Disasters, the result of nature's discontent with its environment or man's inability to live in peace with his neighbours, are never far from the television screen or daily papers.

The relief agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, work under conditions of considerable discomfort and danger, in countries where roads are almost non-existent and communications between units in the field and base headquarters difficult or absent. Those who provide such communications as do exist, rarely merit the attention of popular journalism, but in a large measure it is thanks to communications engineers that relief agencies are able to keep in touch with one another and their base.

In 1994, when the tragedy of Rwanda created a "township" of more than a million desperately sick and hungry refugees, the UNCHR's established means of radio communication, HF radio transmission, was overwhelmed. The installation of INMARSAT satellite terminals at each UNHCR location was unable to cope with the volume of voice, data and fax communication needed to coordinate the international response to such an unprecedented human disaster.

UNHCR then turned to a relatively new technology, Very Small Aperture Satellite Terminals. The name is small enough, but their 3.7 meter reflectors meant that the VSAT dishes were much larger than anything that the technical staff had hitherto experienced, but they did provide eight simultaneous channels in place of the one that had previously been used. One problem came immediately to the fore; the VSAT systems required a much 'cleaner' power supply than that immediately available - UNHCR technicians had to learn about yet another new technology, and 'no-break' power supplies.

The next requirement was for a telephone exchange PABX (Private Automatic Branch Exchange) that would permit everyone to have access to the new systems - the solution this time was the installation of a UHF Telephone link - yet another complication for the hard pressed technical staff. Dozens of VHF repeaters were installed on every accessible, and sometimes inaccessible site. The most difficult of these difficult sites was 3,000 metres up the side of the Nyiragono volcano; everything had to be carried up the mountain by unaided humans. The installation team did however discover one unexpected advantage provided by this site; there was a constant wind produced by the heat from the volcano's crater.

Now what was wanted was a wind generator. Contact was established with headquarters in Geneva and a request made for a wind generator; this quite naturally was passed to Holland, where else would you expect to find a spare windmill? Recent events in the area had prevented any maintenance visits to the site for over 5 months but the repeater continued to function on wind and solar energy - providing a telecommunications service over an area of more than 100 square kilometres.

Perhaps one of the most promising innovations yet to be introduced into primitive and inhospitable places is the Clockwork Radio; communication over quite a modest distance is to some people the equivalent of interstellar probes or the ubiquitous Internet.

The success of these humanitarian projects owes much, not only to those dedicated engineers of all kinds who build bridges over seemingly impossible obstacles, make roads out of puddles and introduce technology into a world which cannot possibly understand it; but to other who possess a variety of skills harnessed in so many different ways to the relief of suffering in some of the world's most uncomfortable places. Sitting in your comfortable laboratory, think of your colleagues who have chosen to tolerate a far less agreeable climate.

Remember too that it is hard to be grateful on an empty belly.

G.H. Byford
M. Michel Israel (U. D’Evry) has been nominated the Computer Society’s treasurer as from January 1st 1998.

Circuit and System Chapter (CAS004). Its chairman is Dr. Agnieszka Konczykowska, research engineer at CNET, Bagneux. Inf. Agnieszka.Konczykowska@bagneux.cnet.fr. Fax: 33 (0) 47 46 04 17. Tel: 33 (0) 42 31 74 62.


IEEE Int. Conf. On Advances in Vehicle Control and Safety (AVCS’98) 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, Compiègne. Paper Deadline Feb. 2, 1998. Inf.: avcs@u-picardie.fr

France Section contacts:
Chairman: Christine Nora. E-mail: nora@poly.polytechnique.fr.
Secretary: Edwige Pissaloux. Edwige. Pissaloux@univ-rouen.fr.
IEEE France Section Internet address: http://w3.u-picardie.fr/~cerin/ieee/

NEWS IN FRENCH


Le chapitre EMC vous invite à le 19 janvier 1998, à « Perfectly Matched Layer – PLM », par J.P. BERENGTER, A. BERTHON, Dr. F. MAYER (l’inscription obligatoire auprès de la SEE : elle aura lieu à 17 heures à la S.E.E., 48 rue de la Procession, 75015 à 17h30 ; tél. 01 44 49 60 15 ; fax : 01 44 49 60 44.1 58 82 46. Date limite de réception des résumés : 25 février 1998.

