

# IEEE

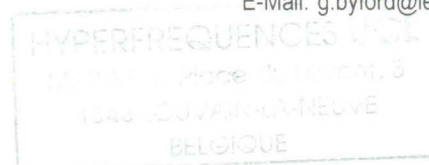
## Region 8 News

No 120 - November 1997

Europe, Middle-east and Africa



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### From the Regional Director

Dr. Maurice Papo



#### We are now number one!

Together with two other Region 8 members, Adolf Schwab from Germany and Levent Onural from Turkey, I attended a "Retreat" dedicated to the development of IEEE goals and strategies for the next five year period.

As we approach the second millennium, we find areas of IEEE activity at the forefront of radical changes in our way of life. The driving force for these changes is the

same as that which motivates the Institute to provide for its members a service that ensures their continuous technological development. I used to believe that most IEEE members joined because of the technical expertise and the peer interaction, to which their membership gives them access; this has been confirmed by every survey carried out amongst our members world-wide and advertised now through our new logo "Networking the World".

Obviously a simple measure of the Institute's success in providing for the members needs is to count the number of Society memberships; so I looked at the statistics given in the Secretary's annual report and found to my great satisfaction that we are NUMBER ONE! Region 8 has considerably more Society memberships than any other Region - over 63,000; Region 8 is also significantly ahead of all the other Regions on the ratio of Society memberships versus total number of members.

I am reminded of an old ad from a leading company which said that being number one also implied significant commitments. Quantity is not a goal itself if quality is not also there. I have attended some of the technical conferences held in our Region

and have been extremely impressed by the quality.... So, what is our challenge? There are people who make things happen, others watch things happening, yet others who don't know that anything has happened.

*There are people who make things happen, others who watch things happening, and yet others who don't know that anything has happened.*

Chapters cannot live without Sections, and vice versa, yet I do not see enough cross fertilisation between Chapters and Sections. In order to play our part in the Institute's forthcoming emphasis on worldwide technological progress it is essential that we start at the Section and Chapter level and foster the development of a new wave of IEEE volunteers with both Section and Chapter experience; The Region 8 EXCOM is concerned that there are parts of the Region where volunteers do not come forward in sufficient numbers to enable a learned society to achieve its goals over the long term.

Let me conclude with a quotation from Jon Madonna "Nothing stops an organisation faster than people who believe that the way they worked yesterday, is the best way to work tomorrow."

**Vocabulary:** "Retreat". A peaceful place whose tranquility is said to stimulate the cerebral processes

### Forward Planning

By Professor Charles Turner

#### Use of the Voluntary Contributions Fund in Region 8

Twice each year the Regional EXCOM meets to discuss issues of strategic importance and explore ways of improving service to the 35,000 members in Region 8. At a meeting held near London in July, one of the topics raised was the use of the Voluntary Contributions Fund to which members make donations when they pay their annual dues. The purpose of this fund is to provide financial assistance to the less affluent parts of the Region, helping Sections to run local offices, making grants for members to attend IEEE conferences and sending books and journals donated by members.

All the evidence shows that it is the technical activities that attract engineers to become members of IEEE; and that publications, technical meetings and conferences are of most interest to the membership.

The delivery of such benefits to the ordinary member relies heavily on the support provided by a locally-based infrastructure maintained by volunteers working at Region, Section, Chapter and Student Branch level. The most successful groups in Region 8 demonstrate how a strong partnership between these entities and the Headquarters organization in Piscataway underpins the whole dynamic. It ensures continuing growth as well as enabling each new generation of volunteers to take on the responsibility of leading the IEEE forward.

An effective way of getting more members involved is to organise more technical activities, especially for younger engineers at the beginning of their careers. This can be done through Student Branches or Chapters. Funds are available to help this process get started, covering the cost of meetings, travel expenses of speakers etc, making it possible to deliver the technical activities enjoyed by IEEE members in more fortunate parts of Region 8.

We need your proposals for the Voluntary Contributions Fund which now has substantial reserves. Send your ideas to the Director or to me as soon as possible.

Charles Turner, Forward Planning Co-ordinator, Region 8

**Vocabulary:** EXCOM. Executive Committee. Responsible for doing things, as opposed to an ordinary committee, which thinks of things for other people to do.

