

Vice-Chair: Technical Activities

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A diagrammatic organogram of the activities of “Technical Activities” within Region 8 is provided (see the image on right).

IEEE Region 8 continues to foster its technical activities in 2012 through largely retaining the cohort of individuals appointed in 2011, but extending some subcommittees, where it was felt that additional support is required.

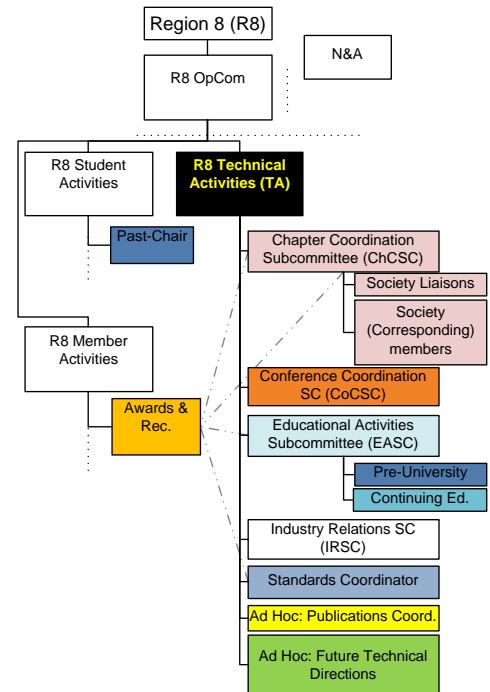
The Chapters Coordination Subcommittee (ChCSC), which derives its membership from societies and councils, tends to re-constitute differently annually, and such is both welcoming and challenging. The challenge of a *new* committee is met by additional training, usually provided ahead of the March/April Region 8 Meeting. As societies/councils fund the travel of their representatives, the commitment of the society/council is affirmed through this process. The particular pre-meeting has been setup in a workshop style, which will capture the statistics of membership in our region, and will establish a coordinated approach towards chapter engagement.

ChCSC has hosted a number of training webinars: SAMIEEE access, vTools, IEEE centre for leadership excellence (CLE), etc. The webinars serve complementary to in-person training as provided through one to two chapter chair training workshops. Such workshops are co-located with major society or council flagship events.

The Conference Coordination Subcommittee (CoCSC) has strengthened ties with conferences that take place in our Region, and a preliminary “benefits package” has been placed on our Region 8 website. Thoughts towards improving the “benefits package” to enable for further partnership with 400+ events per year in our region would be welcome. Additionally, CoCSC has continued to provide oversight to our flagship conferences, and solicited bids for future conferences. Bids for both MeleCon’14 and EnergyCon’14 have been formally received. In Nov. 2011, CoCSC held a webinar dealing with the new MGA process of approving conferences, where the involvement of local entities (chapters, sections, etc) has now become much more instrumental.

The Educational Activities Subcommittee (EASC) has expanded its preuniversity component by adding new corresponding members from Africa and the Middle-East, where the preuniversity coordinator brings engagement from his own European locality. The activities were discussed at a webinar on 1 March 2012, and received support of the Educational Activities Board (EAB). EAB was charged towards furthering recommendations from Sections Congress, and therefore the natural connection to our own EASC. Two webinars on the topic of Continuing Education (CE) were hosted by our region, the first of which was a general webinar on CE offerings from the IEEE, where the second was more focused on IEEE’s Technical English Programme (TEP). Both the online and in-person dispensation of TEP were discussed at the meeting.

The Industry Relations Subcommittee (IRSC) reported to the Region 8 committee in Aug. 2011: the IRSC had reported *clear overlaps* with other subcommittee (associated to technical activities (TA)) functions, namely EASC and CoCSC. The overlap with regards to EASC had been in the area of CE, however with focus on *professionals from industry*. Another overlap was reported with activities of the CoCSC, in this case the focus had been with regards to *improving our conferences in a manner to include industrial participation at all our conferences, including our Region 8 flagship events*. Thus far, EnergyCon’10 had been most successful in





this regards. To further the collaboration: IRSC, EASC and CoCSC meetings will partially overlap where and when possible. The IRSC meeting in Jan. 2012 clarified the role that industry relations officers (IROs) must play, job descriptions and engagement plans. Programmes such as the Industry Continuing Educational Development (ICED) workshops will continue in 2012, but exciting developments including the support of the IEEE Director: Business Development (Europe), IEEE Board of Directors (BoD) Ad Hoc on Europe Activities, and the role of the IEEE Standards Activities (IEEE-SA) have been noted favourably. The Region 8 standards coordinator has been actively involved in this process. The approach is aimed at both improving our regional role and interaction with the European Union Parliament, but also garnish a much higher level of industrial executive support. Such may allow for further penetration of the IEEE brand in these areas, but also contribute to both in-kind and financial support for member activities.

The 2011 adhoc position "TAB committee liaison" has been changed somewhat for better alignment with the IEEE Future Directions Committee (FDC). FDC will interact with our regional subcommittees and committee through the ChCSC and a webinar capturing various new initiatives is being proposed. Individual new initiative leaders will be invited to additionally present their works as the year progresses and of prominence is the IEEE's Life Sciences New Initiative (LSNI).

The adhoc position "publications coordination" handled an e-broadcast soliciting volunteer support in areas where IEEE Xplore (IEEE/IET Electronic Library (IEL)) is less accessible and through support by IEEE Sales and Marketing, the situation is being worked upon. Prominent examples include Xplore access in France and Egypt. Dialogue has been formally established with IEEE on avenues of including national and sister society publications.

Through the various subcommittees, IEEE technical activities continue to grow, and improve our regional alignments with the "wider-IEEE," and in this way serving exemplary to all other IEEE regions, but also society-at-large.