LES ANCIENS DE LA RADIO ET DE L’ÉLECTRONIQUE vous invitent aux conférences suivantes: 
The Section meeting took place in March 1997 at the ELIN transformer factory in Weiz. The Section activity report was outlined by Mr. E. Trummer and Prof. K. Richter. The Section has approximately 650 members. The IEEE was present at several conferences held in Austria: the Computer Society Workshop on parallel and Distributed Simulation at Lockenhaus in June, and the Transformer Committee meeting in Graz.

In 1998 there will also be several IEEE meetings in Austria:

- 2nd World Conference on Photovoltaic Energy Conversion ICPEC - July in Vienna
- IS&T 10th Image and Multidimensional Signal Processing Workshop - July in Alpbach
- Neural Computation conference in Vienna.

**Activities of the Austria Section**

With the support of the Section the International Symposium on Neural Computation NC '98 will take place at the University of Technology Vienna, from 23rd-25th September, 1998. It will be hosted by the Institute fuer Elektrische Regelungstechnik under the patronage of Prof. Alexander Weinmann.

Dr. Michael Heiss from Siemens Austria, head of the New Technologies Group ECANSE, will be co-director of the Centre for Biological and Computational Learning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be honorary chair of the conference.

NC'98 will bring together scientists and practitioners in the field of Artificial Neural networks. The conference will concentrate on the computational aspects of Neural Networks in the widest sense, from convergence theory, numerical aspects and hybrid systems, through to neural software and hardware. In addition, the conference will provide a venue for the discussion of commercial and other practical applications of the technology.

It is hoped that participants will have a common interest in, and a fascination for, self learning systems in nature, their theoretical modelling and interpretation, and their computational implementation.

One of the highlights of the conference will be the plenary lectures by:

- Prof Tomaso Poggio from MIT USA - Learning Sparse Representation.
- Prof Wolfgang Maass, Technical University of Graz, Austria - Spiking Neurons and
- Prof. Igor Aleksander, Imperial College of Science, Technol and Medicine, London U.K. - Models of Visual Awareness in a Multi-modul Neural Network

The deadline for abstract submission is January 31, 1998, and for poster submission June 30th 1998. Abstracts may be submitted by electronic mail to iscs@compusmart.ab.ca. Tutorials and demonstration sessions will also be organised.

More detailed information about the conference and its beautiful location (September is the best time for a visit to Vienna) can be found at http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/icsc/nc98.htm or from the chair - m.heiss@ieee.org. Take advantage of this opportunity to join in this IEEE activity in Austria!compusmart.ab.ca. Tutorials and demonstration sessions will also be organised.

More detailed information about the conference and its beautiful location (September is the best time for a visit to Vienna) can be found at http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/icsc/nc98.htm or from the chair - m.heiss@ieee.org. Take advantage of this opportunity to join in this IEEE activity in Austria!

**Section Chairman:** Prof. Dr. Michael Muhr, HV-Eng, TUG, lnffeldgasse 18, A-8010 Graz, Austria. Tel: 43 316 873 7400. Fax: +43 316 873 7900. E-mail: muhr@hspt.tugraz.ac.at

**Slovenia**

By Dr. Andrej Zemva

This year, the IEEE server (http://www.ieee.si/) starts operating. In addition, a student corner with internet facilities is available for Student members in Ljubljana and Maribor.

In June, our Section organised the lecture "Technical Education in India, with emphasis on the Institute of Higher Education, given by our former PhD student Prof. Viswanath Sinha from the Indian Technical Institute of Technology Kanpur.

On September 24,26, the sixth Electrotechnical and Computer Conference took place. This year there were more than 300 participants and lectures. We had the pleasure of hosting a past IEEE president, Wallace Read - an invited speaker with a lecture "The 21st century Engineer". A new and special event was a video conference round table in collaboration with Prof. Eric Persoon from Philips Research laboratories. During the conference, there was a regular annual Slovenian Section IEEE Student paper contest, sponsored by the Hermes Softlab, Ljubljana.