## France

By Professor Edwige Pissaloux

The **Section Annual Meeting** took place on June 17th at 7 pm. The Section activity report was outlined by the Chairman Mrs. Christine Nora. The Section has approximately 3,000 members. During 1996/7 a new officer was coopted: M. Jean-Gabriel Remy - Conferences Following the annual meeting, members had a traditional dinner, during which M. Didier Lombard, Directeur Général des Stratégies, Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et de l'Industrie, gave a talk on "Research in Computer Science and Telecommunications"

The IEEE was present at the last Zurich EMC 1997 Conference, with an EMC-S booth, thanks to the kind cooperation of the Conference Organisation; Dr. Ferdy Mayer, attended this booth. 15 members were registered at the conference, and welcomed to the Society at a Zurich EMC-S reception. The international EMC-S Committee is now located in provisional facilities, 12 avenue de la République, 94 700 Maisons-Alfort, a suburb of Paris.

The EMC BoD has promoted Dr. Ferdy Mayer to EMC Honorary Life Member in recognition of his coordination of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Society, International events and also his services to the Society's Board of Directors.

The 1997 conference on **Quality Control by Artificial Vision** took place in May 1997 at the University of Burgundy, in conjunction with the Signal Processing Society. More than 100 participants from industry and academia attended the conference. The next conference will be held in Japan, November 11-13.98. Information from Prof Hata: hata@laplace.ed.kagawa-u.ac.jp.

**A CIRCUIT AND SYSTEM CHAPTER** has been created. Dr. Agnieszka Konczykowska is its chairman (Agnieszka.Konczykowska@bagneux.cnet.fr)

**OCEANS '98** will be held in Nice, 28th September - 1st October 1998. Abstract deadline: February 6th 1998. Information from Rene Garello.: rene.garello@enst-bretagne.fr.

**IPMU '98** - Information Processing and Management of Uncertainty in Knowledge-based systems - July 6th-10th 1998 in Paris. Information from: impu@laforia.ibp.fr. <http://www-laforia.ibp.fr/-baslofti/im-pu.html>

**AVCS '98** - Advances in Vehicle Control and Safety - will be held in Amiens, July 1-3 1998. It will be hosted by the University of Picardie Jules Verne and the University of Technology of Compiègne. Paper deadline: Feb. 2nd 1998. Inf: avcs@u-picardie.fr

### Next Workshops

**MTT-ED: November 27th 1997** Toulouse, with GRE (ENSEEIH7) LAAS and SEE. Electromagnetic sensors and Applications. Inf: picq@len7.enseiht.fr

-----French-----

**Le 27 Novembre 1997** à l'ENSEEIH7, Toulouse, une Journée d'Etudes sur "Les capteurs électromagnétiques et leurs applications" est organisée par le GRE de l'ENSEEIH7 (LEN 7), le LAAS dans le cadre de la SEE, et avec le parrainage du Chapitre Français IEEE MTT-ED. Inf. picq@len7.enseiht.fr, tel. 05 61 58 83 72; Fax: 05 61 58 82 46

Le chapitre EMC vous invite aux conférences suivantes: le 24 novembre 1997 (date susceptible d'être modifiée)

"Global Trends in Commercial EMC Requirements", par Art WALL, FCC Washington.

le 19 janvier 1998 "Perfectly Matched layer - PLM" par J.P. BERENGER, A. BERTHON, Dr. F.MAYER.

Les conférences (inscription obligatoire auprès de la SEE, ont lieu à 17 heures à la S.E.E., 48 rue de la Procession, 75015; Tel: 01 44 49 60 15. Fax: 01 44 49 60 44.

**Les ANCIENS DE LA RADIO ET DE L'ELECTRONIQUE** vous invitent aux conférences suivantes: \*\*\*le 25 novembre 1997 "L'industrie électronique mondiale - Le défi Japonais" par Michael H. Carpentier" \*\*\*le 20 janvier 1998 "Le passage de 8 à 10 chiffres du plan de numérotation français du téléphone" par Jean-Pierre Poitevin, Ingénieur Général des Télécommunications.

Les conférences ont lieu à 17 heures à la F.I.E.E., 17 Rue Hamelin, 75 116 Paris, secrétariat: M. Crantelle; elles sont suivies d'un pot amical.

