

First Life Member Group Chairs meeting in Region 8

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IEEE Region 8 initiated in former years the holding of Chapter Chairs Congresses, in order to empower the activities of its Chapters. Last year I proposed to hold a Life Member Group Chairs meeting in R8. The IEEE Life Members Committee approved the proposal and provided each LMAG Chair with a budget of \$1500. The IEEE Switzerland Section invited us to hold the meeting in conjunction with its 50th anniversary.

The meeting was held in Basel with the participation of:

- Dr. Jacob Baal-Schem, Region 8 LM coordinator and Chair of Israel Section LMAG.**
- Prof. Poloujadoff, Chair of France Section LMAG.**
- Mr. Roland Saam, Chair of the UKRI Section LMAG.**
- Prof. Alexander Szabo, Chair of the Croatia Section LMAG.**
- Dr. Hugo Wyss, Chair of the Switzerland Section LMAG.**

Mr. Cimagalli, Chair of the Italy Section LMAG, was unable to attend.

Prior to the meeting, we all participated in the unveiling of the IEEE Laufenburg Star Milestone, recognizing the interconnection of the electricity networks of France, Germany and Switzerland. Then we enjoyed the anniversary Dinner of the IEEE Switzerland Section, at which a special banner was presented to the Switzerland LMAG and we had the opportunity to hear a Keynote lecture by IEEE President-elect Moshe Kam.

At the LMAG Chairs meeting held on 20 August 2010 morning, the Life Member Group Chairs and several Life Members of the Switzerland Section discussed past and future activities and were honored by the participation of IEEE President-elect Kam. The meeting included an

update on IEEE Life Members Committee activities and reports by LMAG Chairs on their activities: Technical meetings, oral interviews with eminent scientists, lectures in schools and participation in History Conferences.

The participants discussed subjects and ways of future activities and it was agreed that History activities and educational activities are the most important fields for IEEE Life Members.

The subject of History activities was highlighted during the meeting and therefore the final part of the meeting was dedicated to the Global History Network (GHN) launched recently by the IEEE History Committee and each of the participants received a copy of a power-point presentation on the GHN and the ways of using it both to get historical information and to upload articles.

As a final tone to the meeting, LMAG Chairs were invited by the Switzerland LMAG to visit CERN – the European Nuclear Research Center in Geneva and enjoyed technical explanations of the site.

In conclusion, the holding of an LMAG Chairs meeting was appreciated by all participants and will certainly contribute to broaden the activities of Life Members Groups in Region 8. I also provided a basis for the forming of additional LMAGs.