Let me use this opportunity to announce that on July 5-9th 1999, our country will host an International Symposium on Industrial Electronics, organised by the University of Maribor and supported by the Slovenia Section.

**Deadlines:** Summary December 1st 1998
Notification of acceptance 15th Feb. 1999
Final manuscript due April 30th 1999.

Additional information may be obtained from: the general co-chair: Prof. Karel Jezernik: E-mail: karel.jezernik@uni-mb.si or Prof. Guiseppe Buja: E-mail buja@light.dei.unipd.it

**Section Chairman:** Prof Jurij F. Tasic, Univ of Ljubljana. Fax: Elec Eng, Trzaska 25, Si-1000, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Tel: +386 61 1768 440. Fax: +386 61 1768 492. E-mail: jurij.tasic@fe.uni-lj.si
Starting in January 1998, 12 Student Branches in Region 8 will benefit from a new project financed by the Voluntary Contributions Fund established through donations from Regional members. The project enables the Student Branches to receive, free of charge, the IEEE All-Magazine package, which includes the newsletters and magazines of all 37 IEEE Societies (but not the journals) for 1998.

This project grew out of the aim to stimulate growth of student membership and to provide more resources to Student Branches. The magazines will be held locally by the Student Branches so that the collection will be accessible to student members of IEEE. Because the magazines are not considered to be archivable they are particularly suitable for the informally held collections typically maintained in student branch offices.

The 12 recipients chosen in the pilot programme are: The universities of: Bogazici, Cairo, Eastern Mediterranean, Istanbul, Jordan - Science and Technology, Lebanese American, Mansoura (Egypt), Sarajevo, Teheran, Varna, Sofia -, Technical, Parma, (Italy).

The program will be reviewed at the end of this year to assess its value to the student members. Other Student Branches will be invited to join the scheme, subject to availability of funds, in 1999.

All student members at the 12 universities taking part in this year's pilot programme are invited to send their comments to me by E-mail at c.turner@ieee.org to help us evaluate the project.

IEEE Region 8 Planning Co-ordinator

Professor E. Folke Bolinder

Folke Bolinder has since 1980 looked after the interests of distinguished Regional members nominated as Fellows or for an Award; an activity that has occupied much of his time and talent. Amongst his many distinctions are: Technical Director of the Royal Institute of Technology, member of the New York Academy of Sciences, and Fellow of the IEEE; he was Chairman of the Swedish Section and Director of Region 8.

His ample frame and a cheerful personality endeared him to friends and colleagues alike; we wish him a very pleasant and rewarding retirement from the Region 8 Committee.

E. Folke Bolinder. Askims Kyrkasvag 9, S-43640 Askim, Sweden

Jerusalem, Israel March 30 - April 3, 1998

ECBS '98 Engineering of Computer Based Systems
Design, development, deployment and analysis of complex systems, determined or controlled by computers

Secretariat: P.O.B. 3401, Jerusalem, Israel
Fax: 972-2-6520-558 E-mail: isas@netvision.net.il

Wiley ... Keeping You Informed Of The Latest Publications

FORTHCOMING

Intelligent Systems Applications in Power Engineering: Evolutionary Programming and Neural Networks
Dr Loi Lei Lai

The concept of evolutionary programming is the most novel of computational intelligence techniques under development for applications in electric power systems. This book presents a coherent account of neural networks and evolutionary programming applications as optimisation techniques in electric power systems.

- Includes practical applications of neural networks
- Provides clear application examples to illustrate principles
- Describes potential solutions offered by computational intelligence

0471 98085 1 due May 1998 approx 275 pp approx £55.00

FORTHCOMING

Applications for Electronic Displays: Technologies and Requirements
Sol Sherr

The ongoing development of applications for Electronic Displays now warrants a separate book which is an ideal companion to Sol Sherr's Electronic Displays (2nd Edition). This new book covers all standard and new applications from display terminals to computer graphics, multimedia and virtual reality.

