. Delgado-Penín  
IEEE Spain Section Chair*



## Croatia gives awards

IEEE Croatia Section has launched a new annual award program consisting of four awards. The recipients last year were:

1. Vladimir Muljevic – 2006 IEEE Croatia Section Nikola Tesla Award for outstanding scientific and professional achievement in electrical and computer engineering and computer science.
2. Aleksandar Szabo – 2006 IEEE Croatia Section Distinguished Service Award for outstanding volunteer work.
3. Mario Zagar – 2006 IEEE Croatia Section Outstanding

Educator Award for excellence in educational work in industry, government institutions, or academia.

4. Nenad Rister and Josip Ungarov – 2006 IEEE Croatia Section Outstanding Engineer Award for exceptional ability in and contribution to the industrial applications of engineering.

The awards were presented at a banquet, held annually, on 1 December 2006 in Zagreb.

*Sven Loncaric  
IEEE Croatia Section Chair  
www.ieee.hr*



*Left: Tesla's coil is demonstrated live.  
Below: The two lectures hosted by the Serbia-Montenegro Education Society Chapter and IEEE Student Branch Belgrade were open to the public and attracted more than 300 spectators.*



## Tesla coils attract hundreds

SERBIA-MONTENEGRO EDUCATION Society Chapter in cooperation with IEEE Student Branch Belgrade organized its two recent meetings as lectures with practical demonstrations of the Tesla's coil apparatus.

Lectures were held at the University of Belgrade, School of EE (ETF) on 12 and 19 December 2006 by Jovan Cvetic, and were open to the public. They were attended by a total of more than 300 spectators, mostly students, that overcrowded

the lecture room to its limits. Spectacular demonstrations of a high-voltage high-frequency electric discharge of the Tesla's coil concluded both lectures. Prof Cvetic led a team of students at ETF Belgrade to build two large Tesla coils that were main exhibits at the Tesla exhibition in the Serbian Academy of Science last year.

Lectures focused not only to principles of the Tesla coils and their design, but also to practical problems that occurred during their construc-

tion and the ways the team solved them.

Vladimir Petrovic, Chapter Chair, and Aleksandar Neskovic, both professors of ETF Belgrade, together with Marija Velickov from IEEE Student Branch Belgrade, took the opportunity to advise students how to join teams in performing practical projects in the field of EE.

For photos and movie clips of the lectures, visit [http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/serbia\\_montenegro/education](http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/serbia_montenegro/education).

*Vladimir Petrovic*

## Saudi Arabia West report

THE IEEE West Saudi Arabia Section has 251 members (125 active), out of which nine are Seniors, 25 are Associates, and 30 are women.

The Section is planning to collaborate with the Saudi Council of Engineers, the Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF), and many other national and regional organizations to organize the First International

Conference on Creativity, Innovation and Knowledge Sharing.

Other activities include creating two Chapters: one in Makkah and the other a student chapter. We are also setting up a Section web page, scheduled to be launched in July 2007, and arranging at least one technical workshop in strategic planning and technical writing in Arabic.

*Hafidh AlSamarrai*

## Technical English program: one year later...

THE TECHNICAL English Program (TEP) was proposed as an IEEE educational project for non-Anglophone developing countries (see *Region 8 News*, June 2006). It should furnish IEEE volunteers with a powerful tool to improve the English of students, teachers and engineers. It was hoped that this might also ease access to IEEE benefits and services, and increase the IEEE Membership.

Russia Northwest IEEE Section arranged the first TEP project in St Petersburg during September–December 2006 with \$2,000 assigned by Region 8. As a result, 11 students obtained Schaum's textbooks for free and passed a 32-hour course by Professor Alexander Mikerov on 'Basic Electrical Engineering'. They also participated in a six-hour tutorial by Professor Kurt Richter (Austria)

on 'Development of Leadership Skills. All students prepared a final presentation in English at the Annual IEEE Students Conference. Best student Sergey Miropolski submitted his paper to the Eurocon2007 and the Section will cover his visit to this Conference.

Five other students were awarded one-year free student IEEE memberships. All students obtained an IEEE

Certificate signed by 2006 Region 8 Director Baldomir Zajc and Russia Northwest Section Chairman Dmitry Puzankov.

An undoubted outcome of the first TEP project was the improving technical English in Electro Technology of these 11 students. The total impact of the project on the Section IEEE Membership may not be very visible – 52 student members in 2006

and 57 in 2007 – but TEP was very popular amongst St Petersburg students and the competition for places was oversubscribed by three to one.

We are sure that the new improved Technical English Program will increase the IEEE attraction and promote IEEE Membership in developing countries.

*Alexander Mikerov  
Yuriy Sepp*



## Macedonia celebrates 10 years

THE REPUBLIC of Macedonia IEEE Section celebrated the 10 years of the section formation and 25 years of the IEEE in the Republic of Macedonia. An annual assembly, a ceremonial academy, a photo exposition and invited lectures took place in the presence of IEEE members and invited guests.

At the moment, the Section is running formally as a registered NGO in the Republic of Macedonia. Starting with slightly more than 50 members in 1997, at the moment there are 20 senior members, one fellow, 50 members and 58 student members. There are five society chapters, one student branch and two affinity groups within the section. The increasing number of members, especially students, is very promising.

