TRANSNATIONALISM
From New York to San Francisco – but which way round?

"Transnational", a word of unknown origin which fails to make an appearance in the *Oxford English Dictionary* but which does appear in the Institute's pronouncements. One assumes that it may be taken to mean that "all members enjoy the same facilities and are governed by the same rules, without national distinction." What, one is entitled to ask, are the practical consequences which follow from the use of this attractive sounding promotional adjective?

Subscriptions to the Institute itself, to its journals and to its societies are determined by the governing body in the United States and are quoted in dollars; nothing could be more egalitarian, or could it? Engineer Hiram B. Hackenbacher III Jr. working in Hocopopo, Arizona may work for one hour to earn his subscription to the Computer Society, Ivanovitch Smirnoff of Marksograd labours for three hours to buy his membership and Ahmed Vizagapatan from Ghandipur puts in five hours of toil before he can claim his copy of *Computer* Magazine. Transnational? not according to our definition. Society in general has created the problem but done nothing to solve it, the IEEE has at least tried.

As a part of the process of joining the IEEE a list of approved educational establishments has been brought into being, the UK part of that document makes mention of Cambridge University, but omits the University of Oxford. Just as it should be, according to those from Cambridge; but it also omits all the UK polytechnics, bodies which award degrees of university standard. Surely if the IEEE needs this information the proper place to obtain it is from someone with local knowledge, the UKRI chairman, who would have no difficulty in obtaining a complete list. Professor Turner, the UKRI Chairman intends to correct this particular piece of transnational misinformation.

Holidays in the US calendar are no doubt important to those who live under the stars and stripes and quite rightly a list of US public holidays appears in the IEEE Technical Activities Guide (TAG), as, amongst other things, an aid to conference organisers, who like conference organisers everywhere, wish to avoid dates on which there are public holidays. Mr. George Washington's birthday is not celebrated in Rome, Riyadh, Sydney or Chungking with the same enthusiasm which it commands in Albuquerque, New Mexico; but the "outside" world does not rise indignantly at its inclusion in TAG. The dates of public holidays in Europe are freely available; they could figure in the TAG calendar and are not protected by copyright. What then of holidays in countries outside Europe, might not the IEEE inhabitants of such places feel a little aggrieved if their great occasions were to pass unnoticed. Once more the transnational problem is easier to specify than to solve.

The Institute rightly places more than a little emphasis on Continuing Education; by this it means continuing Electrical Engineer-
Our congratulations go to the Yugoslavia Section, the winner of the Regional Activities Board award for the best Section Membership Growth within the region during 1985; and to the Student Branch of the North Italy Section at the University of Trieste, the winner of the RAB Student Branch Growth award in Region 8 for 1985.

Our best wishes also go to France Section as 1986 marks the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Section in 1961.

Thanks to your efforts the Region 8 membership total continues to move forward at a steady rate, and reached 15068 at the end of 1985 (out of an IEEE world-wide total which is close to 275000). In our region the largest Sections are the United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland with 2495; Federal Republic of Germany with 1408; Benelux with 1369; Switzerland with 1188; and France with 969. All these figures were for 31 December 1985.

Where we have numerous members but as yet no Section, we endeavour to form one, provided that there are sufficient volunteers to provide an active Section Committee, and at least 50 names and membership numbers of voting members on the petition for the formation of the Section. For example in Kuwait and in the United Arab Emirates, I would like to see new Sections established this year, and members of standing in those countries who wish to participate in the work of a new Section are invited to write to me (some have already done so).

In some other countries, we have potential for new Sections, but the problem of gaining members and forming new Sections is closely related to currency exchange control regulations which prevent the payment of dues and subscriptions in dollars. Substantial effort is being directed by the IEEE towards finding an acceptable solution to this problem.

