
IEEE Iran Section Report October 2012

1. Highlights from the past

- In 2012, Iran Section continued its membership recruitment drive and continued to see growth in most of our membership categories.
- We have continued to grow despite the fact that this is second year in succession that most universities have cut their student membership subsidies and the dollar exchange rate has steadily increased (i.e., dues in local currency have almost doubled).
- In 2012, Iran Section technically sponsored 29 national and international conferences. 9 conferences were approved to only display the Section logo and 20 conferences were approved to display the logo and have their English articles indexed in the IEEE Xplore. The largest conference, the 19th Iranian Conference on electrical Engineering, had over 3000 participants.
- In 2012, Iran Section organized and held its 6th annual national student counselors conference (which invites student branch counselors from across the country) and the 3rd general annual Iran Section congress which is open to all IEEE members to attend. The annual congress gives our members a chance to be in direct contact with the section board and officers and includes live question and answer sessions.
- Three new student branches have been created in 2012. Iran Section now has a total of 27 student branches.
- In 2012, Iran Section presented the following national awards: Distinguished Professor Award to Professor Farrokh Hojjat-Kashani, Young Investigator Award to Dr. Saleh Tavazoei, Best PhD Thesis Award to Dr. Mahdi Bashir-Ebrahimi, Best MS Thesis Award to Mr. Mohsen Sa'adat zi, Best BS Thesis Award to Fa'eghe Iraninezhad, Best Woman Thesis Award to Dr. Sara Koozehkanan, Distinguished Student Branch Counselor Award to Dr. Mehdi Moallem, and Best Student Branch Award to Tarbiat Modarres Student Branch.

2. Future activities

- To locally register the Iran Section. The legal proceedings are moving forward and it is expected that they are completed in a near future.
- To continue with the conference management improvement plan and implement some of the newly approved directives. This includes the new requirement that an Iran Section representative should be present and provide a report from Iran Section sponsored conferences that index their papers in IEEE Xplore.
- To host three major national events. The 4th general annual Iran Section congress, the 7th annual national conference of student branch counselors, and the 2nd national workshop of student branch chairs (at the historic city of Isfahan) will be held in the coming year.
- To hold biannual Iran Section election. An election committee has been formed and the preparations are under way for the election to be held in October 2012.

3. Best practices

- Iran Section has a meeting every first Wednesday of the Persian calendar months. Majority of the officers are present in the meetings.
- A student representative is present in the Iran Section meetings.
- Iran Section officers regularly travel and visit student branches around the country.
- Iran Section has developed a very rigorous evaluation and approval system for sponsoring conferences. The process includes evaluation of technical and executive committees of the conferences, assistance with indexing of papers in IEEE Xplore, and monitoring of conferences that extends beyond the conference completion.

4. Points of concern

- Unavailability of IEEE rebates to Iran Section along with lack of recognition of student branches and chapters in Iran by IEEE headquarters as independent units among other restrictions continue to limit our activities.
- Limitation of UNESCO coupons available for membership renewal is another concern.

5. Miscellaneous

- Iran Section is in the process of finalizing a three-party agreement between IEEE Iran Section and two of the biggest national electrical engineering societies. These two other societies have a combined membership of about nine thousand members. The agreement covers areas of standards, education, and membership development.