*Vlatko Stolikov*

## e-Week is a great success

TAKING PLACE on 18–24 February 2007, engineers' week (e-Week) was a real opportunity to promote the IEEE and the IEEE Morocco Section activities and benefits among engineers and scientists working in academia, government and industry as well as among engineering students.

The event was very helpful in forming Student Branches in different Moroccan universities.

Recently we formed the first SB in Mohamed Fifth University in Rabat, and three more SBs are under formation in Marrakech, Fez and Oujda universities.

*Mohamed Essaaidi*  
IEEE Morocco Section Chair  
<http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/morocco>

# IEEE IAS/PELS/IES Joint German Chapter holds first meeting of 2007 in Mannheim

CONTINUING ITS meeting programs, the IAS/PELS/IES joint German chapter had its first meeting in 2007 on 8 and 9 March in Mannheim, Germany. The hosts of the meeting were the Rhein-Neckar-Verkehr GmbH and the Bombardier Transportation GmbH.

The Rhein-Neckar-Verkehr GmbH (RNV) was the host of the meeting on the first day. The meeting began with a short introduction by the new chapter chair, Prof Heinz van der Broeck. After that, an introduction to the RNV was given by Günther Quaß, the managing director of RNV. RNV has been established as an alliance of five regional transportation companies in the region Rhein-Neckar.

A lecture was given by Dr Michael Steiner of Bombardier Transportation on the topic of MITRAC Energy Storage with ultracapacitors, which has been developed at Bombardier in Mannheim. With this system, a part of the brake-energy is stored in ultracapacitors during deceleration and used for the next acceleration.

After the theoretical discourse, participants got the



*Above: Participants in front of the tram fitted with MITRAC Energy Storage.*

*Right: Box with ultracapacitors on the roof of the tram.*

*Below: The audience listening to the lecturers at Bombardier.*



opportunity to drive in a tram which was provided with such a storage system. The measurements were shown and explained when the train was driving in the city.

The city tour ended in the maintenance hall of the RNV,

where we saw the converters and ultracapacitors on the roof of the train along with a short demonstration of the catenary free drive. The first day of the meeting concluded with a dinner in Best Western Hotel Steubenhof.

## WIE members receive the newly established Hedy Lamarr award

TWO WIE members of IEEE Austria Section were the recipients of the Hedy Lamarr award, introduced by the Austrian Ministry for Women and Health to honour outstanding careers of women engineers in the field of telecommunications.

The 2006 Hedy Lamarr prize for special achievements of women in communication engineering was awarded to Dr Ulla Birnbacher from Graz University of Technology for her developments in the field of broadband wireless and satellite communications. Dipl.-Ing. (MSc) Simone Win-



*Left: Simone Winkler. Right: Ulla Birnbacher.*

kler received the 2006 young scientist award in recognition of her diploma thesis entitled 'High-speed DDS controlled radar system for the identification of surface acoustic wave tags during translational motion'. Mrs. Winkler is currently pursuing her PhD

studies at Johannes Kepler University in Linz and École Polytechnique Montréal.

The award is named after Hedy Lamarr, the Austrian born movie star of the 1930s and 40s. Besides her Hollywood career she invented the frequency hopping technique which was originally used in military communication. With the recent developments in mobile systems, frequency hopping became the basis for a vast number of modern communication devices.

*Margrit Gelautz*  
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## Seminar looks at design methods

IEEE BAHRAIN section held a seminar on 28 March 2007 at the University of Bahrain. 'Design methodology for microstrip dual-mode filters' was delivered by Dr Abdulla Rabeea.

Innovation in the field of RF/microwave communications devices has been the biggest challenge to the microwave filter designer.

During the seminar, Dr Rabeea also proposed a design methodology for designing microstrip dual-mode filters using EM full-wave simulation tools.

*Isa Qamber*  
Chairman of IEEE Bahrain Section

# IAS workshop opens the year's events

IEEE SAUDI Arabia Section (East)'s Industry Applications Society (IAS) Chapter kicked off the year 2007 activities with a major technical event.

The chapter organized a technical workshop titled 'Applications Supporting Capital Projects', which attracted over 100 senior project management personnel from various national and international companies. The workshop was organized in conjunction with the Project Management Institute's 11th PMI-AGC International Conference held on 13-15 February 2007, in Manama, Bahrain. The PMI Conference and Exhibition



*Ghaleb Al-Dandan, Chairman of IEEE Saudi Arabia IAS Chapter, receives an award for the Society's conference participation.*

was attended by over 1,300 personnel.

This workshop highlighted various applications that are beneficial for managing and controlling capital projects lifecycle.

