

IEEE UK&RI Section Report for October 2012**1. Highlights**

Our intention is to 'Serve the Members'. Significant events include the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of IEEE in UK & Ireland. The celebrations were held in three locations across the geography of the Section – in Greenwich, England; in Edinburgh, Scotland; and in Shannon, Ireland. Keynotes were London: Dr Mike Short VP of Telefonica and President of IET, Edinburgh: Kevin Warwick Professor of Cybernetics University of Reading, Shannon: Dr Jeff Voas, National Institute of Standards and Technologies and Peter Nolan, Head of ATM Systems and Technology, Irish Aviation Authority. Guest Speakers were

London: Vice Chancellor of University of Greenwich, Prof David MacGuire - Welcome address, Chris Bailey - UoG and connections to IEEE and Cutty Sark, Gordon Day, IEEE President - President's address, Marko Delimar, IEEE Region 8 Director - IEEE R8 50th, Nihal Sinnadurai, Relationships and History of IEEE UK&RI;

Edinburgh: Prof. Tariq Durrani, RSE Council – Welcome to RSE, Vice-Principal of Heriot-Watt University, Prof Julian Jones - Welcome address, Gordon Day, IEEE President - President's address, Marko Delimar, IEEE Region 8 Director - IEEE R8 50th, Ricky Lee, IEEE CPMT President - CPMT relations with UK&RI, Nihal Sinnadurai, Relationships and History of IEEE UK&RI;

Shannon: Peter Nolan – Welcome to IAAC, IAA and Links to IEEE, Martin Bastiaans, IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect – Region 8 History and Relationships with UK&RI, Region 8 Best Chapter Award to IEEE Computational Intelligence Chapter. Damien Coyle received, Nihal Sinnadurai, Relationships and History of IEEE UK&RI.

2. Activities & Best Practices

To increase our profile of serving our members we are taking a number on initiatives. Chapters are joining with Section officers to provide events that will encourage member participation. These will include Keynote talks accompanied by networking sessions. Already we have held members' events such as the Research to Industry R2i in June to encourage industry take-up of good research outputs and the NanoTechnologies in Electronics networking Workshop in September. More such events are in the pipeline.

We also intend events at which researchers can meet industrialists – enabled by our Industry Relations team. Our new Professional Activities team is planning to get practitioners to address our members in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and research students on professionalism – in safeguarding intellectual property, planning, budgeting and routes to exploitation. As events are planned and anchored, they will appear on our new website <http://ieee-ukri.org/>

Most Chapters are active, and have activities planned for the year ahead. Regrettably, some Chapters are inactive and one was completely dormant. The dormant Chapter (Photonics Ireland) is now under the wing of the ED/Photonics Dublin Chapter. We have reached out to the active Chapters to partner with the Chapter leaders who need support.

The past year has indeed been active thanks to the active volunteers of the Section and the Chapters. The list of events is included in our report to Chairs.

Our Students not only hosted the successful 2010 Region 8 Students Branch Congress, but also followed up in 2011 with an innovative UK&RI Students Branch Congress also held at Queen Mary College London University which included adjudicated competitions.

Our Industry team followed up its previous activity and produced an updated SWOT analysis of industry expectations from IEEE, which was also delivered to the IEEE Region 8 meeting in Berlin.

4. Matters of serious concern

Stemming from the SWOT and also feedback from our many conferences are three serious matters which require corrective action within IEEE:

- i. The IEEE copyright document is regarded as draconian by industrialists whose lawyers have advised their employees not to sign such a document. The document is viewed as intending to acquire the intellectual property that rightly belongs to the organisation that funded and undertook the research and innovation. The IEEE copyright document must be rescinded and replaced, more appropriately, with a 'Licence to publish'. We have a recommended document to be adopted by IEEE. If the existing copyright document is not rescinded, we will continue to haemorrhage industry interest in submitting papers to IEEE conferences.
- ii. Chapters and Sections are astounded when an IEEE conference appears in their geographic area with no consultation or agreement with the local unit. Such behaviour is a kick in the teeth to the local volunteers and is NOT CONSISTENT WITH EMPOWERING OUR MEMBERS. All IEEE Conferences must seek agreement and involvement of the local units.
- iii. Another matter relating to empowering and incentivising our volunteers has arisen because of the 27th January 2012 letter from Geographic Activities intending to acquire reserves from Sections. It is surprising that such a totalitarian intention comes from the USA where totalitarianism is abhorred. It is also reminiscent of thoroughly discredited and abandoned budgeting approaches of civil servants. Such a concept totally contradicts the principle of empowering the local unit and recognising success. The proposal must be rescinded. A follow-up dialogue has followed the repeat of this bad move:

"In a message dated 17/08/2012 16:34:52 GMT Daylight Time, l.bolsch@ieee.org writes:

Hello Nihal, I will raise your concerns with Volunteer Leadership at the next MGA Finance and or Operating Committee Meetings. Thank you for your feedback. Larry.

From: SINNADURAI@aol.com
To: l.bolsch@ieee.org
Cc: Nick.Wright@newcastle.ac.uk, c.defelice@ieee.org, m.delimar@ieee.org, M.J.Bastiaans@tue.nl, b.harrington1@btinternet.com, e.e.alvarez@ieee.org, alvarez.enrique@gmail.com

Date: 08/17/2012 11:30 AM

Subject: Re: Fw: Geo Unit Reserve Allocation

Dear Larry,

Thank you for your explanation. The situation remains unsatisfactory where Chapters run separate bank accounts which cannot be accessed by the Section and the Chapters cannot be commanded by the Section. We cannot pass the penalty onto the Chapter and therefore other members in UK&RI Section will be penalised instead. As I have already emphasised, the Section uses its funds very deliberately to provide service to our members. We do not sit on the money. You may already have had feedback from the Region 8 meeting of March this year that Sections were very vocal in disapproving the proposed MGA action. We must find a solution whereby actual activity in serving the members must take precedence over virtual confiscation of funds.

Regards

Nihal Sinnadurai

Chair, IEEE UK&RI Section

5. Miscellaneous: Awards and recognitions

UK&RI Computational Intelligence (CIS011) (formerly Neural Networks) Chapter has been judged to be the Best Large Chapter in Region 8.

Congratulations to Damien Coyle and his team for setting such a great example. We must recognise the great service this Chapter and many of our other hard working volunteers are delivering to our members.