## Bulgaria

By Professor Jordan Kolav

As the world becomes increasingly open, we shall have to develop ways of establishing international standards of engineering education that will enable graduates everywhere to reach a common understanding on matters of common interest. A generally accepted accreditation programme is one step that would help in the solution of this problem.

The Bulgaria Section, in cooperation with TEMPUS Jen 03038 BG-96, organised a Workshop on *Accreditation of Engineering Courses*. It was held in Varna on 5-6th September 1997; representatives from most of the Bulgarian Technical Universities attended. The invited lecturers presented the rules and practice in accreditation and shared with us their accumulated experience.

The Accreditation Workshop was not the only Bulgarian Section-event in 1997. Among others there was a Summer School on Biomedical Electronics - The Annual Electronics Conference ET '97; Joint Bulgaria-Russia Conference on Information Systems; Conference on "Systems for Automation of Engineering and Research". The Bulgaria MTT/ED/AP/CPMT Chapter cosponsored VEIT '97.

The Section used these events for advertising and membership development, deploying special exhibition stands with periodicals, application forms, catalogues and other IEEE material.

Being one of the youngest Sections in Region 8, we are pleased to report that after only two years the membership has doubled. Two Student branches and two joint Chapters have been formed. During 1996 and 1967/7 two new Section officers were co-opted: M. Jean-Gabriel Remy (Conf.) and M. Naly Rakoto (Assistant Treasurer)

## Benelux

By Professor Piet Sommen

### Audio Signal Processing

A one-day seminar by the Benelux Signal Processing Chapter

More information at <http://www.ele.tue.nl/asp/>

December 10 1997 - Academisch Genootschap

Parklaan 93, Eindhoven

Signal Processing has a large range of applications. One very important and rapidly developing field of research in Signal Processing is that of Audio and Electro-acoustics. This one-day seminar is aimed at providing samples of Audio Signal Processing' from both the universities and from industry. Special emphasis is given to topics such as adaptive antenna arrays, virtual acoustic images, sound reproduction, audio coding, objective measurement of speech quality, compensation of nonlinearities in electrodynamic loudspeakers. In addition an overview of audio signal processing techniques will be given by Prof. Philip Nelson, one of the leading experts in the field

Eindhoven University of Technology

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## Cahora Bassa to

## South Africa

By Professor Duncan Baker

**Johannesburg:** After decades of bush war and a lack of regional cooperation between South Africa and its neighbours, Southern Africa is re-examining areas of mutual cooperation which will benefit the entire region. A prime example of this is the refurbishing of the Cahora Bassa hydro-electric power facility in Mozambique. This project became a focal point for various guerilla groups in Mozambique before and after that country's independence.

The 1400 km long dual 533kV DC, 2000A maximum rated, monopolar line from the underground power station on the South bank of the Zambezi River to the Apollo substation near Pretoria, would have delivered sufficient power to South Africa to ensure that the local power utility, ESKOM, could defer construction of more coal fired stations. Power fed into the national grid could also have been redistributed to neighbouring countries Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, and to southern Mozambique. The capacity of the five units commissioned by mid 1979 was 2000 MW, about half that of one of the modern coal fired stations built by ESKOM. A second 400 MW power station is scheduled for the North bank at Cahora Bassa.

The civil war in Mozambique resulted in extensive damage to the line, with an eighth of the towers on the 900km stretch in Mozambique being damaged or destroyed. The extent of repairs required to towers, and other hardware range from minimal, to extensive, with approximately 2000 towers being re-strung. Extensive upgrades and refurbishment were undertaken on various other facilities in the system, including amongst others, the Apollo inverter terminal near Pretoria, the Songo AC station, the HVDC rectifier station, and the Grid Master Power Controller.

*"The region as a whole is rich in natural resources, but the necessary infrastructure to exploit them is often lacking"*

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Agreements reached between ESKOM and Hidroelectrica de Cahora Bassa allow for 500 MW of ESKOM's allocation to be rerouted from Cahora Bassa some 200 km to Harare in Zimbabwe. Recent agreements between South Africa and Botswana make provision for the supply of 400 MW to Botswana's Tuli Block, via a 400kV line from South Africa, through the Tuli Block to Bulawayo in Zimbabwe.

Whilst the region as a whole is rich in natural resources, the necessary infrastructure to exploit them is often lacking; furthermore, South Africa itself has a limited potential for the development of hydro electric power, at Vanderkloof on the Orange River, and a major pumped storage scheme in the Drakensberg. This last station lies on the supply route of water pumped from the Tugela River in Natal to South Africa's industrial heartland Gauteng. Countries further north in Africa have as yet untapped potential for hydro-electric power.