Many Sections in Region 8 maintain 43 Chapters of the IEEE Societies; and more are being formed. The Chapter meetings constitute an important part of the Section activities. We continue to encourage the formation of additional Chapters where there is sufficient enthusiasm by volunteers to keep them going. You may be interested to know that the IEEE Society Chapters in the Region include seven on Microwave Theory and Techniques; six on Antennas and Propagation; six on Computers; and five on Communications.

The Section has supported, or will support, the following conferences: Architektur und Betrieb von Rechensystemen (5-7.5, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, NTG); Mikroelektronik (June 1986 - Duisburg); Elektronenconferences: Architektur und Betrieb von Rechensystemen NTG / GMR); Netzrueckwirkungen (22-23.4, Bremen , ETG);roehren (5- 7 .5, Garmisch-Partenkirchen , NTG); Mikroelektronik (June 1986 - Duisburg) are being planned. For further information:

From the Sections

**GERMANY**

*By Professor Dr. Rudolf Saal*

In Munich, the MTT Chapter, established in 1985, held a very successful two-day workshop on CAD for Microwaves, for which there was an audience of more than 70. The Chapter now numbers some 100 members; sub-groups on CAD, sub-mm-waves, medical applications and professional aspects have been formed. Meetings on Mobile Systems (March 1986 – Stuttgart) and on hyperthermia (June 1986 – Duisburg) are being planned. For further information: Professor R. H. Jansen, University of Duisburg, Bismarckstr. 81, 4100 Duisburg.

A first local meeting of engineers involved in computer related activities has been organised by Mr. R. L. Baber, Landgraf Gustav Ring 5, 6380 Bad Homburg; a second meeting will take place in May at Frankfurt a. M.

In the coming months a number of local members’ meetings on topics of general interest will be held in Aachen, Stuttgart, Munich, Karlsruhe and Frankfurt.

Membership continues to rise and at the end of 1985 was about 1400, including 128 student members.

New student branches are being formed in Aachen and Duisburg Mr. Fassbender (Regimentstrasse 24, 5100 Aachen) has been nominated student Coordinator.

H. Meyer (Aachen), P. Lips (WT-Tiengen) and D. R. Lambrecht (Muelheim) have been elected Fellows.

The Section has supported, or will support, the following conferences: Architektur und Betrieb von Rechensystemen (10-12.3, Stuttgart, NTG/GI); Sensoren (17-19.3, Bad Nauheim, NTG/GMR); Netzrueckwirkungen (22-23.4, Bremen, ETG); Sprachkornrnunikation (29-30.4, Berlin, NTG); Elektronenroehren (5-7.5, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, NTG); Mikroelektronik fur die Informationstechnik (29-30.4, Berlin, NTG); 8. DAGM (30.9 – 2.10, Paderborn).

Amongst other conferences in 1987 will be the first of the newly formed series Comp Euro, which should become a major event in the field. (11-15.5.1987, Hamburg). Further information: Prof. Dr. W. E. Proebster, IBM P.B. 8000880, D-7000 Stuttgart 80, FRG. Comp Euro will include a contest for the best student paper; the authors of the five most meritorious papers will be invited to present them at an appropriate session of the conference – their expenses will be paid.

The Executive Committee met for two days in Bochum to discuss organisational matters. Professor Fettweis acted as host to a well attended and informative members’ meeting, which concluded the first evening. The next regular Committee and members’ meeting is planned for February 1987 in Berlin.

**EGYPT**

By Dipl-Ing Abdel-latif I. Ahmed – Vice-President, Egypt Section

A petition for the Establishment of a Computer Chapter in Egypt was approved by the President of the IEEE Computer Society and by the Region 8 Director. The organiser of the chapter, Dipl-Ing Abdel-latif Ahmed, was elected chairman, and Dr. Adel-Ganam will be the Secretary-Treasurer.

