

IEEE Austria Section Report March 2012

1. Highlights from the past
 2. Future activities
 3. Best practices
 4. Points of concern / Topics for future discussion
 5. Miscellaneous
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Sections shall prepare a one-page summary about such things as:

1. Highlights from the past (2011)

- IEEE Austria Section as Technical Co-Sponsor at Robot Challenge. Robot Challenge is an international competition of constructed autonomous robots fighting each other, following lines, solving rubik's cube, etc. Held in Vienna, Austria.
For details and impressions see <http://www.robotchallenge.org>
- IEEE Central European Student Branch Congress in Linz. A congress of 4 days with participants from many countries (e.g. Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, ...) with many workshops and networking.
For details see <http://www.ceusbc.org>
- IEEE Austria Section as Technical Co-Sponsor at Invent-a-Chip: School students (aged 15 to 18) form teams and present their creative idea of a chip solving some daily life problem. 60 teams participated. The best is selected, and their chip is produced (sponsored by industry). The best 6 teams get prizes for their ideas.
For details see <http://www.invent-a-chip.at>
- Founded new chapters in 2011:
 - Robotics & Automation (RAS Chapter)
 - Industry Application Society, Power Electronics Society, Industrial Electronics Society (IAS/PELS/IES Chapter)
 - Systems, Man & Cybernetics Society extended to include Computer Society (CS/SMCS Chapter)
- Official Student Representative introduced to attend from now on at Excom meetings
- Venue of R8 Opcom meeting January 2011

2. Future activities

- More technically co-sponsored conferences coming up
- Planned: Professional Activities Events in Austria

3. Best practices

- Good connections to local industry
- Good connection to national engineering society, having joint events
- IEEE Austria Section offers a special travel and conference grant to allow section student members to participate at conferences, workshops and other educational activities

4. Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Why do student members leave IEEE as soon as they leave university? How can they be made aware that IEEE membership gives them benefits even when they have jobs in industry (and have to pay the full member fee instead of the much smaller student member fee)?

5. Miscellaneous

- "Region 8 Chapter of the Year Award", Circuits & Systems Society, for SSC/CAS chapter
- Agreement with ÖVE (national engineering society)