

IEEE REGION8

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE (PASC)

1. INTRODUCTION

The IEEE R8 Professional Activities Sub-Committee (PASC) team: **Matej Zajc**, Chair (Slovenia Section), **Emilio Corchado** (Spain Section), **Urmet Janes** (Estonia Section)

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2. STRATEGIC PLANNING

MAJOR GOALS

The PASC team has set three main goals set at the beginning of the year:

- Increase the understanding and the extent of Professional Activities within Region 8
- Establish a program of Professional Activities for Region 8
- Professional Activities should provide a place for interdisciplinary collaboration and networking

SPECIFIC GOALS

1. Publicize the Professional Activities by written material and different electronic media
2. Coordinate Professional Activities in sections through local Professional Activities leaders
3. Providing support and expertise to sections, chapters, societies and student branches within the region (e.g. Professional Activities materials)
4. Establish active contacts with other committees within IEEE and other institutions (e.g. JCI)
5. Organization of annual Professional Activities Summit.

3. REPORT

ACTIONS TAKEN

In 2012 actions were conducted in order to increase the level of activities and the understanding within the region:

1. Sections contacted to organize events to increase the level of activities within the region. Several workshops successfully planned for autumn-winter this year with organization of local PA volunteers.
2. In July Professional Activities Summit held within the program of SBC 2012 in Madrid, Spain. Three parallel workshops attracted volunteers at the half-day event (report will be published in R8 News).
3. Sections contacted to propose new PA trainers/speakers to increase the available volunteers and PA topics in Region 8.
4. Established active contacts with other committees and IEEE bodies, e.g. IEEE Professional Communication Society.
5. Maintenance of a web page with details on PA activities and contacts.
6. PASC Presentation was delivered by Emilio Corchado at SBC 2012 to student and GOLD members of the Region 8.
7. PASC Presentation at Sections Congress 2011 was recorded as a webinar this summer and will be available for online viewing. Best practices in the area of professional activities in Region 8 were presented by Matej Zajc, PASC chair.

REPORT ON PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES SUMMIT WITHIN SBC 2012 MADRID

PASC organized under the frame of SBC 2012 three interesting and successful workshops with the aim to prepare attendees for their workplace and improve their views for future career enhancements, giving the opportunity to develop project management and leadership skills.

On Thursday, there were a presentation addresses to all the participants importance of professional activities and to introduce the Saturday's Professional Activities track. It was very successful with an energetic and active audience, where several questions and discussions were held.

The subjects and speakers were:

- Margaretha Eriksson (presented by Ali El-Mousa): Effective Communication and From Idea to Product
- Han van Loon: STARS Thought Leader workshop
- Byron Soulopoulos (JCI): Take back control of your own future

The great audience was based on enthusiastic volunteers, including students, gold members and senior members. There were around 100 participants. Their enthusiasm and whole-hearted engagement made the three workshops fun and rewarding for all of us. The feedback from the attendees was pretty good, and a clear sign of it was great participation. It is worthy to emphasize the fact that several Student and Gold Sections representatives contact the PASC in order to organized similar events in their countries.

Several possible improvements in the organization of the event were highlighted and will be considered in the organization of next event.

4. PLANS FOR 2012 AND STATUS ON THE TARGETED GOALS

We have several continuing activities:

- a. PA volunteers in Sections:

Communication with sections to appoint a PA volunteer in each section. Currently, there are 27 (out of 56) sections that have a volunteer for Professional Activities listed.

- b. Formation of a database for Region 8 approved speakers and workshop organizers.

PASC is setting up a web page that would put together information about PA events and PA trainers/presenters. During the process of creating the PA Summit program several new PA speakers were promoted and will be available in future events.

- c. Continue the Professional Activities workshops

Collaboration with other committees is initiated to plan common PA events, e.g. Professional Communication Society, and JCI.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Region8 Professional Activities plans to:

- Increase the visibility of PA within the region through written material that includes information about Region8 PA, workshops organization, etc.
- Organize smaller regional Professional Activities Summits next year to train the future trainers in Region8 and to increase the number of volunteers involved in PA.
- Provide an updated PA Handbook manual to guide organization of PA events in sections.
- Continue with implementation of the Thought Leadership Program and similar programs in Region 8 with organization of pilot events.

5. NOTES TO SECTIONS

Section can greatly help the PASC team in common efforts by:

1. Appointing a Professional Activity volunteer in case not yet present.
2. Reporting on Professional Activities in your Section.
3. Contacting R8 PASC for organizing events in your Section.
4. Propose volunteer presenters with Section's references.