

IEEE R8 TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES
Industry Relations Subcommittee (IRSC)
Date: MARCH 7, 2011

Report period: (Oct, 2010 – March 2011)

*IEEE REGION 8
INDUSTRY RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE (IRSC) Report
LONDON – UK
March 25-27, 2011*

A. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

INDUSTRY RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Ghaleb B. Al-Dandan - Coordinator
- João Figueiras, Member
- TBD (additional members will be proposed after IRSC workshops in London)

The Industry Relations Subcommittee (IRSC) is part of the Technical Activities and is intended to strengthen the relationship with industry by addressing their requirements for the purpose of fostering better collaboration with various industries within R8.

IEEE Region8 has progressed well very in this area to having strong relation with many of the vendors and industry practitioners. As such several initiatives were launched to meet that objective including Energy Initiative; Industry Continuing Education (ICED) Program as well as the introduction of the new EnergyCon conference.

B. IRSC MAIN OBJECTIVES

Among the main objectives of the IRSC are:

- Bridge the gap and enhance relationships between industry, government, academia and IEEE
- Influence industrial organizations to support the involvement of their staff in IEEE activities
- Urge people from industry to join IEEE and benefit from its conferences, products and services.
- Establish and increase contact(s) with industry
- Make industry in Region 8 aware of IEEE
- Advertise and promote IEEE's vision, mission, conferences, products and services to Region 8 industry
- Emphasize mutual benefits and possible cooperation

C. IRSC ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Oct 2010 – MARCH 2011)

Energy Initiative: Activities on the Energy Initiative are still ongoing with the main focus in 2010 was to introduce the new EnergyCon conference to region 8. This conference was a major success in all aspects from technical to the overall management of this event. More than 1000 participants attended this conference that was held for the first time in Bahrain during the period December 18-22, 2010. (<http://ieee-energycon.org/2010/>)

Within this conference IEEE R8 was able to conduct several activities in the same conference venue that reflected positively within our industry. The following were conducted as part of this conference:

1. Technical Conference Tracks
2. Two days Pre-Conference tutorials
3. One Day Standards Workshop (Jointly Organized with IEEE-SA)
4. R8 Leadership Workshop
5. Women In Engineering (WIE) Forum
6. Major Exhibition in IT and Power

Details and lessons learned about this conference will be discussed as part of the Conference Subcommittee Meeting that will be held on Friday March 25, 2011.

Another ongoing activity was the creation of special brochure addressed to Energy companies that is expected to be completed by April, 2011. Also a list of major Energy Industries within the Gulf countries is currently under enhancements to incorporate new companies along with their main focus areas of interest.

Also several areas related to this initiative will be discussed and evaluated during the upcoming meeting in London to focus our activities for 2011

ICED Initiative: Industry Continuing Education is considered as one of the main strategic focus for most industries to develop their workforce. IEEE Region 8 realized its importance and has initiated an initiative to support the industry. Various topics of interest have been indentified after consultation with several industries as well as some industry speakers were selected (after careful evaluation) to address some of those topics (refer to the following web link for more details: http://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/8/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=57&Itemid=400010)

Section chairs, society chapter chairs and other IEEE event coordinators can utilize that list to seek services from those Industry lecturers. Funding and request forms are planned to be put in the website by March 2011 after properly reviewed by the ICED committee members.

Some industry speakers have already presented in the Gulf countries and initial feedback was very positive. It is our plan to capitalize on those speakers and others to support some of the R8 requirements

Collaboration with IEEE –SA and R8 Standards Coordinator: Another important area for the industry is related to the Standards. The IRSC has realized its importance after meeting with many industry leaders in the region and has formulated a new one day workshop as part of EnergyCon 2010 in collaboration with IEEE-SA and IEEE R8 Standards Coordinator. This workshop was very successful as all of its topics were based on industry needs. Such collaboration has major benefit (first meeting was held in September 2010 in Berlin) and our plan is to continue working closely with industry and various IEEE bodies to support various IEEE R8 sponsored conference (such as EnergyCon2012, etc..) government and private institutes as well as Continuing Education needs.

D. IRSC PLANNED MAJOR ACTIVITIES for 2011

Several activities are currently planned for 2011. To ensure that priority activities are being addressed properly, the upcoming IRSC Meeting/workshops in London will address key issues related to the industry. The outcome/recommendations of those workshops (planned on March 25, 2011) will assist us in shaping our IRSC deliverables for 2011 (and will probably impact 2012).

The following are the current planned IRSC major activities for 2011:

1. Continue our activities as part of the Energy Initiative and consider request for a new initiative committee (NIC) to expand this effort.
2. Capitalize on our success as part of the ICED initiative and start the deployment of industry lecturers in within R8. Finalize the funding procedure and the application request forms.
3. Continue the collaboration between IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) and IEEE Standards Coordinator to support various IEEE events and industry requirements in Region 8.
4. Review the possibility of introducing new Initiative related to the Environment especially the impact of energy companies on our environment
5. Continue collaboration with IEEE R8 Conference Coordination Subcommittee (CoCSC) and insert industry tracks at Regional Conferences as appropriate.
6. Explore stronger collaboration with Energy companies in Europe especially in the area of alternative and renewable energy.
7. Recruit additional active volunteers and funding as necessary for Region 8 IRSC.