Existing and planned interconnections between the powergrids of nations in Southern Africa could be of tremendous economic importance to the region. Current and proposed grid systems could link countries as far north as Kenya, and the Congo (on opposite sides of the continent) with intervening countries and South Africa. The distances involved are of the order of 3,000-4,000 km.

The dream of such a power grid system is one step closer to reality; eventually to unlock the social and industrial potential of all Southern Africa, with a resultant improvement in the living standards of all its peoples. First supplies of power along the refurbished DC lines from Cahora Bassa to South Africa were scheduled for September 1997.

**Vocabulary:** ESKOM - A Bilingual acronym for the Power Supply Authority

## IEEE Financial

## Advantage Program

By Dr. Rolf Remshardt, R8 Treasurer

The IEEE not only serves its members with outstanding technical programs and publications, it has also successfully launched a product which offers several cost-saving and value-added benefits to our members. This program is called "**IEEE Financial Advantage Program (FAP)**" and is designed to help members meet their personal and professional financial goals. Since its launch in 1993, more than 100,000 members in the USA are participating in this program. It comprises more than 25 offers; some of the most outstanding are:

- o Term Life Insurance
- o Accident Insurance
- o Disability Income Insurance
- o Health Care Insurance
- o Small Business & Professional Liability Insurance
- o Education & Auto Financing
- o Discount Shopping
- o Travel and Conference. Management Services
- o Financial Services such as
  - IEEE Credit cards
  - Mutual Funds
  - Non-US Investment Program
  - ...and many others.

Since our membership is located in all parts of the world, the IEEE is extending this program to Regions 7 - 10; I am the current FAP representative for R8, ensuring that the best cost-savings and value-added benefit programs are particularly designed and implemented for R8. The following products are already available in Region 8 :

- o Non-US Investment Program including. credit card.
- o Gateway Travel Insurance
- o Conference Management Services
- o Travel Services (Car Rental / Hotel discounts)

Due to the diversity of our Region, with so many different currencies, and legal and administrative restrictions, it may not be possible to introduce all available US products into all R8 countries. The IEEE can however, use its tremendous buying power to make competitive programs available in our Region. For this process to be more effective, we need to know about the interests and needs of our R8 members. Even if you are not interested right now, please respond and tell us about your interests and potential future needs or make new proposals that you would like to have; it would help us tremendously to focus on the real needs of the Region.

Last but not least, the IEEE will remain the world's leading association of Electrical Engineers, with outstanding publications and technical service. It will NOT go into commercial business; the FAP program is however, helping IEEE to keep quality high and any dues increase low.

### Please reply to :

Ginger Sanchez, [g.sanchez@ieee.org](mailto:g.sanchez@ieee.org) or  
Brian Anderson, [b.anderson@ieee.org](mailto:b.anderson@ieee.org) or  
Rolf Remshardt, [r.remshardt@ieee.org](mailto:r.remshardt@ieee.org)

### Further information may be obtained from:

IEEE FAP, 445 Hoes Lane Piscataway, NJ08855-1331 USA  
Internet: <http://www.ieee.org/finance.html>  
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IEE 8



## Call for Participation International Workshop on Chip Package Co-Design, CPD '98 ETH Zürich, Switzerland, March 24 - 26 1998

Traditionally, IC and package/MCM designs and manufacturing have been performed in different spheres. But to meet the time, cost, and performance constraints of future electronic systems, only a concurrent and matched design of IC and package will allow the exploitation of the inherent synergies to achieve system level objectives. Several concepts and technologies are contributing to this aim.