# Malta sets up Section



*Left to right: Marvin Bugeja, Violet Bugeja, Simon Fabri, Keith Sacco, Saviour Zammit, Anton Cutajar, Carl Debono, Charles Sammut, Dunstan Briffa, Dennis Vella.*

ON 8 November 2006, the IEEE Malta Section was approved and a call for nominations was held in December 2006. On Monday 8 January 2007, the IEEE Malta Section Executive Council was formed. The members of the first council are: Dr Ing Carl J Debono (Chairman), Ing Anton Cutajar (Vice-Chairman), Ing Keith Sacco (Secretary), and Dr Ing Saviour Zammit (Treasurer). The other council members are Prof Charles Sammut (Professional Development), Ing Dunstan Briffa (Membership Development), Dennis Vella (Webmaster), Dr Ing Simon Fabri (Student Activities and Educational Development), Violet Bugeja (Women in Engineering) and Ing Marvin Bugeja (Student Representative).

There are 192 IEEE members in Malta of whom one is a life member, two are Senior Members, 86 are members nine are Associates while 81 are Students and 13 are affiliates. The students had already been organised in the University of Malta IEEE Student Branch which has been active since 2001.

Located in the Mediterranean Sea, just south of Sicily, the Maltese archipelago basically consists of three islands: Malta, Gozo and Comino. The total population is around 400,000. There are more than 2000 engineers locally. Besides there are a greater number of others who are graduates in IT, physics and associated sciences.

*Anton Cutajar  
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# region & student news

www.ieee.org/r8sac

University of Ibadan, Nigeria:

# A look at the comms industry

IEEE UNIVERSITY of Ibadan student branch held a technical day on 18 January 2007 as a part of the Society of Electrical Electronics Engineering Students (SEEEES) week. The anchors of the program were Smart Francis and Adigwe Joy, two IEEE student members of the branch. Apart from students of the university, three representatives attended from the IEEE Babcock University student branch: Prof Olapade, Prof Omole (the dean of the Faculty of Technology) and Engr Zubair (a lecturer of the department of Electrical Electronics Engineering).

In his welcome address, the IEEE student branch Chair, Oluge Dasola, stressed the purpose of the program, which was to create a greater awareness in students as to



what happens in the industry outside the school system; the focus for this particular program being the communications industry which is a fast growing one in Nigeria.

Before the main presentation, a brief talk was given by Andrew Okike, a student of the department, representing Retcom Systems and Services Ltd, Nigeria on 'Communication With Texting'.

The main presentation of the day, CDMA in Nigeria, Lessons from the past, Emerging Trends and Prospects for the Future, was presented by Engr Oludotun Odufalu of MTS1st wireless Nigeria, a major stakeholder

in the CDMA industry in Nigeria. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session, during which he highlighted that if one wishes to start a career in the communications industry, first a student has to graduate with good grades; Second Class upper division or a First Class. Prospects also improve if one has a certification in a professional examination such as CCNA, MCSE or Oracle.

After this, Oluge Dasola gave the vote of thanks with a clamour for students to apply as members of the IEEE. He also used the avenue to thank other members of the executive committee for the academic year for their diligence throughout the session as that was the last IEEE program for the session.

*Ige Toluwalope*

University of Seville, Spain:

# Use your Imaginatica!

SEVILLE PLAYED host to 'Imaginatica' from 5 to 9 March 2007. Imaginatica is a Congress where many firms go to show their products and look for potential employees. In parallel with this job fair, many distinguished lectures come to the congress and some workshops are held. About a thousand Student came this year.

The congress committee asked our branch for some of the workshop, and, how could we say no? Seville Student



*Zaragoza SB representation in Plaza the España.*

Branch didn't want to miss the opportunity to play a role in the event, so we organised three workshops. Furthermore, we invited some other Spanish Branches. Zaragoza SB and Castilla la Mancha SB came to Seville and showed us some of their stated workshops.

This is the point! We all really had great fun! I recommend all of you to invite other branches from your section to your branch. It is really pleasant to spend your time with other people that share the same problems you try to deal with every day and they have solutions you never think of before!

These days have been the best time I've ever spent as Chair.

*Antonio Leopoldo  
Rodríguez Vazquez  
antoniorv@ieee.org  
Student Branch Chair*

Student Branch  
Karlsruhe, Germany:

# Imaging the Earth from outer space

THE IEEE Student Branch Karlsruhe continued its series of talks given by industry experts on topics of professional interest to IEEE student members. On 22 January we were proud to host Dr Marwan Younis, senior scientist at the German Aerospace Center (DLR).

He introduced the TerraSAR-X satellite mission which is mapping the world's surface with the help of radar.

Dr Younis closed his talk with the statement that the TanDEM-X mission will enable global imaging of the whole Earth with an unprecedented resolution and accuracy.

*Oliver Prinz, Chair  
IEEE Student Branch  
Karlsruhe*

Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg, Germany:

# Two days spent in Munich labs

ON 26 October 2006, the Student Branch went to Munich for a two-day trip. We first met with the SB of the TU Munich, and then we participated in the IEEE Joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter Meeting in the General Electric (GE) research center in Garching. We were able to visit three departments, and in the high-voltage lab the scientists are able to generate lightning with 1.2 MV to carry out different experiments such as lightning protection for wind turbines.

On 6–8 December 2006, a CRIS-Workshop took place in Magdeburg, organised by the International Institute for Critical Infrastructures



Above: The participation of our student branch members at the CRIS Workshop.



Left: A technical tour together with the German joint Chapter.

