IEEE Region 8 News Report 2011 -2012

To the Region 8 Committee Meeting in Berlin on 30 of March – 1 of April 2012.

IEEE Region 8 News is published and printed four times per year by the Region 8 committee of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. It is a membership benefit which is sent free with IEEE Spectrum to more than 70,000 IEEE members in Europe, Middle East and Africa. The newsletter is written by many contributors from all over Region8. Each issue, about 50-70 items containing 12,000-17,000 words are submitted to us, plus 40-50 photos .

The Editors:
Roland J. Saam (UK&RI Section)
Zhijia Huang (UK&RI Section)

Issues from Aug 2011 – Mar 2012

We have produced four issues of IEEE Region 8 News in June, September, December 2011 and March 2012. The news articles are sent in by Region 8 members and sorted in four major categories: region news, section news, GOLD news and student news. We also started to invite members to contribute to the featured news articles. In 2011 we re-designed the artistic layout and format to give the newsletter a fresh appearance which also permits more articles to be presented in an attractive way.

1- September 2011 Issue

We have 34 articles where the main articles are:
IEEE UAE Student Day that have innovative student projects from Universities in UAE. The Italy session dedicated the IEEE milestone to honour Marconi's first experiment in wireless telegraphy and Belenux Section celebrated the IEEE mile tone on discovery of superconductivity in 1911 by Onnes et. al. .

2- December 2011 Issue

We have 48 articles where the main articles are:
The Sections Congress 2011 held in San Francisco USA which brought 1100 members from 92 countries to collaborate, educate and provide input on IEEE programs and projects. At the same time we have the Region 8 committee meeting before the sections congress. Zhijia from the R8news editor's team joined both meetings and reported on them. We also covered the Africon which was organised in Livingstone, Zambia. It attracted more than 300 delegates and focused on energy & communications development in Africa.

3 - March 2012 Issue

We have 53 articles for this issue, where the main articles covered: The laboratories on wheels initiated by a group of enthusiastic students and their mentor from German Jordanian University which brings carefully designed science lab sessions to the school children in Jordan. Another successful IEEE Day was led again by Goldies from Region 8 and the availability of WebEx resources for Region8 organisational units for webinars and online collaborations.

R8News Plan for 2012 - 2013

We are looking forward for our incremental improvement to keep the Region 8 News the best newsletter in IEEE. To do this, we need members to contribute to the newsletter and to report what the members are doing in your section, university, chapter, etc. We also encourage members to send in articles regarding their viewpoint on IEEE activities in the region.

1 – Serve the members: as we continue to receive a larger amount of articles from all the members in the Region, we are feeling the need to bring members closer to each other through the news.

2 – Jubilee issue: the 50th anniversary of Region8 gives us the opportunity to go to back in time and find out what we have achieved throughout the years from the birth to the growth of the Region. We will produce a Jubilee issue with double the pages and stories that define the big moments. We encourage all of you to contribute to this effort and send in material you think that would help.

3 – Increase the production quality. As we are receiving more and more photos taken by members using mobile phones, fewer than half of those photos are printable quality. Here we would urge all members to provide quality photos where we could better deliver the newsletter. Guidelines are offered on the R8News Website.

4 - Improve the web-delivery. All IEEE R8News issues for past ten years are available on our website as PDF files, which can be downloaded and read. We intend to adopt the technologies which improve the readers' experiences on smartphones, i-pads, and computers. Volunteers' assistance with this project are welcome.

Zhijia Huang and Roland Saam,

March 2012