**General Chair:**  
Prof. Dr. Gerhard Troster

**Informations and registration:**  
Michael Scheffler

**Phone**  
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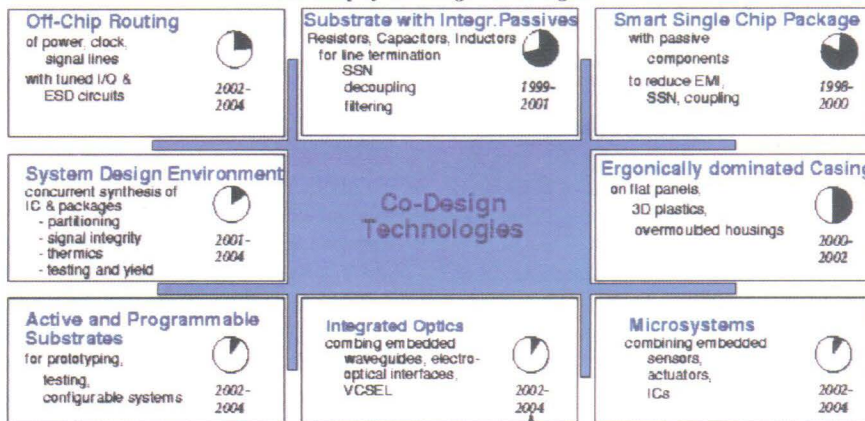
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### Roadmap of Co-Design Technologies



today's maturity: ○ 0% -> ● 100% start of volume production (Source: Netpack)



The workshop intends to stimulate the discussion between system designer and the IC and packaging experts from industry and academia to identify and to reduce the barriers between them. Presentations describing innovative concepts, advanced design methods as well as case studies and real-world applications are given.

## Standards

By Dr. L.F.Pau

However useful they may be, Standards are for some IEEE members, boring and uninteresting; but did you know that as a result of the work of its Standards Committees, the Institute is one of the largest contributors to standards in all fields covered by IEEE Societies?. In most cases the original suggestion and the subsequent up-to-date contributions, come from the members themselves. The IEEE Standards activities comprise a number of committees, amongst which are: New Standards, Review and Audit; these together with the Standards Board, act as the final decision making body, thus ensuring that quality work is being done at all levels. From 1998 the IEEE Standards Board will merge with the new Standards Association which, while still reporting only to the IEEE, will continue to provide the same services.

Over the years, most IEEE standardisation has taken place in North America; most initiatives too came from there. Starting in 1997, the IEEE finally became a Member of the IEEE Standards Board outside North America. One Standards Board meeting per year will be held outside North America; the first in Mexico and the second in Region 8, probably in Sophia Antipolis - with ETSI collaboration.

One of our most important aims is to increase substantially the involvement of IEEE members in the collaborative generation of new worldwide standards, especially in Region 8, where there are many members, and many collaborative research programs e.g. European Union funded R&D projects,. The benefit would be the achievement of fast worldwide recognition and standardisation; in this way brilliant ideas from Region 8 members would reach the world more quickly. Personal recognition goes with these results.

It normally takes 18-36 months from the initiation of the process to its completion; the work is collaborative, in committees which also conduct the standards preparation work. The committees consist of IEEE members and they meet in a variety of locations. The depth can be substantial, and state-of-the-art must be grasped, as liaison with other related worldwide standardisation activities is an integral part of the process.

If you as an IEEE Region 8 member, are interested in starting a standardisation project, in summary the steps are the following:

1. Get from IEEE Standards Activities, Piscataway "The Working Guide for submitting a Project Authorisation Request"
2. Gather an international group of specialists, members of the IEEE, with whom you wish to work.
3. Complete the PAR and submit it for endorsement to the standards representative in one of the IEEE Societies.
4. Submit the endorsed PAR to IEEE Standards activities, for submission in sequence to the New-standards Committee and to the IEEE Standards Board (unless some special aspects come into the picture).
5. If the PAR is approved, start work with the project group, enlarge it, interact and produce a draft as soon as possible.
6. Send the draft to IEEE Standards Activities, for submission to the Review Board and eventually to the Procedures and Audit Boards
7. If the balloting is positive, the balloted draft goes again for review and decision to the Standards Board; it can thereafter be distributed as a published standard.

## South Africa

By Professor Duncan C. Baker

The IEEE's International Symposium on Industrial Electronics (ISIE '98) will be held on 7 - 10th July 1998 at the University of Pretoria, Pretoria, about 60 km North of Johannesburg.

Topics will include, but are not limited to, emerging technologies, factory automation, power electronics, robotics, vision and sensors, and signal processing and control. Authors may submit four copies of an extended abstract consisting of a title page, 200 word abstract on a single page, followed by a 2,000 word summary, figures and references. Submission of the summary - December 15th 1997. Notification of acceptance - February 28th 1998 onwards. Final manuscripts due - April 30th 1998. Submissions may be made as follows:

Region 8 to: Prof. Johan Delpont, Dept of Electrical Engineering, University of Pretoria, 0002 Pretoria, South Africa. Tel: +27 12 420 3587. Fax: +27 12 362 5000. E-mail: delp-gj@fanella.eee.up.ac.za.

