



IEEE REGION8 PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE (PASC)

MOTIVATION

The IEEE Constitution is clear in specifying two purposes for the Institute: “scientific and educational” and “professional.” Sections 2 and 3 of the IEEE Constitution read as follows:

Sec. 2. Its (IEEE’s) purposes are:

(a) scientific and educational “...directed toward the advancement of the standing of the members of the professions it serves...” and

(b) professional, directed toward the advancement of the standing of the members of the professions it serves; means to this end include, but are not limited to,...

Sec. 3. The character of its scope is transnational and the territory in which its operations are to be conducted is the entire world.

(source IEEE Constitution)

1. INTRODUCTION

The IEEE R8 Professional Activities Sub-Committee (PASC) team:

Matej Zajc,	Chair	(Slovenia Section)
Emilio Corchado		(Spain Section)
Urmet Janes		(Estonia Section)

To contact Professional Activities Team: r8pasc@ieee.org

2. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Professional Activities Sub-Committee (PASC) is part of IEEE R8 Member Activities. The PASC team is aiming to increase the understanding and acceptance of Professional Activities (PA in short) within Region 8 by providing support and expertise to sections, chapters, societies and student branches within the region.

Professional Activities focus on maintaining and enhancing lifelong employability and career maintenance, while providing advice to and collaboration with public bodies, corporations, NGOs and non-profits to benefit the members, their fields of practice, and the general public, while continuing to promote ethical conduct.

(source IEEE)

MAJOR GOALS

The PASC team has set three main goals set at the beginning of the year:

- Increase the understanding and the extent of Professional Activities within Region 8
- Establish a program of Professional Activities for Region 8
- Professional Activities should provide a place for interdisciplinary collaboration and networking

SPECIFIC GOALS

1. Publicize the Professional Activities by written material and different electronic media
2. Coordinate Professional Activities in sections through local Professional Activities leaders
3. Providing support and expertise to sections, chapters, societies and student branches within the region (e.g. Professional Activities materials)
4. Establish active contacts with other committees within IEEE and other institutions (e.g. JCI)
5. Organization of annual Professional Activities Summit.

3. REPORT

ACTIONS TAKEN

In 2011 actions were conducted in order to increase the level of activities and the understanding within the region:

1. Sections contacted to appoint local PA volunteer as a coordinator for Professional Activities in Sections.
2. Sections contacted to organize events to increase the level of activities within the region. Several workshops successfully conducted with organization of local PA volunteers.
3. In November 2nd Professional Activities Summit held in Amman Jordan. Three parallel workshops attracted volunteers at the full-day event (report will be published in R8 News).
4. Sections contacted to propose new PA trainers/speakers to increase the available volunteers and PA topics in Region 8.
5. Set of criteria for approving PA events and trainers is in preparation for PA manual update.
6. Established active contacts with other committees and IEEE bodies, e.g. IEEE Professional Communication Society.
7. Conducted monthly online meetings, and a face to face meetings at two R8 Committee meetings.

8. Formation of a web page with details on PA activities and contacts. Established LinkedIn discussion group.

In 2012 PA team is active in planning Professional Activities Summit within the program of SBC 2012 event in Madrid. These are joint efforts of PASC with SB and GOLD committees. Face to face meetings are planned during the Berlin meeting.

REPORT ON SECTIONS CONGRESS 2011 AND SAN FRANCISCO MEETING

During the R8 Committee meeting in San Francisco additional activities included:

- Sections Chairs informed about Professional Activities and asked to appoint a PA volunteer in case their section does not have an active volunteer already.
- Contacts with IEEE staff, leaders and societies.
- Two initiatives proposed for SC by PASC team: Thought Leader program and PA Affinity group creation (details given below).

At Sections Congress 2011 in San Francisco Matej Zajc, R8 PASC chair presented Professional Activities in R8. Here we highlight the two initiatives proposed by PASC team:

1. Thought Leadership Program

In similar manner to the Distinguished Lecturer program for technical activities, create a Thought Leader program focused on Professional Activities.

2. Creation of official Professional Activities Affinity Groups

Affinity Groups (AG) creation would facilitate Professional Activities at section level. Annual budget should be provided within MGA with fixed amount for individual event per Affinity Group.

Thought Leader Program

- the **IEEE thought leader program** - recognize successful presenters as IEEE thought leaders
- Thought leaders
 - persons who provoke or encourage people to break current boundaries in their thinking
 - to distinguish from the 'Distinguished lecturer' presenters for technical activities.

