

## IEEE Iceland Section Report March 2012

1. Highlights from the past
2. Future activities
3. Best practices
4. Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

### 1. Highlights from the past

- Noteworthy events organized by your Section or its Organizational Units
  - The Iceland Section has recently organized a few lectures for its members. The subjects have been on Losses in Electric Energy Storages for Racecars, remote sensing image analysis with optical images of very high geometrical resolution, Pure Spin Currents and Discharging Spintronics, Spectral–Spatial Hyperspectral Image Segmentation Using Subspace Multinomial Logistic Regression and Markov Random Fields. The Iceland Section has also cooperated with the Icelandic Society for Information Processing. Within this framework, a meeting on smart phone security was held. The IEEE day was celebrated on October 6. We utilized this opportunity to have a presentation at the Reykjavik University which is the second university in Iceland to offer engineering disciplines. About 50 students listened to our presentations, which were on the benefits of IEEE membership, the important role of engineering in the modern society and how IEEE supports its members in their professional lives and during their studies. So far, we have not seen an opportunity to establish a new student branch at the Reykjavik University and therefore its students belong to the student branch at the University of Iceland. This has the advantage to support acquaintance between students at the two universities.
  - Our student activities have been very lively during this winter. The student branch has organized a range of very interesting happenings, including a short course on building electronic circuits, a design competition, an introduction to the Python programming language and an initiative to acquire Arduino development boards and use for projects.

### 2. Future activities

- Noteworthy events organized by your Section or its Organizational Units
  - Currently we are planning a series of lectures on Smart grids. We are working on this in collaboration with Landsnet, the operator of the country's electricity transmission network. We plan to offer at least three lectures whereby one of them will be within the framework of the IEEE distinguished lecturer program.
  - We are in the process of revitalizing our Computer Chapter and have found a person interested in chairing the chapter. We remain hopeful that this will mark the beginning of a range of activities for the chapter.
- Milestone ceremonies
  - The Icelandic Engineering Institute (VFI) is celebrating its 100 years anniversary this year. They use this opportunity to present awards to a range of engineers who have made outstanding contributions during their career. Since the Icelandic society is small and accordingly also the engineering community we found it appropriate to defer the joint VFI-IEEE award for Electrical engineer of the year until 2013. This was suggested in good cooperation between all parties. We are now looking at possibilities to hold the ceremony in late 2012 if this would be compatible with the award rules. This would have the advantage to fit into VFI's anniversary but in a time frame much less busy than the first half of 2012.

### 3. Best practices

- Student branches: So far, we have not seen an opportunity to establish a new student branch at the Reykjavik University and therefore its students belong to the student branch at the University of Iceland. This has the advantage to support acquaintance between students at the two universities.

### 4. Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- We tried hard to engage Icelandic students in the IEEEExtreme programming competition but without success. We would appreciate good advice on this. It seems that our students are more oriented for bottom-up approaches; they have been efficient in implementing their own ideas.