**Technical Meetings in 1985/6**

Local Area Networks – Dr. Adel Ghanam: 20 January (ICL)

Unix Operating System – Eng. Mokbel Fayad: 31 March (NCR)

Management of Software Systems – Eng. S. Nasr: 3 November (Canada)

Relational Data-base Systems – Eng. Kamil Wasi: 1 December (IBM)

Remote Sensing Applications in Egypt – Dr. Samir Shaheen: 5 January (Cairo Univ.)

Distributed Software Systems – Dr. Osamah Desouki: 9 February (Cairo Univ.)

An IEEE Sub-section in Sudan. A letter was circulated to all IEEE members in Sudan requesting their support for the establishment of a Sub-section. Replies were received from two members, one of whom visited Dr. Salah Amer in Cairo and promised to take the necessary steps. Unfortunately we are unable to make further progress on account of the political situation in Sudan; we hope that the situation will become clearer in the near future.

Increasing IEEE membership in Egypt. In 1986 a limitation of ten years after graduation was introduced for obtaining a 50 per cent reduction in IEEE membership dues and subscriptions (for incomes less than $5000 per year). Added to this the US dollar has increased by 60 per cent with respect to the Egyptian pound; the effect is to increase dues by about 120 per cent with respect to 1985. I have written to Mr. Herz in connection with these problems but have so far received no answer. I hope the Region 8 Committee will support my request for the removal of the ten years limit, especially for the developing countries.

**POLAND**

Meetings which have been held this year include:

From 11th-13th February 86.

Fourth Symposium on “Optical Fibres and their Application”.

From 11th-13th February 86.


“Mathematical Model of a Helicopter”. 8th April Dr. Eng. A. Adamowicz.


Future Meetings:


“Robotics and Automation”. 8th May 86. Prof. Dr. J. Jaron, Technical University of Wroclaw.

“Application of Television Signals to Time and Frequency Measurements”: 5th June 86. Prof. A. Wojnar, Military Technical Academy.
The International MONTECH'86 Conferences will take place in Montréal from September 29 to October 3, 1986. Sponsored by The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc. (IEEE), the event will be held in the city's new Palais des Congrès.

Participants to any conference will be granted courtesy admission to the other five Montech'86 conferences and to the Exhibition. The Exhibition will highlight products and services related to the different themes of IEEE Week.

THE TIME: September 29 — October 3, 1986

THE PLACE: Montréal, Québec, Canada

THE CONFERENCES:
- AC Power Systems
- Antennas and Communications
- HVDC Power Transmission
- PCB's and Replacement Fluids
- Electrothermal Processes
- Programmable Controllers

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Tel.: (514) 652-8213  Telex: 05-267-486

A PROGRAMME NOT TO BE MISSED!
IEEE Conferences

PAVIA – ITALY

Electromagnetic Fields in Electrical Engineering. This international symposium, organised in cooperation with the IEEE Sections from Poland and North Italy, will take place in Pavia from 23–25 September 1987; it will provide a forum for specialists engaged in theoretical and applied research in the following topics:

- Electric and magnetic fields in electrical machines, transformers and other electromagnetic devices.
- Methods of analysis and the synthesis of magnetic fields, both graphically and numerically.
- Interactive coupling between several electromagnetic fields.

The symposium will take place in the University of Pavia, one of the oldest in Europe. Pavia is near Milan in northern Italy. English will be the official language of the symposium – correspondence, papers and debates.

Call for Papers

Original and previously unpublished papers only are expected. They will be accepted on the basis of abstracts, which should not exceed 300 words. Abstracts and questionnaires should be submitted before 31st July 1986 to:

Scientific Secretariat ISEF '87,
Institute of Electrical Machines and Transformers,
Technical University of Lodz,
ul. Stefanowskiego 18/22,
90–924 Lodz, POLAND.

MUNICH – FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Computer Communication – ICCF '86

This Conference will be held on 12–16 May 1986; it is organised by VDE (Association of German Electrical Engineers) in co-operation with the German Section of the IEEE and others. Copies of the programme and other information may be obtained from: Secretariat, German Section IEEE, Stresemannallee 15, D-6000 Frankfurt 70. Tel: +49 6308 221.