→ In similar manner to the Distinguished Lecturer program for technical activities, create a Thought Leader program focused on professional activities.

Creation of official Professional Activities Affinity Groups

- Annual budget should be provided within MGA with fixed amount for individual event per affinity group
 - Event must comply with predefined requirements.
- Local dissemination structure should be setup to facilitate local event organization.

→ Affinity groups creation would facilitate Professional Activities at section level



For more information and the presentation please visit:

http://www.ieee.org/societies_communities/geo_activities/sections_congress/2011/serve.html

http://www.ieee.org/documents/serve_professional_activities

4. PLANS FOR 2012 AND STATUS ON THE TARGETED GOALS

a. PA volunteers in Sections:

Communication with sections to appoint a PA volunteer in each section. Currently, there are 27 (out of 56) sections that have a volunteer for Professional Activities listed. PASC team is asking sections that do not have yet a PA volunteer to appoint a person and report the name to PASC team.

b. Formation of a database for Region 8 approved speakers and workshop organizers.

PASC is setting up a web page that would put together information about PA events and PA trainers/presenters.

Sections that already have appointed PA volunteers are kindly asked to report their activities and best practices as well as to propose speakers/trainers to PASC team. We intend to collect PA activities in your section on promote them on web portal.

c. Continue the Professional Activities workshops

Collaboration with other committees is initiated to plan common PA events, e.g. Professional Communication Society, and JCI.

In 2011 PA workshops were organized by PASC team and corresponding PA teams in Sections. New topics requested by the audience such as Technical writing, Knowledge Cafe, etc.

IEEE Central European Student Branch Congress, Austria Section	15. May 2011 / Linz, Austria	Presentation	Joseph Wenniger
Professional Activities event, Morocco Section	10.-13. May 2011 / Fez, Morocco	Workshops	Kurt Richter
Professional Activities event, WIE Kuwait Section	28. May 2011 / Kuwait City, Kuwait	Workshops	Han van Loon
Sections Congress 2011	19.-22. August 2011 / San Francisco, USA	Presentation	Matej Zajc
IEEE UKRI SBC 2011, SB UKRI Section	2.-4. September 2011 / London, UK	Workshop	Hazel Sales
Professional Activities event , Spain Section	20.-21. October 2011 / Salamanca, Spain	Workshops	Han van Loon Jose Ignacio De Santiago Cid
Professional Activities Summit, Jordan Section	November 2011 / Amman, Jordan	Parallel Workshops	Margaretha Eriksson Kurt Richter Hafidh AlSamarrai
ICAST 2011, Nigeria Section	November 26, 2011 / Abudja, Nigeria	Conference Co-organization	Ezendu Ariwa Godfrey Onyiagha Joshua Adewoye Lawrence Agboola Sylvester Chiemeka Kolawole Oluwatosin

Common conclusion is that these events are highly appreciated among the members at the local level. In addition they generate opportunity for the local volunteers to gain experiences in leadership and management skills.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Region8 Professional Activities plans to:

- Increase the visibility of PA within the region through written material that includes information about Region8 PA, workshops organization, etc. PASC is presenting at Sections Congress in San Francisco.
- Organize smaller regional Professional Activities Summits to train the future trainers in Region8 and to increase the number of volunteers involved in PA. Currently we are planning events in Jordan, Saudi Arabia (EAST and West) and Spain Sections.
- Provide an updated PA Handbook manual to guide organization of PA events in sections. Plan is to finish efforts started in 2011.
- Implement the Thought Leadership Program and similar programs in Region 8 with organization of pilot events.

5. NOTES TO SECTIONS

Section can greatly help the PASC team in common efforts by:

1. Appointing a Professional Activity volunteer in case not yet present.
2. Reporting on Professional Activities in your Section.
3. Contacting R8 PASC for organizing events in your Section.
4. Propose volunteer presenters with Section's references.

6. SUMMARY

- Solid base for Professional Activities in Region 8
- Future growth and success strongly dependent on collaboration with various IEEE entities
- Professional Activities program of products and services aimed at members
- Professional Activities have a positive influence on recruitment and retention in IEEE

→ The program of Professional Activities in Region 8 aims to provide a comprehensive range of opportunities for IEEE members to develop their communication, business, and management skills.

Best regards on behalf of the PASC team!

7.3.2012

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