(CRIS) and Prof Styczynski at the Chair of Electric Power Networks and Renewable Energy Sources. Five members of the Student Branch were invited to participate in this workshop. Over the three

days different scientist and engineers from all over the world presented the results of their investigations.

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Uni-Magdeburg.de

University of York, United Kingdom:

# Students make a day of it at Praxis

ON 7 February 2007, the University of York IEEE Student Branch organized a visit to the Headquarters of Praxis High Integrity Systems in Bath. The group met engineers and managers from different Praxis projects. Even Keith Williams, the Managing Director of Praxis, popped in for a chat.

Presentations in the morning by Praxis business manager Mark Donovan, project manager Rebecca Ferneyhough and senior consultant Andrew Furse were followed by a Q&A session. After lunch, the team divided for group exercises, some for fun and others with a serious purpose of illuminating the process of requirements analysis and design.

Further presentations were delivered by York graduate and SPARK specialist



Andrew Furse presents the new London Underground signal.

Robin Neatherway, safety engineer Adrian Brown, and finally Gemma Townson, another York graduate. Another great day for York IEEE mem-

bers, and our sincere thanks go to our IEEE UKRI section and all at Praxis for making it happen.

David R White

American University of Beirut, Lebanon:

# AUB at Comms workshop

TO KEEP members up to date in various fields of engineering and enhance inter-personal development, the IEEE Student



Branch of the American University of Beirut (AUB) participated in the First IEEE Lebanese Communication Workshop 07 held at the Faculty of Engineering in the University of Saint Joseph (Mar Roukouz) on 24 March 2007, where more than 40

IEEE-AUB active members attended the workshop. The students had also the possibility to meet engineers from the industry, and to have a small chat during the two coffee breaks and lunch.

Rabih Yazbeck,  
IEEE-AUB President

CETTI, Romania:

# Report on events at the end of last year

AT THE end of last year, CETTI (Technological Electronics and Interconnection Techniques Center) was proud to present a workshop on thermal analysis and printed electronics. The workshop began with a presentation on thermal analysis, concentrating on the fact that nowadays engineers can easily save time and money by developing their ideas using specialized computer programs.

The workshop continued with another mind-bending

the election of the CETTI's SBC Board Committee. The elected Chairman is Alexandru Romanescu, an undergraduate student of the Electronic Telecommunication and Information Technology Department.

On 14 February, the official opening of the Minerva Program Competition was held at the Magna Aula of the Electronic, Telecommunications and Information Technology Faculty. The gathering was chaired by Prof Paul



Left to right: Paul Svasta, Foti Coleca, Andreescu Alexandru, Victor Popa, Alexandru Romanescu.

Svasta, the Minerva program's initiators and our SBC's advisor.

Minerva is a competition for first year students who have to form teams of no more than four to five mem-

bers and create projects on a chosen theme (the analysis of thermal parameters, planar transformers, etc). Every project must contain a computer program and a computer presentation. Winning a prize at Minerva equals to receiving a diploma recognized by IEEE and offers the chance of joining our SBC.

bers and create projects on a chosen theme (the analysis of thermal parameters, planar transformers, etc). Every project must contain a computer program and a computer presentation. Winning a prize at Minerva equals to receiving a diploma recognized by IEEE and offers the chance of joining our SBC.

Mugurel Niculescu, Sytron's Technical Manager, introduced students in the activity of microcontrollers. This includes fields such as board level design, both analog and digital or display solutions. Niculescu also stated that Sytron Technologies will continue to offer technical support for students.

The next step is teaching the teams all about the SWOT (Strength Weaknesses Opportunities Threats) analysis so that they can best manage their work. For more information on the MINERVA program and our SBC please visit [www.cetti.ro/sbc](http://www.cetti.ro/sbc).

The gathering ended with

Marin Carmen  
[carmen.marin@cetti.ro](mailto:carmen.marin@cetti.ro)

## Correction

I HAVE just spotted a mistake in the news in the March 2007 issue of *Region 8 News*. There's a story on page 9 that refers to 'Suleyman Demirel University, Kazaghstan'. But our University is in TURKEY not Kazaghstan! Even little mistakes can be so discouraging. Can you please correct this mistake?

Selcuk Comlekci, Chair, IEEE, Turkish EMBS  
Advisor, IEEE, SDU Student Branch



York graduate and Praxis Employee Gemma Townson chats with the group.



## Aalborg University, Denmark:

## Student paper conference sees 55 entries

ON 26 January of 2007, the 1st Aalborg University IEEE Student Paper Conference, AISPC'07, was organized by the Student Branch, targeting bachelor and master students from all recognized universities around the world.

The technical contributions were in the tracks of 'Electronics and Communication', 'Computer Science', 'Health Science and Technology' and 'Energy Technology'. The technical conference received 55 submissions from 16 different countries in Europe, Africa and Asia.

All submitted papers went through a peer-reviewing process held by technically competent professionals on each track, and 33 papers were selected to be orally presented in two parallel sessions. The two best papers from Aalborg University and Denmark Technical Uni-



L-R: Daniel VP Figueiredo, Mohammad Anas, Suvra Das, Muhammad Imadur Rahman, João Figueiras, Erling Matthesen, Kazimieras Bogdonas, Basuki Endah Priyanto



versity were selected to participate in the Region 8 student paper contest. The latter was awarded in the R8 contest and will participate in Eurocon 2007.