- Emphasises the relationship between the requirements of an application and the various technologies employed.
- Provides an independent source of information on display technology particularly those used to produce electronic displays.
- Includes illustrations within each chapter to aid accessibility

0471 04228 5 due May 1998 approx 420 pp approx £55.00

NEW EDITION

Electric Power Systems
4th Edition
Dr Brian Cory, Imperial College
Dr B M Weedy, University of Southampton

A brand new edition, authored by Professor Brian Cory, which ensures the continued success of Dr Weedy's comprehensive textbook.

- Thorough revision and update which takes into account the changes following utility privatisation and its resulting impact on planning, operation and distribution.
- Extended coverage of power system components
- Includes a new chapter on power system economics and management issues
- Features worked examples at the end of each chapter and concise explanations of difficult concepts making it an ideal student text

0471 97677 6 due April 1998 approx 512 pp approx £27.50

John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Baffins Lane, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1UD UK, Tel: 01243 770555, Fax: 01243 770460

Select Titles Promotion

A unique opportunity to add to your collection of essential books on electronic and electrical engineering. From 1st November 1997 to 31st March 1998 we are reducing the prices of over 130 best-selling titles from our world class technology publishing programme. To obtain your Select Titles brochure and enhance your collection of key references and handbooks, simply complete the form below and return it to Janice King at John Wiley or telephone/fax on the numbers below:

Titles included cover:
ATM
Audio
Digital Signal Processing
Opto-Electronics
Electronics
Teletworking
Image Processing
Virtual Reality

Please send me a copy of your Select Titles Promotion Brochure:

Title & Name:
Promotion Brochure:
Address:
Postcode:
Country:
Hungary
By Professor Imre J. Rudas

Foundation of the Hungarian Joint Chapter: Industrial Electronics and Robotics and Automation Societies


On the basis of advice and constructive suggestions from a number of prominent engineers, the appropriate Petition and Declarations were submitted; the date of the Section's formation was declared to be 8th October 1997.

Hungary, a relatively small Central European country experienced a period of considerable difficulty during the years of its economic transition. The negative "side effects" of the first half of this transition strongly influenced those sectors of the national economy that encompass the use of modern equipment, especially the use of robotics and other electronic devices. The shortage of domestic capital and the diverse interests of foreign investors produced a wide gap between the industrial and university sectors.

By the end of 1997 this tendency had changed, with the result that relations between industry and academia have strengthened. The Chapter intends to continue work on the development of this trend.

Section Chairman: Prof. Peter Arato, Tel: +36 1 463 2699
E-mail: arato@fsz.bme.hu, Fax: +36 1 463 2204

---

EES-UETP
1998 COURSE PROGRAM

Electric Energy Systems University Enterprise Training Partnership (EES-UETP) an association of twenty institutions in seven European Countries

One of the main tasks of the EES-UETP is to improve the knowledge and expertise of electric power engineers. To achieve this objective the EES-UETP organises every year a course program. Since 1993 27 courses have been held in many different European countries.

- Electrical Energy Storage Systems for System Optimisation
- EMC in Power Plants and Substations
- Power System Protection
- Load Models and customer load data in open energy markets
- Electric and Magnetic fields in Power Systems
- Recent Advances in Optimisation Generation Management
- Towards a competitive Electricity Market
- Electrical Power Quality
- Operation and planning of Distribution MV Networks

INFORMATION
Mr. Francisco Ubierna, Santa Cruz de Marcenado 26
E-28015 Madrid (SPAIN). Tel: +34 1 542 2800
Fax: +34 1 542 31 76. E-mail: ees-uetàp@it.upco.es
URL: http://www.it.upco.es/~eesuęp

---

CALL FOR PAPERS

Second Int'l Conf. on Evolvable Systems: From Biology to Hardware
EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland, Sep. 23-26, 1998
The 1998 International EPFL-Latsis Foundation Conference

Topics include (but not limited to): Evolving hardware systems, Evolutionary hardware design methodologies, Evolutionary design of electronic circuits, Self-replicating hardware, Self-repairing hardware, Neural hardware, Adaptive hardware platforms, Autonomous robots, Evolutionary robotics, Bio-robotics. Applications of nanotechnology. Biological- and chemical-based systems. DNA computing.

Submission deadline: March, 1998

http://lslwww.epfl.ch/ices98/
The Director congratulates the following Fellows, who were nominated as from 1st January 1998.

