

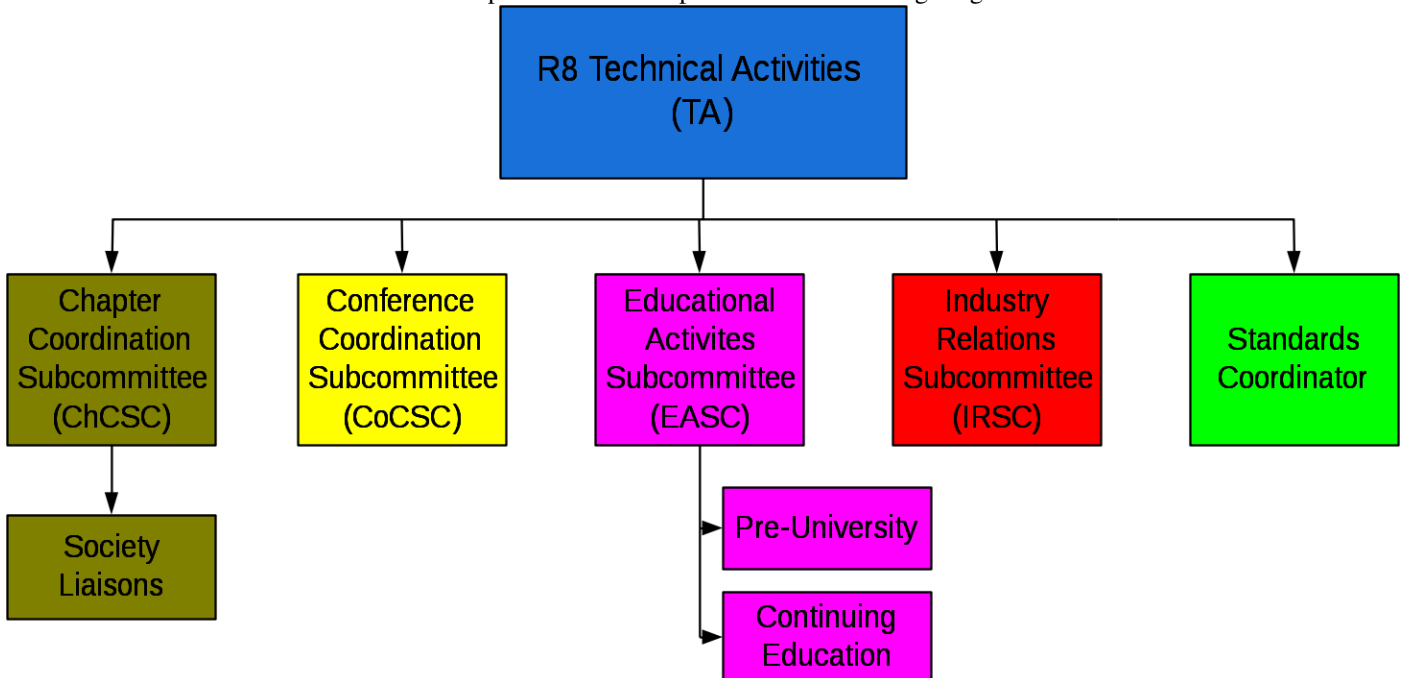
V/C Technical Activities

Carl James Debono

Introduction

The Region 8 Technical Activities is supported by the Chapter Coordination, Conference Coordination, Educational Activities, and Industry Relations subcommittees. Furthermore, a Standards Coordinator liaises with the IEEE Standards Association. The Technical Activities places efforts to support technical activities, educate volunteers and members, and collaborate with industry. More information is available on the Technical Activities website: <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/>

The structure of the Technical Activities responsibilities is depicted in the following diagram:



An overview of the work done since the Sarajevo meeting is given below:

Chapter Coordination Subcommittee (ChCSC)

The ChCSC has reviewed a number of new chapter applications, a good number of which are coming from student branches. Last year a lot of effort has been placed on the formation of student branch chapters and this is giving its fruit. The committee has established presence in the social media, where events are publicized. The ChCSC has received and reviewed the nominations for the best chapter award and the best student branch chapter of the year award. This year saw more nominations being received as a result of the campaign to raise awareness of the awards. The winners of the awards will be announced during the Region 8 meeting in Budapest. This year the ChCSC will focus on developing a best practice manual, continuing leadership training through webinars, and looking into the vitality of the chapters.

Conference Coordination Subcommittee (CoCSC)

The CoCSC has processed a number of technical and financial sponsorship requests. The committee is recommending the approval of the Spain Sections bid to host EUROCON 2015 and is still looking for organizers to host MELECON 2016 and ENERGYCON 2016. Sections interested in hosting these conferences should contact the CoCSC. Conference organizer education is being done using the Webex platform and the help of IEEE Meeting, Conferences, and Events. In November the MGA Board approved the updating of the operations manual that now require the geo-units whose territory is outside the location of the conference to obtain cross-endorsement from the home geographical unit. Of particular note are also the changes to IEEE Technically co-sponsored conferences. As of 31st December 2015, conferences with 0% IEEE financial interest will be subject to a fee of US1000plusUS15 for each paper that goes in IEEE Xplore.

Educational Activities Subcommittee (EASC)

The EASC has continued organizing and supporting teacher in service program (TISP) and EPICS-in-IEEE workshops throughout Region 8. These are programs that support pre-University education. Webinars on specific topics aimed for continuing education and on the preparation of successful technical publication were delivered. These attract a good number of participants interested in the particular topic of the lecture. IEEE Academic project is being promoted and used. IEEE Academic is intended to provide

educational resources for University students. This year the committee will focus on creating a Region 8 portal for pre-university and university educational activities, increase visibility of the EASC, and continue providing education through Webinars.

Industry Relations Subcommittee (IRSC)

The IRSC has seen a change in leadership at the start of the year. I would like to thank Andreas for his leadership last year and for his continued involvement as a member of the subcommittee. Industry relations are one of the priority areas this year and the IRSC will be focusing on updating the strategy and develop an action plan. This will include the gathering of feedback from practitioners from industry to identify what we can provide to this sector. The committee will also continue to improve interaction with sections industry relation officers (IRO) and young professionals. It is to be noted that a number of sections do not have an appointed IRO, thus the subcommittee encourages these sections to appoint one.

Standards Coordinator

The standards coordinator acts as point of contact between Region 8 and the IEEE-SA and the standards education committee (SEC). Various talks and workshops on standards are being held in the region. The European multi-stakeholder platform for ICT standardization (MSP) developed the EU Rolling plan for ICT standardization in collaboration with the European Commission. IEEE-SA is working with DIGITAL EUROPE for an event in May towards the way forward for ICT standards in Europe.

The subcommittees will all have their meetings on Friday 4th April in Budapest to discuss the major topics and brainstorm to identify future directions. Interaction between subcommittees is being promoted given existing overlaps, a process which started last year. The vice-chair for technical activities extends appreciation for the hard work done by the volunteers in the TA subcommittees. The reports of the subcommittees and the standards coordinator are found in the Budapest Region 8 Committee website.