The conference opened with a

speech by the Rector of Aalborg University, Prof Finn Kjærdsdam, followed by the keynote speech from the Center for TeleInfrastruktur (CTIF) Director, Prof Ramjee Prasad, and the platinum sponsor's speech by Claus Krohn Vesterholt from Gatehouse, Denmark. The technical sessions were held throughout the day in parallel with a workshop on 'Idea Development Methodology'.

The four best papers were awarded with Nokia mobile phones, books, and a prize cash of 3,000 DKK. The closing speech was made by Frede Blaabjerg, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Science and Medicine in AAU, Jesper Jespersen, Novi director, and Søren Holdt Jensen, professor in AAU and Past chair of IEEE Denmark section.

Preparation for the 2nd AISPC'08 in February 2008 has already begun.



## American University of Sharjah, UAE:

## AUS visits substation

ON 1 March, the IEEE student branch at the American University of Sharjah (AUS) conducted an educational visit to one of the local distribution substations. During the visit, on-site engineers provided the students with an overview of power protection. This event was extremely educational and successful, as indicated by most of the 27 participants.

Haitham Al Momani  
ieee@aus.edu



Dr Eesa Bastaki and Dr Boutheina Tlili with AUST SB Officers at WETEX 2007.

## Ajman University of Science &amp; Technology:

## SB attend WETEX 07

THE IEEE Student Branch at Ajman University of Science & Technology (AUST) held elections on 8 March to appoint its student officers for the current year 2007. More than 50 student members were present to cast their votes. The following were elected: Mustafa El-Khatib (Chair), Abrar Samir (Vice Chair), Noor Kalaji (Secretary), AbdulAziz Murshid (Treasurer), Raihana Mumtaz (Media Manager), Mustafa Osama (Events Manager).

The Executive Committee congratulates the newly appointed officers and extends best wishes for a successful year ahead, comprised of unconditional commitment and hard work.

Twenty-five members of the IEEE Student Branch at Ajman University of Science & Technology (AUST) volunteered at the IEEE Booth dur-

ing WETEX 2007 along with other students from different universities. Water, Electricity, Technology & Environment Exhibition (WETEX) was held at the Dubai World Trade Center (DWTC) on 13-15 March 2007.

The volunteers promoted IEEE Memberships between students and professionals by discussing the numerous benefits of joining IEEE and the various activities conducted by the AUST IEEE Student Branch. They also demonstrated their engineering project work at the exhibition and impressed the visitors. In addition, they utilized the opportunity to meet industry professionals and brighten their chances of finding internship and permanent placement positions.

Tazeen Sharif  
SB Mentor & WIE AG Chair  
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## Jordan University of Science and Technology:

## IEEE/WIE help at SOS village

A GROUP of six IEEE/WIE members from Jordan University of Science and Technology paid a visit to the SOS village for orphans in Irbid. The visit turned out to be the most enjoyable experience ever. The aim of the visit was to help introduce high school students to university life, the role of engineering, and the necessary qualifications to become a successful engineer.

Introductions were made through an 'ice breaker' game in which WIE members asked the participants about their hobbies, delights, discomforts and anything they felt needed to be said. Guidance and awareness rising was another goal, the young students put in different situations and asked to imagine how would they react. They were given only five seconds to give a quick suitable answer! This game created an enthusiastic audience.

At the lunch break, each student asked for educational advice, such as how to pass junior high safely without any emotional disorders, how to relieve stress, and how to get the most from high school life generally.



Each IEEE/WIE member talked for 10 minutes about civil, electrical, mechanical, chemical, architecture and industrial engineering. We used demos of engineering tools: capacitors, inductors, DMM, engineering drawing tools, civil project maps, and a slide show about the work and projects of architecture and industrial engineering students.

IEEE members IY and AN took the opportunity to explain to the hosts several computer functions and gave a live introduction about the parts of the hard disk and the motherboard using a fibre glass computer's case that happened to be available at the village's computer lab.

Last but not least, after this solid talk some fun should be spread. A video clip seemed the best solution, but not any video clip – an engineering-relevant video

clip called 'Enjoy the Ride'. Amusement and satisfaction were seen in the eyes of the young men and women, helping raise spirits.

At the end of the visit, IEEE/WIE members asked their hosts to write down what they thought of this activity and to fill a five-question survey that was prepared to measure the success of the day. Then special wooden gifts were given to the village's family as a sign of gratitude and ongoing contribution of IEEE student branch at JUST University to young men and women who seek a better future.

Finally, IEEE/WIE members went on a visit to the village houses and took a closer look to how families live there.

Nour Z AL-mani  
JUST WIE chairwoman  
oceanswhispers@hotmail.com

**Bogazici University, Turkey:**

# Robots play soccer and sumo

BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY IEEE Student Branch and Electrotechnology Club of Bogazici University organized Bogazici Robot Days on 12-13 May, sponsored by Microsoft, Escort and Bilge Adam. The event is intended to be run every year and includes various activities such as contests, seminars, forums and exhibitions.