**Bengelux**

Herman Emile Maes: For contributions in the field of non-volatile silicon memory devices and MOS reliability physics.

Rik Pintelon: For fundamental research in frequency domain system identification and its application in instrumentation control, and signal processing.

Andrew S. Tanndnbaum: For contributions to research and education in computer networks and operating systems.

**France**

Pierre Duhamel: For contributions to the optimization of the Fast Fourier Transform.

Jean Menez: For the development of noise masking techniques in low-bit rate speech coding.

**Germany**

Wolfram A. Boeck: For contributions to the development of gas insulated substations (GIS).

Bernd Girod: For contributions to the theory and practice of video communication.

Hans-Helmut Nagel: For research into the analysis and interpretation of digitalised real-world image sequences and for theoretical and experimental contributions to motion analysis from image sequences.

Wolfgang Pfeiffer: For achievements in the field of Ultra High Speed Diagnostics in electrical Insulation.

**Hungary**

Istvan Novak: For contributions to the theory and practice of radio-frequency monitoring techniques, and to the measurement and simulation of high-speed digital systems.

**Israel**

Nadav Levanon: For contributions to radar signal analysis and detection.

Yehuda Leviatan: For contributions to the developments of new computational techniques for electromagnetic scattering analysis.

Joseph Shamir: For major contributions to the theory, analysis and design of electro-optic signal processing systems.

Moshe Tur: For contributions to the theory and practice of laser phase noise management in fibre optic lightwave systems for sensing, signal processing and communication.

**North Italy**

Roberto Domenico Graglia: For contributions to the application of numerical techniques in the study of electromagnetic structures.

Alfredo Vagati: For contributions to the research, design and application of high performance synchronous reluctance drives.

**Norway**

Asle Schei: For development and design of overvoltage protection systems and contribution to international standardisation.

**Poland**

Marian Piotr Kazmierkowski: For contributions to research, education and industrial developments in power electronics and induction motor control.

**South Africa**

Duncan Charles Baker: For leadership in engineering education in electromagnetic compatibility, computational electromagnetics, and ionospheric propagation, and contributions to ionospheric modelling.

**Spain**

Ramon Pallas-Areny: For contribution to medical and electronic instrumentation and biomedical sensors.

**Sweden**

Thomas Ericson: For contributions to communications and coding theory and practice.

Rolf Johannesson: For contributions to the understanding and application of convolutional codes.

**United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland**

Antonios Georgiou Constantines: For contributions to the development of digital signal processing methods.

Michael Peter Kenedy: For contributions to the theory of neural networks and nonlinear dynamics, and for leadership in nonlinear circuits research and education.

Alan Miller: For contributions to the understanding of ultrafast phenomena in semiconductor materials and nonlinear optoelectronic devices.
Editorial

Hi folks,
as we have pointed out in the first issue of
this newsletter, student matters are cur-
rently among the very top priorities of the
IEEE as a whole and, of course, of Region
8 as well, as can be illustrated by the fol-
lowing fact: a significant amount of money
out of the 1998 Region 8 budget has been
allocated to hold the first Region 8 Student
Branch Congress. Of course, there will be
some additional money from other sources,
but this is by far the largest single item in
the 1998 budget. And, by the way, this
item has been agreed upon unanimously in
the Region 8 committee! So let's make this
a worthwhile investment and prove that
students and Student Branches are bene-
tial for the Region 8 for growth of both
membership and quality of service. The
Congress is a perfect example of what is
meant by IEEE's new logo, "Networking
the World", where networking is taken in
its technical sense only in the second place.
Perhaps even more important is the idea of
networking by members serving members.
We very much look forward meeting you
all in August in Istanbul.

To acknowledge the outstanding work Lev-
ent Onural has done as our SAC chair,
he has recently been elected Vice Presi-
dent/Student Activities of the Regional
Activities Board and will therefore be
chairman of the IEEE Student Activities
Committee. Levent's new responsibility
means that we will soon have a new Re-
gional Student Activities Chairman.

Congratulations, Levent, and thank you
very much for what you've done for the
students in Region 8!