BADEN BADEN – FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Large Scale Integration

The German Section of the IEEE, VDE/VDI Joint Committee of Microelectronics (FKME) and NTG (Communications Society of the VDE) are jointly organising this conference, which will take place from 16–18 March 1987. Further information may be obtained from the IEEE Secretariat; address given above.

HAMBURG – FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

VLSI and Computers – Comp Euro ’87

Final Call for Papers

Are you concerned with the development, design, manufacture or marketing of VLSI, microelectronics or computers? If you are, you are probably qualified to write a paper for presentation at Comp Euro ’87, which will be held in Hamburg from 11–15 May 1987. You will find all the information you need for submitting your paper in the Final Call for Papers enclosed with this letter.

This is the first conference at which engineers and scientists in the VLSI and microelectronics fields will be able to meet their counterparts having a professional interest in computers. It will enable both groups to discuss modern developments in their own speciality and provide perhaps an opportunity for co-operation. It is therefore a very special and important Conference at which to present a paper – do not miss this opportunity to publish and discuss your work!

Student Papers

The organising committee of Comp Euro ’87 is offering students an unprecedented opportunity for the presentation of a paper at a large international conference – Comp Euro ’87. Travel and hotel expenses for the authors of the five most meritorious papers will be reimbursed.

Student members of the IEEE, or of the other organisations supporting Comp Euro ’87, are invited to submit a paper on one of the topics listed in the Final Call for Papers. The papers will be judged by the Conference Selection Committee and the authors of the five selected will be invited to present their papers to the appropriate section of Comp Euro ’87. The Authors’ Schedule:

- Notice of Intent – 1 July 1986.
- 300 word Summary – 15 August 1986.
- Author Notification – 1 October 1986.

If you require further information or copies of the Final Call for Papers, they are available from Professor Dr. W. E. Proebster, c/o IBM, P.B. 80 08 80, D-7000 Stuttgart 80, W-Germany. Professor Proebster can also provide Comp Euro ’87 posters.

ROME – ITALY

Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference – Melecon ’87 and 34th Congress on Electronics

A joint conference organised by RIENA, the International Electronics Energy & Space Exposition, and the Middle and South Italy Section of the IEEE. It will be held in the Palazzo dei Congressi from 24–26 March 1987; the topics are:

- Communication and Computer Networks
- Technologies for Communication
- Energy Systems and Networks
- Communication Systems

There will be a student paper contest, numerous technical visits and the opportunity to view art and antiquities unsurpassed anywhere else in the world. A 300 word abstract should be submitted, before 15 June, to the address below, from which further information can be obtained.

Secretariat,
c/o RIENA-00193 ROME,
Via Crescenzio, 9
ITALY
Telephone: +39 6 656 9343, Telex: 44 611407 RIENA 1

STOCKHOLM – SWEDEN

Electrotechnology – EUROCON ’88

Preliminary Announcement

Area Communications is the Theme of EUROCON ’88

Digital Mobile Telephone Systems
ISDN, Local Area Networks
Advanced Radio Concepts
Digital Signal Processing
Standards

The Conference will be organised by the Swedish Society of Engineers (SER) and the IEEE Swedish Section; it will form a part of the celebrations for the SER centenary. Further information may be obtained from:

EUROCON ’88
PO Box 1617, S-111
86 Stockholm
Sweden.
A Conference Innovation

Montech '86 – IEEE Week in Montreal

This is a conference with a difference, in fact there are six independent conferences, all sharing a common administration, sharing a large commercial exhibition and sharing the facilities of the city of Montreal’s new Convention Centre. It is not the intention that the separate subjects shall be complementary but delegates attending one are free to take part in any other and of course to visit the exhibition. The conference titles are:

- AC Power Systems; Antennae and Communications; HVDC Power Transmission; Electrothermal Processes; Programmable Controllers; PCB’s and Replacement Fluids.
- As these subjects suggest, contributions will on the other hand be very practical: “Papers should be practical in nature in order to be readily usable by engineers, managers, physicians or any person dealing with PCB’s”, or “the Environmental effects of Transmission and Distribution Systems”; and on the other hand potentially theoretical: “Scattering and Diffraction in Antennae” or “Analysis and Modelling of High voltage DC Systems”.