Region 10 to: Prof. Hideki Hashimoto, Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo, 7-22-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106, Japan. Tel: +81 3 3402 6231 Fax: +81 3 3423 1484. E-mail: htt://hashimoto@iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Regions 1-7 & 9 to: Prof Guy Beale, Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 4444, USA. Tel: +1 703 993 1596 . Fax+1 703 993 1601. E-mail: gbeale@gmu.edu

Further information can be obtained from: ISIE98@fanella.eee-up.ac.za or the ISIE '98 Web home page <http://nn.uwyo.edu/ISIE98/>

## Israel

By Dr Jacob Baal-Schem

MELECON is the major International meeting of Researchers and Practitioners from Countries facing the Mediterranean Sea; this will be the 9th Conference since its initiation in 1981. It will be held in Tel-Aviv, Israel on May 18-20, 1998 at the Dan Panorama Conference Hotel. The General Chairman is Dr. Jacob Baal-Schem, who initiated the MELECON series of Conferences.

In response to the Worldwide Call for Papers, the Technical Program Committee, chaired by Prof. Anthony Weiss, received 430 abstracts from 27 Countries: including Turkey - 73, Yugoslavia - 52, Yugoslavia 28, Slovenia - 28, Croatia - 20, Yugoslavia -20, Spain - 22 - Russia - 19 Macedonia - 17, Portugal - 14, Italy - 12, Poland - 10, Greece - 6, and 2 each from USA India, Brazil, Japan and Mexico.

The main theme of MELECON '98 is "Regional Cooperation in Technology"; it will include 5-7 parallel sessions dealing with the Principal Topics. Abstracts received so far deal with Power Engineering, Communications, Computer Communications, Vehicular Technology, Electron Devices, Industrial Electronics, Signal Processing and Lasers. All abstracts have been sent to the reviewers; the Technical Program Committee will have the difficult task of choosing those papers that will be included in the Technical Program and printed in the Conference Proceedings. A annual Student Paper Contest will be held for the presentation of the best papers by young researchers.

MELECON '98 will be held while Israel celebrates its 50th Anniversary and the Conference has been approved as an official Anniversary event. May is an excellent season for touring the Country and Tel-Aviv is the centre of Israeli-Tech Industry and home of the Tel-Aviv University, the main centre of Technological Research and Education. Therefore both Technical and Tourist opportunities will be available to the participants and their accompanying persons.

Inquiries for additional information and an Advance Program will be welcomed by:

MELECON '98 Secretariat, AEAI, PO Box 3082, Tel-Aviv 61030 or by fax: +972-3-5244618. The Conference Home Page is at: <http://www.eng.tau.ac.il/~ajw/melecon.html>



Networking the World

# Region 8 Student News

November 1997

Editors:

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Levent Onural (Regional Student Activities Committee Chairman), L.Onural@ieee.org

## Editorial

Hi folks!

In case you're wondering if you have read the headline: you don't have a new student representative, I simply have married and my last name's changed due to that and now is Hannemann. So please update your records accordingly. My old email address will still be valid for some time but please use the new one to really make sure that your messages reach me.

Now for something different: the first issue of this newsletter has been received pretty well as far as we can judge it. However, we would sure like to have feedback from you, so drop us a note and let us know how we do our job in creating the Student News. I would like to thank everybody who contributed articles to this issue and, at the same time, call for further articles for future issues. Whenever your Branch has carried out a successful event, send us a 200 - 300 word article about it so other Branches and members can share your ideas.

