

IEEE Zambia Section Report October 2012

1. Highlights from the Past

- **EPICS in Zambia**

The Zambia Section has been undertaking **EPICS** project under the sponsorship of **IEEE EAB**. Two universities are involved in these projects namely:

Copperbelt University - Computer Science Department students with a project about eLearning titled **An Opportunity in the Making: Digital Teaching Units, an E-Learning Case in Kitwe - Zambia**.

University of Zambia School of Engineering students working with pupils from Saint Josephs, a secondary school in southern rural Zambia, embarked on a project entitled **Open BTS project**.

- **IEEE Zambia to launch website and newsletter**

The section has faced challenges in organizing member-meeting and other activities which require good attendance. In this regard and as a way of increasing reach, the section will for the first time launch a website and softcopy version newsletter. The website will be linked to Region 8's and newsletter will be emailed every month to active members, students as well as circulated to all universities and colleges.

- **Milestones**

By collaborating with the local society for engineers (Engineering Institution of Zambia) in organizing the Africon, the IEEE Zambia Section has proudly demonstrated that the IEEE can still expand and increase its membership and influence by working in synergy with local-based institutions with overlapping objectives. The section believes that sectional growth and high retention rates will to a greater extent be positively influenced by such synergies.

2. Future activities

- Organizing elections which will usher in new leadership within the section by November, 2012
- Planning to organize a conference in collaboration with the IEEE PES and be hosted within Zambia
- Planning to organize a students' expo as means of reaching out to students and increasing the visibility of the section and IEEE within that fraternity.

3. Best Practices

- Ensuring IEEE activities count towards continuing professional development(CPD) credits; as required by the Engineering Institution of Zambia
- Reaching out to all electrical engineering, computer science and applied sciences students in the section in order to increase student membership and academia as currently statistics show the opposite
- Using IEEE organised events within the Zambian section to increase visibility and engage more members
- Section member development through increased section organised events and supporting other Region 8 initiatives likely to grow the section directly or indirectly

4. Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Low level participation of local members in IEEE organized events
- Low membership levels especially from students in particular and academia in general
- Small financial capacity against high mobility costs limiting number of meetings to be organized for membership
- High cost of subscription still an issue with membership in this section

5. Miscellaneous

- Registration the section with the national Registrar of Societies under the laws of Zambia; IEEE Piscataway assisting with the required legal framework.