Anyone interested in construction of robots and the field of robotics have the opportunity to meet others and display their own works. The environment for exchange of technology and information provided by such meeting will pave the way for the robot studies in Turkey and will also be a step for going beyond the boundaries of the technology.

**Contests**

*Robocode:* In this contest, the robots coded in Java language fight against each other in a simulation environment.

*Freestyle:* The contestants display their own robots which solve problems before the jury.

*Sumo:* Robots meet on a circular area and try to push each other out of the ring.

*Line tracker:* Robots designed to follow a line on a designated racetrack will try to complete the race at top speed and with the least error.

*Robot Football:* In this category, which will form the basis of a multi-player football league in the future, Lego robots play soccer.

*Rescue:* Specially designed Lego robots try to find one object in a pile of debris.

*Dance:* The robots dance for a few minutes and are to be assessed by the jury for artistic and technical scores.

**Activities**

Bogazici Robot Days Seminars allow scientists working in the field of robotics to share their knowledge and experience with students.



Panel events also took place, discussing how to develop robot studies in Turkey and abroad.

Forums were held with the participation of CERBERUS, the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory Team of the Department of Computer Engineering of Bogazici University which was the win-

ner in Technical Challenge category of the four-Legged League of the RoboCupSoccer in RoboCup2005.

Finally, an exhibition was held at which everyone displayed their own robots. Thus the participants had the opportunity to meet, contact and cooperate for their studies in the long run with the persons who share the same interests as them.

For further information please visit [www.robotgunleri.org](http://www.robotgunleri.org).

*Enes Furkan Kahya  
furkan@ieee.org*

**Student Branch Zagreb, Croatia:**

# IEEE Week success

DURING 5-9 March, IEEE SB Zagreb, Croatia Section organized IEEE Week at the Faculty of Computing and Electrical Engineering.

Monday and Thursday were IEEE Booth days. At the Faculty's lobby we had laptops ready to sign up students online. Our campaign included half-price membership and presenting our previous, current and future activities, as well as the rest of the IEEE Week activities. On Tuesday we held a lecture for graduation students on 'Diploma Thesis: Dos and Don'ts', and on Wednesday

we had a great IEEE movie night, where about 150 students watched the movie  $E=mc^2$ . On Friday evening, a welcoming party for new members was held in cooperation with the local student music club. Come see more at [www.fer.hr/ieee/english](http://www.fer.hr/ieee/english).

*Hrvoje Pandzic  
IEEE Zagreb SB Chair  
hrvoje.pandzic@ieee.org*



**Al Balqa' Applied University Faculty of Engineering Technology, Amman, Jordan:**

# BAU-FET mixes pioneering with superiority

WE ARE so proud to declare crowning our branch in the best level in Jordan, by the Jordan section EX-COM, for the year 2006.

The key event for this year was in the inauguration the FET-SEC (the Science and Engineering Contest) which is organized by our SB, for the projects of all the Jordanian Universities students in the various fields of science and engineering, with a distinguished method in organizing, judging and reward.

The declaration of this



ceremony started in a celebration in the main theatre of the university under the patronage of the college dean, with the attendance of his staff and a huge number of students, local media representatives and the Jordan

Association of Engineers representative. The branch chairman welcomed the guests and spoke about the branch success stages and its devoted voluntary work. After that, the media committee chief recognized the

IEEE and our branch achievements and activities. Then the coordinator introduced the contest and its fields, rewards and how to participate. We ended this event with a presentation about success and failure, delivered by the marketing administrator of Hayat FM radio.

These events came after another great event we held in the university at the beginning of this semester on 18 February, when we organized an acquainting day ceremony in the university to introduce the IEEE, our SB and its activities, achievements and planning, and explained the benefits the students get when they attend. We also exploited this event to award certificates of the courses that we had organized during the vacation between the two semesters (Three Matlab courses, Flash Macro media, Web page design, and Japanese language), which were handed out by the dean of the college.

BAU success equation: IEEE = I have Energy, Enthusiasm and Enterprising.

*Ali Jaradat, Chairman  
ali\_me@ieee.org  
Mos'ab Husni, Secretary  
Eng\_mha@ieee.org  
www.bau-ieee.org*

**Al-Balqa' Applied University WIE:**

# WIE SB AG celebrates achievements

A PART of the BAU IEEE Student Branch, our WIE SB AG continues in 2007 with a number of successful achievements.

The improved hierarchy of our AG is made to help improve the members' communication and leadership skills. Our AG is divided into five sections:

1. Media Section.
2. Spiritual Section.
3. Social Affairs Section.
4. Projects Section.
5. Development Section.

In this report we will mention some of these sections'

achievements, starting with the training courses organized for WIE members and non-members. We prepared and presented one course in Flash course and another in creating web pages. They were designed exclusively for women.

To keep in touch with graduated WIE members, some presents were given to the graduated students who were active in the charity work as WIE members. We also helped preparing the Flash show for the SEC (more details about it in the BAU re-

port). The show was prepared by eng. Zainab Ne'mah.

To encourage the exchange of knowledge between WIE members we organized scientific lectures presented by WIE members, concerning self development and computer skills.

