

IEEE Kenya Section Report October 2012

1. Highlights from the past

- **Annual Innovation Expo.**
The 14th Annual Innovation Expo (formerly the Engineering Students' Exhibition) was held from the 17th - 18th August 2012 in Nairobi. The event attracted young innovators from all over the East African Community with over 75 engineering and related projects.
- **Strategic partnerships.**
The section established strategic partnerships to help it achieve its goals and deliver value to its members. This included linkages with the LIWA Kenya Trust, Kenya Private Sector Alliance, Kenya Bureau of Standards, Afrinnovation, Kenya National Council for Science, SAMSUNG East Africa and AITEC Africa.
- **Advocacy**
By leveraging its partnerships, the section was enabled its members to shape industry policy. Through the KEPSA ICT sector board, the section provided input to drive the Kenya Information Bill 2011 and the Draft Cybercrime Bill 2012, as well as working with KEBS to form Technical Committees for selected electrical and related standards.
- **Industry linkages**
Strong linkages were forged with industry in Kenya through expos, student mentorships and professional lectures. This has yielded capital support from industry for student-led startup companies and the SAMSUNG "Built for Africa" Challenge that the section is now running.

2. Future activities

- **SAMSUNG "Built for Africa" Challenge**
Over the next six months, innovators from the section shall be competing to develop ground-breaking applications for and improvements to existing and proposed SAMSUNG products and technologies that will be tailored for the African environment and culture.

3. Best practices

- **Member engagement**
By conducting a membership survey, the section was able to identify action areas for delivering value to its membership. This guided the development of a strategic plan that is driving all activities for the next two years targeted at membership development, strategic partnerships and growing IEEE brand visibility. Engagement with the members has been enhanced by adopting multiple communication platforms including social media.
- **Industry partnerships and public sector engagement**
The section has been able to grow its visibility and capacity for advocacy for its constituents by actively seeking out, engaging with and forming partnerships with private sector and public institutions. This has yielded relationships with LIWA Trust Kenya, SAMSUNG, iHub, the Eastern African Economic Chambers of Commerce, KEPSA, KEBS, AITEC Africa and others. This has provided the section with immense social capital to pursue programs for the membership.

4. Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Drawing from the report of the membership survey, the section is seeking to provide its membership with a mechanism that will enable payments to the IEEE to be made locally. This initiative is currently faced with the lack of a standard exchange rate for use in these transactions, and other administrative procedures.
- Owing to the connectivity challenges in the region, the section is grappling with the challenge to implement an effective virtual meeting solution that can easily be utilized by the membership. The current solutions on offer by the IEEE are not fully supported in our geographic area.