Vice-Chair: Technical Activities
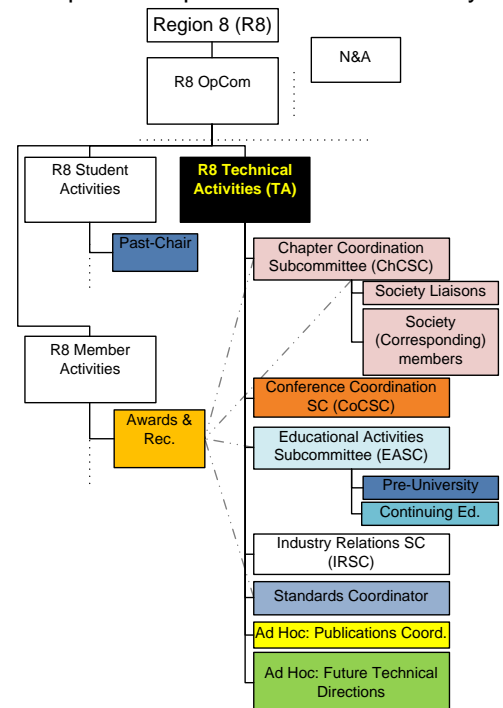
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The Vice-Chair: Technical Activities works with standing coordinators/subcommittees: chapters coordination, conference coordination, education activities, standards, industry relations and two adhoc coordinators: technical publications and future directions towards providing an oversight on technical activities of the *geographical unit*, IEEE Region 8.

Over the past year, we have introduced a new tool towards interacting with our volunteers at the "grassroots" level, i.e. our counterparts at the section level. WebEx, which is supported by an InterCall facility, is now somewhat more popular, but more socialization and training is still required. Through InterCall, the audio portion of a WebEx "webinar" is accessed, and for a few countries in Region 8, a toll-free number is provided. For many other countries, audio access is gained by using Google Phone or Skype to call the US based toll-free number for InterCall.

The **chapter coordination subcommittee** (ChCSC) has held both in-person and web-based chapter chairs meeting (CCM), where we have identified the opportunity for sections to establish some 500 new chapters in Region 8. While the opportunity to develop new chapters exist, it also remains important that the existing chapters are active, and well-supported. Through vTools, section chairs are reminded to monitor chapter activity and provide support where possible. The connectivity of the Region 8 ChCSC too various societies and councils could be of assistance where dormancy may start to prevail or already prevails.

The **conference coordination subcommittee** (CoCSC) has progressed towards attracting more events for technical and financial co-sponsorship. Support for conference bids for large "flagship" conferences (such as ICC 2017) has been provided to chapters in our region. The CoCSC has also held a webinar on financial issues, including managing of conference insurance and taxes. The new mechanism of conference registration using ICX (IEEE Conference Exchange) is now in place: http://www.ieee.org/conferences_events/conferences/organizers/conf_app.html
Traditional Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for technical co-sponsorship is now automatically generated and coordinated.

The **educational activities subcommittee** (EASC) pioneers our pre-university works (PUW), continuing education (CE) and university activities. Through the recent sponsorship for translating the TryEngineering portal into Arabic, an interest to organize a Teacher In-Service Programme (TISP) supported by local volunteers in the Gulf and North Africa, is being developed. This would be the first TISP in Arabic, and could go a long way towards developing the "active" learning component for our educators in the Gulf area. The EASC interacts regularly with IEEE's Educational Activities Board (EAB) and new opportunities are regularly identified in this way. An interest towards developing informal museum exhibits, for instance E-Scientia, is another PUW. With the identified interest in CE for our members, the CE coordinator has recently arranged a distinguished lecture (IEEE Vehicular Technology Society), as a webinar. The webinar had been well attended, and was of interest to both industry professionals, but also to graduate student members (GSMs). The approach could be useful for emerging researchers and doctoral students seeking to identify research gaps. University activities, including accreditation activities, move forward in the Gulf area, North Africa, East and Southern Africa. The approach is to "follow the volunteers," and work with national or local engineering councils and professional societies and assist in formation of local accreditation committees, who could with training, support academic programme accreditation in their local geographical areas.

The **industry relations subcommittee (IRSC)** has held a number of meetings and interactions towards finalizing documentation for the Region 8 industry awards for industrial professionals and companies. The IRSC has also finalized the role of the section-level industry relations officer (IRO), as well as providing a

summary of the roles. The roles were discussed through a region wide webinar, and the resulting recording has been circulated to those who could not attend. A mechanism for regular feedback from IROs has also been established through IEEE Fluid Surveys (http://ieee.fluidsurveys.com/surveys/R8/iro-semi-annual-report/).

The **standards coordinator** works closely with IEEE-Standards Association (IEEE-SA) and the IEEE-SA & EAB joint Standards Education Committee (SEC). In cooperation with the mentioned entities, cooperation with our flagship conferences such as EnergyCon, workshops towards "demystifying IEEE standards," have been held. Smaller scale or similar sized events are being planned for EuroCon'13 and Africon'13. SEC and PUW have worked together to generate an early interest among pre-university students on IEEE standards. Similarly standards activities have been held at university level, and for industry professionals. The IRSC and the standards coordinator have worked together towards promoting the standards workshops at conferences.

The **adhoc coordinators** for publications and future technical coordination have renewed the linkages with IEEE Sales and Marketing towards developing access to the IEEE / IET electronic library (IEL) and future technical areas, respectively. The approach has started to deliver in some areas, for instance, in France, but slower in other areas. Another area of interest is to develop IEEE Xplore further by including local/regional publications of high quality.

As this is the final report of the Vice-Chair of Technical Activities, the Vice-Chair *extends hearty thanks to all Region 8 committee members*, for kind support over the period of 2011-2012. The Vice-Chair, together with adhoc and standing committee chairs/coordinators will work with the new team for 2013/4 and ensure a smooth transition.