We were pleased with how the WIE SB AG was received at JUST, again encouraging exchange between the two AGs.

Preparing for the second School Conference was one of the main activities that our AG worked on.

## IEEE/LEOS Benelux Student Branch Chapter:

# Belgian sorting technology visit is the BEST

THE BIYEARLY company visits of the IEEE/LEOS Benelux Student Chapter has become a success during past years. On 16 February 2007, the SC organized a visit to the headquarters of BEST n.v. in Heverlee, Belgium.

BEST (Belgian Sorting Technologies) is a young company developing sorting machinery primarily for the food industry. Its sorting technology, based on laser and LED inspection, camera imaging, fluorescence and x-rays, can remove foreign material from huge streams of products such as vegetables, fruits and tobacco, even when packed in metal, glass or plastic containers.



In 1996, the four founders of the company started with the development of their first sorting machine for raisins in a small garage, but they quickly diversified the company's portfolio to other raw materials, such as vegetables, hazelnuts, shrimps, etc. In 2003, it acquired PULSAR and BARCO Machine Vision to reach a M€47 turnover in 2006.

BEST now has 140 employees at its offices and facilities in Belgium, the Netherlands, and the USA.

The 24 participants to the company visit attended an animated presentation featuring the history of the company, some general company information, and the optical technologies applied in the sorting machines of BEST, before visiting the

engineering and production facilities of BEST. The visit was concluded with three exciting demonstrations of x-ray, laser, and fluorescence based machines.

The company visits of the Benelux Student Chapter will be continued on 5 October 2007 with a visit to the Medical Centre of the University of Utrecht, where we will have the opportunity to explore the latest developments in optical technologies for medical applications. More information can be found on the chapter's website.

*Philippe Tassin  
IEEE/LEOS Benelux Student  
Chapter Board  
philippe.tassin@vub.ac.be*



## Benelux Student Branch:

# Twente wins Chong award at congress

ON TUESDAY 10 April 2007 the first IEEE Benelux Student Branch Congress took place on the campus of the Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands. The first part of this congress was aimed at Student Branch Officers in the Benelux. The second part of the congress was constituted by two presentations about computer security. This part of the congress was also attended by the professional group NGI (Dutch Association of Information and Communication Technology Professionals).

Almost all the active Student Branches of the Benelux were present during this Congress. In addition to the Student Branch of Eindhoven, of course, also the Branches of Delft (NL), Leuven (B), Liège (B), and Twente (NL) were represented. In total about 35 people attended.

The highlight of the congress was the very first specimen of the prestigious Darrel Chong Student Activities Award, presented by Darrel Chong himself to the Student Branch of Twente for organizing the first Region 8 Robotics Contest.

*Ralph Wijshoff  
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## Time management: a vital tool for every student

WHEN WE wake up in the morning, we usually have best intentions for the day. However, when we set out for the day's work, we are usually faced with a lot of distractions, and may wish we had a 34-hour day instead of just 24.

But wait, let's stop to evaluate. Would a 34-hour day really solve the problem? Wouldn't we be as frustrated as we were with 24 hours?

Time is simply defined as that tool which increases productivity. It is that which cannot be bought or sold, turned ON or OFF, but has to be spent at a constant rate of 60 seconds per minute.

Time management involves setting our time to achieve set goals at

maximum efficiency. Since our work as students never ends, it is therefore important that we manage time if we must achieve set goals.

The problem usually associated with time management is that of priority. We find it difficult to reach a compromise between that which is important and that which is urgent.

Time-wasters usually come from 'self' and environment. However, the greatest source is from 'self'. We have to learn how to manage ourselves if we must manage time effectively.

1. Set a plan that contains 'must do', 'should do' and 'nice to do' categories.
2. Avoid procrastination as this reduces

efficiency and produces anxiety.

3. Stay out of unproductive meetings.
4. Manage telephone calls.
5. Manage friends and colleagues so that they don't distract us.
6. Have the ability to say 'NO' to favours that are to our detriment.
7. Be cautious about how you watch television.

In conclusion, time is not to be wasted but to be invested. We might not appreciate the value of a minute until we ask the man that missed the train, nor the value of a second until we ask the athlete that came second.

*Mabamidje Akpevwe A  
NAU Student Branch  
midje@ieee.org*

AS PART of the SB's objective of empowering its member with practical knowledge and experience in the field of Electrical, Electronics and Computer Engineering, the SB recently organized an Industrial Visit to one of the nation's foremost telecommunications company, MTS 1st wireless. The company is located at Ogabi Eletu Street, Victoria Island in Lagos state the, commercial nerve center of the nation.

A detailed explanation of how calls are routed from the subscriber Mobile Station (MS) to the Base Transceiver Station (BTS) and the Base

## Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria:

# OAU visits top telecoms in Lagos

Station Controller (BSC) was given and the functions of the various units that constitute these equipment were explained.

The visit included a tour of the Main Station Controller (MSC) and the Home Locator Resource (HLR) – a data warehouse where details of all subscribers is stored. We then proceeded to the Operations Management Centre (OMC) where the BTS is located and we also had



the opportunity of seeing the HUAWEI equipment in use. At the Mast Base an explanation was given of the functions of all the different types of antennae that are mounted on the Mast. A question and answer section with members

of staff of MTS 1ST Wireless was held during lunch.