Jens

1998 IEEE Region 8 Student Branch Congress
Student Branches Are Invited to Meet in Istanbul

We are excited to invite you to an extraor-
dinary student event in 1998: the first
Student Branch Congress (SBC) will be
held in Istanbul, Turkey on 10-13 August
1998. The event will be the first oppor-
tunity to get all the branch chairs in Region
8 together. During the four day congress,
there will be tutorials, branch leadership
training, interaction among the branch
chairs and key IEEE volunteers, and
plenty of socio-cultural activities. The
IEEE President, the Region 8 Director
and other distinguished guests will also
attend.

Actually, this event is an enlarged version
of the Leadership Training Meetings we
had during the past two years. Since our
region is so large, we never had the re-
sources to get together all branch chairs;
instead, we had smaller meetings in lim-
ited geographies. There were leadership
training programs only in Italy (1996),
Turkey (1996 and 1997) and Germany
(1997). Only those branches in Italy,
Turkey, Germany, Switzerland, Benelux
and Austria had a chance to attend.

Thanks to the Region 8 committee, we
had some regional sources committed this
year for this "branch congress". Not only
the covered geography is extended (now it
is the entire region), but also the content
is enlarged and the duration is extended.
We will have a four-day get-together in
Istanbul. The first day is devoted to ar-
rivals: participants will be welcomed at
the airport by the Boğaziçi University
Branch members and guided to the un-
iversity dorms. There will be a welcome
party in the evening. On August 11, the
Congress will officially start; there will be
leadership training sessions all day long.
In the evening a boat-trip with dinner will
take place on the legendary Bosphorus.
The group will have a tour of Istanbul on
the 12th. Istanbul has been the capital of
Byzantium Empire for about 1000 years,
and the capital of Ottoman Empire for
more than 450 years. The heritage is in-
credibly rich.

(continued on p. 2)

Conference Support for Students

Student members who attend an IEEE conference in 1998 may get a voucher up
to $30 to be used for their 1999 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 Müh. Böl., Bilkent Üniversitesi, TR-06533 Ankara,
Turkey. You'll get your vouchers before the 1999 membership renewal cycle starts.
More information can be obtained from:

www.ee.bilkent.edu.tr/~onural/free.html

Deadlines & Upcoming Events

February 28 Outstanding Counselor Award nominations due to
Student Services (for more information on awards, see pre-
vious issue).

March 1 Half-Year dues cycle begins

March 1 Outstanding Student Award recipient should be named
to Student Services. Allow 4 weeks for preparation of cer-

tificates (and additional time for mailing).

March 31 Larry K. Wilson Award nominations deadline (send
nomination to RSAC (Levent Onural).

March 31 Symposium of the Student Branch Eindhoven.
The title is "Future without limits — Communi-
tation in the 21st century". More info is available at
http://www.ele.tue.nl/ieeesb

April 1 Elections for new branch officers to be held. Inform Stu-
dent Services about new officers and counselor.

May 1 Annual Report must be submitted to Student Services.
$1.10 per member rebate checks will be issued only upon
timely receipt of the Annual Report!

May Student Paper Contest Finals will be held most likely at the
MELECON '98 in Tel Aviv, Israel.

August 10 – 13 IEEE Region 8 Student Branch Congress in Is-

Region 8 News - February 1998

Page No 7

Copy for May 1998 = 1st April 1998
On August 13th, an exhibition will take place. We ask all the participants to bring with them local IEEE related materials (newsletters, meeting pictures, trip memoirs, seminar and conference announcements, etc.), as well as, their local ethnic materials with them. Each branch will have a table to display their material for a couple of hours. In the afternoon, there will be technical tutorial sessions and a farewell party. The program is still being worked out; there may be changes, for example, a trip to an industrial site is sought.

In addition to the Student Branch Congress, there will be another exciting student event right after it: the IEEE STUDENT'98 conference. This is a conference organized by students (Boğaziçi University Branch) for students. The first conference (STUDENT'97) was very successful, so they decided to repeat it in 1998, too. Now, the conference will have an international flavor. Indeed, the last day of the Student Branch Congress and STUDENT'98 are going to be a joint event on Aug 13. The student congress will continue for another 3 days. So, participants of the congress will be also the participants of STUDENT'98 on August 13. If they wish, they can extend their stay and enjoy the complete conference.