Jens

### Conference Support for Students

Student members who attend an IEEE conference in 1997 may get a voucher up to \$30 to be used for their 1998 membership renewal. To receive the voucher, your IEEE mailing address must be in Region 8 and information about the conference, your membership number, proof of payment of the conference registration fee as well as your address (plus your e-mail if you have one) must be mailed to Levent Onural, Elektrik ve Elektronik Muh. Bol., Bilkent Universitesi, TR-06533 Ankara, Turkey. You'll get your vouchers before the 1998 membership renewal cycle starts. More information can be obtained from

[www.ee.bilkent.edu.tr/~onural/free.html](http://www.ee.bilkent.edu.tr/~onural/free.html)

## After STUDENT 97, Before STUDENT 98

First Conference for Undergraduate Students a Success

Article by Arda Yurdakul

Hello Everybody!!! I am happy to announce that the undergraduate students of IEEE Student Branch at Bogazici University in Turkey had successfully organized STUDENT 97, the first conference for undergraduate students at Bogazici University between Sept. 18 and 21, 1997. Approximately 150 students from Bogazici, Istanbul Technical, Istanbul, Yildiz Technical (Istanbul); Bilkent, Middle East Technical (Ankara); Cukurova (Icel) and Dokuz Eylul (Izmir) universities attended the activities. The speakers were both from universities and companies. There were lectures on several interesting subjects on EE and Computer Engineering. The Regional SAC Chairman, Levent Onural, also gave a lecture in this conference. There was a technical visit to TURKCELL, the main sponsor of the conference. Also there had been an exhibition of the sponsoring companies, such as TURKCELL, Mavi Jeans and KopiSHOP. There were also social activities including a basketball tournament, a tour in Bosphorus, a piano concert, and a touristic tour in ancient

city of Istanbul. During this conference, many students from different universities in Turkey had found a chance to meet each other. The idea for this conference was first announced by Baris Sumengen in May and he formed the seed committee with Muharrem Ay and Ismail Ari in June. They took graceful helps from other IEEE student members in Bogazici University such as Kavel Buyuksahin, Gurkan Gur, and an undergraduate student from Istanbul Technical University: Ugur Yildiran. Also student branches in other universities helped a lot while announcing this conference to the undergraduate students. As the chair of the Student Branch in Bogazici University and the name-finder of the conference, I really thank to everybody who made this conference a successful happening. Next year, STUDENT 98 will be again held in Bogazici University in August, and we hope to meet our friends in Region 8 this time.

*Arda Yurdakul is the chairman of the Student Branch in Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey*

### 1998 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest

The deadline for submissions to the 1998 regional student paper contest is 15 December 1997. Only the winners of the local contests at student branches can be submitted to the regional contest. You can establish the rules for your local contest, including the deadlines, as you like within your branch. The rules for the regional contest can be retrieved from [www.ee.bilkent.edu.tr/~onural/sac.html](http://www.ee.bilkent.edu.tr/~onural/sac.html) in postscript form. The submissions will be evaluated by an international jury. The best 5 or 6 will be invited to oral finals. Though no final decision is reached, yet, the oral finals are likely to be within MELECON'98 in May in Israel. The travel costs of the finalists are covered by IEEE. In addition, there are cash awards to the first three (\$500, \$300 and \$200). Please submit a paper. Talk to your branch officers to have a local contest. You can get the names of your local branch officers from Levent Onural ([l.onural@ieee.org](mailto:l.onural@ieee.org)).

## Deadlines & Upcoming Events

**November 1** *Annual Plan of Activities* due to student services. Upon timely receipt, \$20.- or \$50.- allotment sent based on membership size as of December 31 statistics.

**November 22** *Leadership Training Program* for branch officers will be held in Karlsruhe, Germany.

**December 15** *Student Paper Contest* deadline. For more information, see the announcement above.

**December 31** *Student Branch rebate* (\$1.10 per member) is based on year-end membership statistics.

**January 10** *Complete Membership rosters* as of December 31 sent to branch counselors

**February 1** *Exemplary Student Branch Award* nominations deadline. Send nominations to RSAC (Levent Onural).

If you want *your* local student branch activity listed here, just drop us an email.

## Symposium on Neural Networks Eindhoven Branch Held Their Annual Symposium

Article by Iris Haubrich

A symposium on Neural Networks was held at the Eindhoven University of Technology (TUE) on April 3rd 1997. This successful symposium, visited by 276 persons, was organised by IEEE Student Branch Eindhoven in co-operation with the Computing Centre and the Faculty of Mathematics and Computing Science of the TUE. In October 1996 a committee was formed, consisting of 6 IEEE SBE-members. This committee searched for lecturers and sponsors, made promotional material like posters and brochures, made the necessary arrangements for the Auditorium, catering etc. and last but not least the compilation of the proceedings.