The Very Large Scale Integrated conference is coming under increasingly severe attack and in many fields there is now a preference for small specialised conferences, which attract the experts, and that the large meetings fail to do. Perhaps large meetings are at their best when discussing matters of common interest, in which politicians, religious leaders, the informed lay public and the press might be expected to be interested. One shudders at the thought of trying to present a scientific point of view when every word or gesture will be manipulated to support the prejudices of the ill-informed, the dictates of mass entertainment, or the beliefs of those who place their gods above the reach of logic.

This bold Canadian experiment seems to have much from which we might formulate an alternative approach to conferences. For those who are interested, information may be obtained from: Montech '86 IEEE, PO Box 37, Station “A”, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING CONVENTION

IBC Award for 1986

The IBC Award was instituted in 1948 to mark the 10th International Broadcasting Convention. It takes the form of a cheque for £2,500 and a specially commissioned design in glass with a motif using the classic Greek Golden Section concept to symbolise the synthesis of Art and Technology in broadcasting.

Nominations for the Award are invited for outstanding work in any aspect of broadcasting and allied research, design, development, manufacture, operational practice and management.


LOCAL AREA NETWORKS

Proceedings of IEEE-City University Workshop

A limited number of copies of the Proceedings of a One-day Workshop on Local Area Networks, held at the City University, London, on 10 September 1985, are available for $15.00 each (including postage and packing within UK).

The Proceedings contain the full text of the papers presented 94 pages, which include tutorial material and descriptions of recent developments and standards.

Orders should be addressed to:

Miss Eileen Baker
Centre for Information Engineering, The City University, Northampton Square, London, EC1V 0BH, England
ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS CALENDAR

OF CONFERENCES and EXHIBITIONS

in EUROPE, the MIDDLE EAST and AFRICA

No. 10 May 1986

MAY 1986


JUNE 1986

June 16-20. REL-CON Europe '86. European Reliability Conference. Copenhagen, Denmark. Organiser: DIEU. Sponsors: EUREL, DIF, I-S. Contact: Danish Engineers' Post-Graduate Institute, The Technical Univ. of Denmark, Bldg. 208, Box 326, DK-2800 Lyngby, Denmark. Deadline: June 1, 1985 (Preliminary).

JULY 1986


JULY 1986


AUGUST 1986


SEPTEMBER 1986


September 1-5. Vacation School on “Plasma and plasma related etching of Semiconductor materials”. Liverpool, UK. Organiser: IEE. Contact: IEE Conference Department.


September 8-12. Workshop on “CAD for Digital Signal Processing”. Heverlee, Belgium. Organiser: IMEC. Contact: Dr. L. Claesen, IMEC, 5046 Avezzano, Kemelkereet 75-8, 3030 Heverlee, Belgium.


From the Conference Coordinator

Region 8

By Dr. J. Baal-Schem

Conference activities in Region 8 have grown from one every three years to two in the same year – 1987.

Eurocon '86, held in Paris at the Palais des Congres on 21–23 April 1986, was a great success, with more than 600 participants from countries as far apart as Chile and the People's Republic of China; there were delegates from most countries in Europe, and the Middle East and Africa. Eleven tutorials and more than 100 papers stressed recent developments in Hardware, Software, Expert Systems, Advanced Communication Technologies and Power Systems. About 100 students participated and a Student Paper Contest was held.

Eurocon '86 was one of a series of European Conferences on Electrotechnology sponsored jointly by IEEE Region 8 and EURON. A meeting of members of the IEEE Executive Committee, the Region 8 Committee and representatives of EURON, decided to nominate a standing committee for the Eurocon series of conferences and to involve the local section and the national society in the financial organisation of those events.

