

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(16th April 2010 – 15th September 2010)

I. Main events organized by R8 units

- 1. MeleCon-2010, IEEE Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference;**
Valletta, Malta, 25-28 April 2010, organized by Malta Section
318 accepted papers from 51 countries; good level of presentations and wide topical representation; significant improvement in comparison with the MeleCon 2008.
SPC - special session with six finalists of annual R8 Student Paper Contest, 28 papers submitted from 26 Student Branches (19 Sections) - over two times higher than in last three years. After last years' regress - this year SPC quite successful.
- 2. Spring R8 Committee Meeting, Riga, 7-9 May 2010**
Well-attended meeting with over 120 persons, numerous representation of IEEE HQ, excellent workshops - consecutive step towards improving interactive format of the R8 meetings; the highest score for the meeting given by IEEE VP MGA Barry Shoop, very good cooperation with Latvia Section as a host - *thank you very much*.
- 3. SibirCon-2010, International Conference on Computational Technologies in Electrical and Electronics Engineering;** Irkutsk Listvyanka, Russia, 11-15 July 2010, organized by Siberia Section. Over 200 accepted papers from 34 countries, numerous international attendees, particularly from Region 10, over two times more papers and attendees than two years ago, good base for building cooperation with Region 10; next SibirCon be held in Vladivostok in August 2012.
- 4. EED 2010, Egyptian Engineering Day**
Cairo, Egypt, 2-3 August 2010, organized by Egypt Section
Conference joint with a big exhibition – industry booths as well as student ones presenting projects from all universities, over 5.000 attendees, the largest and the most successful local event in Region 8, *Congratulations to the organizers - Section and GOLD team*.
- 5. SBC 2010 Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress**
Leuven, Belgium, 4-8 August 2010,
Over 300 attendees, all sessions as well as social events very well prepared and realized, productive and joyful atmosphere, very professional invited speakers, the best event in the history of SBCs in Region 8, *Special thanks and congratulations to the KU Leuven Student Branch*.
- 6. Summer OpCom Meeting, Leuven, 5-7 August 2010,**
Summary of the 2010 main activities and new initiatives, preparing the program for the Fall R8 Committee Meeting in Prague, overview of Section activities, meetings with Benelux Section officers and SBC 2010 attendees.
- 7. IEEE Milestone - *Star of Laufenburg Interconnection***
Laufenburg, 19 August, organized by Switzerland Section
Europe's electrical integration began modestly in 1958, with a 220-kilovolt connection between France, Germany, and Switzerland. That connection is known as the *Star of Laufenburg*, the first high-tension link between the three countries. Today, 34 countries' transmission systems are linked, from Finland to Portugal and from Iceland to Greece.
Ceremony was attended by many representatives from neighboring countries. The key Speaker was IEEE President-Elect Moshe Kam.

II. Other R8 main events be held in 2010

- 1. IEEE Milestone - *Branly (the first person to use the idea of the coherer);***
23 September, Paris, organized by France Section
The "filings tube" or *coherer* was the first widely used detector for radio communication. Branly invented his *coherer* around 1890. The operation of the *coherer* is based upon the large resistance offered to the passage of electric current by loose metal filings, which decreases under the influence of radio frequency alternating current.
- 2. IEEE Milestone - *Crypto (Invention of Public Key Cryptography, 1969-1975);***
5 October, Cheltenham, organized by UK&RI Section

At GCHQ, by 1975 James Ellis had proved that a symmetric secret-key system is unnecessary and Clifford Cocks with Martin Williamson showed how such 'public-key cryptography' could be achieved.

Until then it was believed that secure communication was impossible without exchange of a secret key, with key distribution a major impediment. With these discoveries the essential principles were known but were kept secret until 1997.

3. Fall R8 Committee Meeting, 8-10 October, Prague
4. **HistelCon 2010**, *IEEE Conference on the History of Telecommunications*, 3-5 November, Madrid, organized by Spain Section
5. **IEEE Smart Grid World Forum**, 2-3 December, Brussels, Belgium
6. **EnergyCon 2010**, *IEEE International Energy Conference & Exhibition* 18-21 December, Manama, Bahrain, organized by Saudi Arabia (East) Section

III. **Meetings attended by R8 Director and activities on the BoD level**

1. Reports/addresses presented during the events mentioned in part I (events 1,2,3,5,6,7)
2. IEEE June 2010 Meeting Series, Montreal, 24-28 June
MGA announced the launch of e-membership for September 2010, the new e-members will have basic dues of \$50 plus Regional Assessment, which makes R8 e-member dues \$63; discussion on financial implications of the open access; discussion on collaboration with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) for the formation of a joint venture called Engineering for Change (E4C) focused on humanitarian applications of technology; established the Public Visibility Committee as an IEEE Standing Committee effective 1 January 2011.
3. Visit of R8 Directors to Kiev (joint with N&A Committee Meeting), 24-26 July
Workshop with Ukrainian Section Officers and Chapter Chairs
Visits to the Kiev Aviation University and the National Technical University of Ukraine (KPI)
4. Switzerland Section 50th Anniversary Celebration – Basel, 19 August, Gala Dinner
Over 140 attendees with many distinguished guests, inter alia 1969-1970 R8 Director Roger Wellinger and IEEE President-Elect Moshe Kam.
5. IEEE BoD teleconferences: May 10, August 16
6. Member of 2010 IEEE Committees
 - a) Public Visibility Committee (teleconferences: June 9, September 9)
 - b) Board Transformation Working Group (AdHoc) ((teleconferences: April 29, May 20)
 - c) MGA Finance Committee (teleconferences: June 9, August 10)
 - d) TAB Structure Committee (AdHoc)

IV. **General remarks**

1. Continuously growing membership (over 5% per year) and number of all units: presently over 500 Chapters, over 330 Student Branches and over 100 Affinity Groups (WIE, GOLD, LM).
New Sections – advanced arrangements in Libya (over 200 IEEE members) and initial preparations in Syria.
2. High number of technical conferences and workshops – over 300 per year; improvement in cooperation with Societies and IEEE HQ conference Staff (many Sections involved in organization of Society conferences).
3. Numerous R8 representation in IEEE HQ as well as in almost all IEEE boards, standing and AdHoc Committees.
4. Generally speaking - the atmosphere in the Region is very friendly and productive, the Region's condition appears to be solid and healthy, although currently the financial situation is quite difficult.

5. Operation Review Sub-Committee (after several months of work) prepared a much simplified *R8 Bylaws* and a brand-new *R8 Operations Manual*. Appropriate motions will be discussed and voted in Prague.

Warsaw, 16.09.2010

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Region 8 Director