About five months, 22 meetings and a zillion cups of coffee later, the day had finally arrived. Every visitor was welcomed at the Auditorium with coffee and a case containing proceedings and other info. At 9:15am M. Rem, rector magnificus, opened the symposium, followed by Dean W. van Bokhoven, who fulfilled his task as chairman of the day with much enthusiasm. The morning session started off with a lecture of J. Vandewalle. He made with his lecture, a video and demonstration, neural networks understandable for everyone present. The other lectures of the morning session were held by H. Kappen of the Foundation for Neural

Networks, Mrs. J. van Dommelen of the SAS Institute and A. Anema of Philips Research. During the lunch break and the coffee breaks everyone could visit the information market, where several companies showed their products and services related to neural networks. The afternoon was filled with two parallel sessions. In the "Blauwe Zaal". A. de Weijer, H. Brockmeyer and R. Frenken explained how the companies they work for (AKZO Nobel, Smit Transformatoren, and KEMA) use neural networks and why they chose neural networks instead of conventional techniques. At the same time other lectures could be heard in hall 5, where M. Kraaijveld (Shell), D. Egberts (Biologica) and P. Meiler (TNO-FEL) made clear that neural networks are used in all kinds of industries, varying from condition monitoring of a diesel engine to predicting stock market returns.

Afterwards the committee had organised a dinner with all the lecturers, a perfect closing of a perfect day!

Check out our symposium pages on our website <http://www.ele.tue.nl/ieeesb> under past events!

*Iris Haubrich is the chairperson of the Student Branch Eindhoven.*

## Student Awards

### An Overview of Awards Available for Student Related Activities

Among the benefits of being an IEEE Student Member are the many awards and scholarships for which students are eligible. Far too often, no or too few nominations are received for an award. This article gives a brief overview of some of the awards available so that you are informed and able to nominate somebody who is eligible for a specific award. For student branches, it might be a good idea to have an awards officer responsible for the search of candidates and to watch the deadlines connected to a nomination.

**Student Paper Contest** Of course, this is the most widely known regional activity among students. During the last years, there have been around 10 - 20 submissions and between 5 and 7 finalists, so chances are quite good for those who participate. In our region, the first three winners are awarded \$500, \$300 and \$200 cash prizes and an additional \$500 goes to the winner's branch as the newly established Dick Poortvliet award. For deadlines and rules see the add on page 1.

**Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award** The purpose of this award is to encourage, through public recognition, exemplary Student Branch operation. By providing a list of documentation filed throughout the school year, the Branch demonstrates its exemplary operations. There is no limit to the number of awards given, i. e., all Branches in a Region are eligible. Nomination deadline is 1 February. For more information on this award, you can contact the IEEE Student Services Coordinator (Laura Durrett), your RSAC (Levent Onural) or your RSR (Jens Hannemann).

**Outstanding Student Branch Counselor Award** This award was established to recognize the important contribution of the faculty Counselor or Advisor. Each year, up to ten outstanding Counselors and Advisors (one per Region) will receive a cash award in recognition of their

contribution. Winners will be those who, through their work as Counselors and Advisors, exemplify the IEEE's commitment to the educational, personal, professional and technical development of students in IEEE related fields of interest. To nominate a Branch Counselor or Branch Chapter Advisor, a Branch must submit an essay (not to exceed 1500 words) on why they feel he/she has earned the qualifications for this award. Nomination deadline for this award is 28 February. For additional information, contact the Student Services Coordinator.

**Larry K. Wilson Award** The purpose of this award is to recognize annually, in each Region, the student most responsible for an *extraordinary accomplishment* associated with student activities (for an example see the last issue of this newsletter). It is designed to reward a particular event or product of IEEE activities. The student most responsible for a worthy accomplishment may be nominated by a Branch Counselor, Section Chair, or Section SAC Chair. This award consists of a plaque and three years free membership in the IEEE. Nomination deadline is 31 March. If you need more information, you can contact the Student Services Coordinator or the RSAC.

**Scholarships** Several scholarships, mainly sponsored by IEEE societies are available to student members. They usually contain a considerable amount of money to support a student's research within the field of interest of the particular society. For more information on these, contact your RSAC or RSR.

*Note:* Deadlines cited here are as of 1997. They may be subject to change. In November, branches should receive an awards nomination package containing nomination forms and the corresponding deadlines.