

IEEE Benelux Section Report March 2012

1. Highlights from the past

- February 16, 2011: General Assembly. Section Chairman Georges Gielen provided a welcome speech, an overview of the ExCom activities during the past two years, and a summary of the financial situation. Then the new officers for the ExCom were elected.
- February 16, 2011: Meet the Fellows. Keynote speeches were given by three of the newly elected 2011 fellows: Robert Puers, Jean-Paul Linnartz, and Michel Defrize, followed by a reception.
- April 8, 2011: IEEE Milestone Event on Superconductivity in Leiden. This was a very successful event, attended by more than 200 attendees. Four presentations on superconductivity were given. The Milestone Plaque was presented to the University of Leiden by IEEE President Moshe Kam, and accepted by Willem te Beest, Vice Chairman of the Executive Board of the University of Leiden.
- The chapters organized various international symposia.

2. Future activities

- In 2012 IEEE Benelux GOLD/PA will organize a Workshop on Standards and an Industry Entrepreneurship Event.
- In 2014 the Section Congress will be held in Amsterdam. In principle the Benelux Section is not involved in the organization of the congress itself, but we might organize an accompanying event;
- The chapters will organize various international symposia.

3. Best practices

- The number of members in the Benelux Section is still increasing. Thanks to a Senior Membership campaign, the number of Senior Members in the Benelux has increased by 21 (10%). Six Senior Members were elevated to the Fellow grade in 2011, and three are elevated in 2012.
- Students in the Benelux are doing well. The R8 SPC was won by a student from Leuven (see 5.), and, after successful organization of the Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2010 in Leuven, several committee members got positions in regional or global IEEE committees.
- Past section chairman Martin Bastiaans was elected as Region 8 Director-Elect.

4. Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Nevertheless, compared to other regions/sections, we have a low percentage of Senior Members. More members should be nominated or be encouraged to apply for Senior Membership.
- The NPS chapter is currently inactive. New volunteers are actively being recruited.
- There is a local ambiguity about the legal status of the section and its chapters, and the liability of their volunteers. This is not a point of concern but the section chairman is currently investigating this in order to clear up.
- The Section Treasurer for the Netherlands has recently resigned (for personal reasons). Fortunately the Treasurer Belgium has committed to take over his duties. As the Benelux Section has recently stopped using separate account for Belgium and the Netherlands, this is not expected to result into problems.
- The Students Branches of Twente and Antwerp are currently inactive.

5. Miscellaneous

- IMEC Leuven has received the IEEE Corporate Innovation Recognition “for continuous contributions to CMOS technology and for innovations in global business development and university-industry collaborations”.
- The Region 8 Student Paper Contest was won by Shailesh Kulkarni, from the Leuven Student Branch.
- Willy Sansen (KU Leuven) has received an IEEE Donald O. Pederson Award in Solid-State Circuits, “for leadership in analog integrated circuit design”.
- Three new chapters are currently being set up:
 - Chapter on Robotics and Automation;
 - Joint Chapter on Aerospace and Electronic Systems & Geoscience and Remote Sensing;
 - Chapter on Instrumentation and Measurements.
- The IEEE Benelux Section LinkedIn Group currently has 257 members.