A travel agent is organizing post-meeting tours within the country. You may find this a good opportunity to sample Anatolian culture and history. And maybe relax under the sun. I am sure there will be another taste when you are with other IEEE people who have always been friendly.

Please note that the events (except the post-meeting tours) are going to be heavily subsidized by IEEE. First of all, the travel costs associated with the Student Branch Congress of all eligible branch chairs will be reimbursed by IEEE Region 8. All chairs are being contacted by personal invitation letters; a request form must have been returned and approved to receive this subsidy. If you are a branch officer, and if you have not received such a letter of invitation, please contact Levent Onural, immediately. (e-mail: Lonural@ieee.org; you will find other contact points on the header of the first page). Others will enjoy the whole program by paying a small fee; partners are welcome. For non-students, hotel accommodations are handled by a travel agent; please send us your intentions to participate and you will get the complete information. All those who wish to participate in the subsequent STUDENT'98 will be charged a reasonable conference fee.

The whole sequence of events described above are organized by the Boğaziçi University Branch members. I would like to thank the local organizing committee. The chair of the branch, Arda Yurdakul and her committee is working very hard to make your experience a memorable one. You may wish to get in touch with the local organizers, if you wish: Just drop an e-mail to ieeeese@boun.edu.tr

See you in Istanbul...

**Time to Say Bye Bye...**

**Farewell Message from Levent Onural**

It has been a great pleasure for me to serve as the SAC Chair of IEEE Region 8 since 1995. Though my term has extended by the Region 8 Committee, I have to leave this position to take the responsibility of another task within IEEE: In November 1997, the Regional Activites Board (RAB) Assembly of IEEE honored me by electing me to the position of RAB Vice-chair in charge of Student Activites. One of my duties is to serve as the chair of the Student Activities Committee (SAC) of IEEE. As the SAC chair of Region 8, I had been a member of this committee for three years. Now I will have a chance to affect the IEEE policies regarding student issues, worldwide.

During my term, I always enjoyed the endless enthusiasm of the IEEE Region 8 committee to support its student members. In addition to the lively student participation in IEEE affairs in Region 8, this willingness of the Region 8 committee was my main drive to bring more service to the students. Here is an overview of what happened since 1995:

- Dick Poortvliet Award was officially established.
- Branch-get-a-branch program was established and new branches are promoted through this program.
- Conference support for student members is established and implemented.
- Branch leadership program is started and implemented.
- A "students page" is reserved in Region 8 News.
- Region 8 issues have been successfully carried to IEEE SAC committee and other IEEE bodies. One of the outcomes of these efforts is the "reduction of student membership dues".
- Web pages that link the student branches in Region 8 was established. (Thanks to branches who made their individual pages and to Turkey Section who helped to have the regional page.)
- An IRC has been active. (Thanks to Bochum branch and Christian Borgert.)
- Student paper contest has been continued; guidelines have been reviewed and updated.
- Branches are supported by regional funds for their projects.
- The first Region 8 Student Branches Congress is planned. (Thanks to Boğaziçi Branch.)
- Branches are guided in their routine businesses; and questions and requests from student members, branch officers, counselors and others are answered.
- About 2000 e-mail requests have been handled.

I thank Andrej Zemva and Jens Hannemann, the two Student Representatives in the Region 8 Committee that I worked with; their contributions have always been crucial in all the issues outlined above. Special thanks goes to Peer Martin Larsen and Maurice Papa, the two regional directors that I have the honor to work with.

I will be more than happy to help you in any IEEE matter regarding students from now on, too. Please keep in touch...

**Levent Onural**

---

**1998 IEEE Region 8 Paper Contest Record Interest**

As a consequence of better communications among our members, we received a record number of submissions to the contest this year. There are 19 submissions to the contest. The papers are already received and will be forwarded to an international jury for evaluation. The best five or six will be invited to the oral finals. Probably, at the time when you read this article, the jury will have already chosen the finalists. The costs associated with the travel of the finalists will be covered by IEEE Region 8. We thank those who participate. We hope the other branches will also submit papers to the contest next year.