Twenty students made the journey despite our tough and busy academic schedules.

*Bello Taofeek(Chair), Niyi  
Ojekunle (Event Organiser)  
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University of Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina:

# Tuzla SB is established

IN JANUARY 2007, Central Commission of IEEE ratified new IEEE Student Branch at University of Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. We want to thank IEEE Student Branch at University in Sarajewo, Bosnia-Herzegovina (especially Adnan Tahirovic and Omer Tanovic) and Prof Branislava Drazenovic, IEEE Section Chair, for advice and help in setting up this new IEEE Student Branch.

We were very pleased with the number of student members (25), but in order to promote IEEE student membership, we opened a web site ([www.ieee.fe.untz.ba](http://www.ieee.fe.untz.ba)) in local



and English languages. During March 2007, we began a new membership promotion campaign. During this year, we want to organize a student competition of papers from different scopes of engineering and guest speakers from academia and industry in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

L. Banjanovic-Mehmedovic  
IEEE Tuzla Student Branch  
Counselor  
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IEEE Lebanon Section:

# Bustling with activity

OUR IEEE student membership is probably the largest in Region 8, both in total numbers (593) and percentage (67%) – not bad for a country with a total population of no more than 4 million.

Indeed the students were very active for over ten years before the establishment of the IEEE Lebanon Section. They achieved first prize within Region 8 for their web site and came second globally (second to Arizona State University).

AUB (American University of Beirut) has established a yearly student conference with the papers based on the students' final year projects. The four student branches in Lebanon are also organising the first S-PAC activity by holding a full-day workshop at Berytech and industry incubators. Lectures will focus on best business practices for students wanting to launch their own business.

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# Conference calendar

Workshops, conferences & symposia in Region 8

## AUGUST

### MLSP 2007

2007 IEEE International Workshop on Machine Learning For Signal Processing  
Thessaloniki, Greece  
27–29 August 2007  
<http://mlsp2007.conwiz.dk>

### MMAR 2007

13th IEEE International Conference on Methods & Models in Automation & Robotics  
Szczecin, Poland  
27–30 August 2007  
[www.mmar.ps.pl](http://www.mmar.ps.pl)

## SEPTEMBER

### e-CUBES

1st Summer School on 3-D-Integrated Micro/Nano Modules for Easily Adapted Applications  
Angstrom Laboratory, Uppsala, Sweden  
3–5 September 2007  
[www.ecubes\\_summer\\_school.angstrom.uu.se](http://www.ecubes_summer_school.angstrom.uu.se)

### RFID Eurasia 2007

Istanbul, Turkey  
5–6 September 2007  
[www.rfideurasia.com](http://www.rfideurasia.com)

### EUROCON 2007

International Conference on Computer as a Tool  
Warsaw, Poland  
9–12 September 2007  
<http://eurocon2007.isep.pw.edu.pl>

### RFID 2007

1st International EURASIP Workshop on RFID Technology  
Vienna, Austria  
24–25. September 2007  
<http://rfid07.ftw.at>

### AFRICON 2007

Forum for Electrical, Electronic & IT research with related Mechanical and Civil activities in Africa  
Windhoek, Namibia  
26–28 September 2007  
[www.africon2007.co.za](http://www.africon2007.co.za)

### ICL2007

10th International Conference on Interactive Computer aided Learning  
Villach, Austria  
26–28 September 2007  
[www.icl-conference.org](http://www.icl-conference.org)

## OCTOBER

### eChallenges e-2007

The Netherlands  
9–12 September 2007  
[www.eChallenges.org](http://www.eChallenges.org)

## NOVEMBER

### eChallenges e-2007

The Netherlands  
9–12 September 2007  
[www.eChallenges.org](http://www.eChallenges.org)

### ICSPC 2007

IEEE International Conference on Signal Processing and Communications  
Dubai, UAE  
24–27 November 2007  
[www.icspc07.org](http://www.icspc07.org)

## DECEMBER

### ICTON-MW

2007 ICTON MEDiterranean Winter University of Sousse  
Sousse, Tunisia  
6–8 December 2007  
[www.iaer.eu/icton-mw07](http://www.iaer.eu/icton-mw07)

### ICECS 2007

2007 14th IEEE International Conference on Electronics, Circuits and Systems  
Marrakech Convention Centre, Marrakech, Morocco  
11–14 December 2007  
[www.icecs-conference.org](http://www.icecs-conference.org)

### SMAP

2007 2nd International Workshop on Semantic Media Adaptation and Personalization  
Brunel University, Uxbridge, UK  
17–18 December 2007  
[www.smap2007.org](http://www.smap2007.org)

### ICM

2007 International Conference on Microelectronics  
Nile Hilton, Cairo, Egypt  
29–31 December 2007  
[www.ieee-icm.com](http://www.ieee-icm.com)

### Note to Organisers

Only IEEE co-sponsored conferences and workshops in Region 8 are eligible for free publicity here. Send details as a plain text message to [r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org), putting *R8 News Calendar* in your subject line. Remember to state the event's full title, location, date and URL.