The next Eurocon will be in Stockholm on 13–17 June 1988. It will be organised by SER and IEEE Sweden Section and will celebrate the 100th anniversary of SER and the 25th anniversary of Region 8. At its first meeting, to be held in June this year, the steering committee will discuss the financial (sharing of surplus or loss) and technical arrangements of the conference; a formal agreement will be drafted. The general theme of the conference will be “Area Communications”.

Apart from the Eurocon conferences, Region 8 organises Mediterranean Conferences on Electrotechnology – Melecon. Melecon '85 in Madrid was technically and financially successful, with more than 350 participants. Melecon '87 will be held in Rome on 24–27 March 1987, with the general theme of “Developments in Telecommunication and Energy Systems”. The agreement for this conference has already been signed by IEEE Region 8, IEEE Middle and South Italy Section, and RIENA, the organisers of the ”Annual International Electronics, Energy and Space Exposition” in Italy. Melecon '87 will be a joint conference with the 34th Italian Congress on Electronics. A small committee of experts is organising the preparations and a detailed call for papers has already been distributed.

In 1987 we shall have the first Comp Euro, sponsored jointly by Region 8 and the Computer Society of the IEEE. Comp Euro will be held in Hamburg from 11–15 May 1987 on the main theme of “VLSI and Computers” and will feature a special course on organised low cost tutorials modelled on the full scale lectures given in Europe and the USA. I hope to meet the costs, full details are available from Dr. Veranasi.

The venue for Comp Euro '88 has been discussed and the theme will be finalised at a forthcoming meeting of the Comp Euro standing Committee. A Committee nominated by the Regional Committee is dealing with the next Africon, which was originally to be held at the end of 1986, but was postponed due to an ITU meeting in Nairobi arranged for September of the same year.

IEEE REGION 8 NEWSLETTER

Maile d to all members in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, reaching over 16,000 English-speaking electronics, computer, and electrical engineers in 78 countries.

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INSERT RATES

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All the above rates are net and include no allowance for discount. Cheques payable to County Secretarial Services.

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News to Editor Jan 1 April 1 July 1 Oct 1

Advertisements to County Secretarial Services Jan 15 April 15 July 15 Oct 15

Delivery inserts to County Secretarial Services Jan 22 April 22 July 22 Oct 22

Region 8 Computer Society

Chapters. We have Computer Society chapters in France, Switzerland, U.K., Egypt, Israel and Spain. A German Chapter is being formed and another in Belgium. Are other Chapters being formed? Please let me know.

Distinguished Visitors Programme. This is a panel of noted speakers who have agreed to speak at local Chapter meetings. Unfortunately it is a US based activity and the high cost of travel would be prohibitive. However, this gives us an opportunity. We in Region 8 could organise a Distinguished Visitors Programme.

We need: Volunteer Speakers, volunteer moderators and distinguished visitor programme organisers. This need not take too much time. Please write to the Computer Society Brussels office, c/o Ms. Nell Nachtengal, IEEE Computer Society, 2 Avenue de la Tanch , B-1160 Brussels, Belgium.

Chapter Tutorials. Murali Veranasi at the University of South Florida has organised low cost tutorials modelled on the full scale week-long programmes about which we read in our journals. Again, in Region 8 there are difficulties, but if you have some ideas on how to meet the costs, full details are available from Dr. Veranasi.

European Operations. I have formed a committee to advise on the operation of the Brussels office. We shall meet on 12th May. Our purpose is to guide the operation of the office so that we obtain the best co-ordination and services possible.

In keeping with the voluntary traditions of the IEEE Computer Society, I am looking for volunteers to contribute to the many tasks which are required – newsletter columns, conference diary, maintenance of information database. I hope in this way to build a communication channel which will benefit all members and student activities.