IEEE Israel Section Report April 2013

1. **Highlights from the past**
- IEEE Israel Section was established as IRE Section on October 5 th , 1954 when the state was only 6 years old. Since the Mergar of IRE with AIEE our section is the oldest section in Region 8, which covers Europe, Middle East and Africa. Currently the Israel Section has more than 1300 members which are active in 18 Chapters.
- Since 1971 the IEEE Israel Section holds a Technical Conference, every second year.
The Israel Section organized the first MELECON in Tel-Aviv on May 1981, with attendance of 1200 participants. For Initiation of MELECON, Jacob Baal-Schem was awarded the Larry K. Wilson Award.
In 1998 the Israel Section hosted again the MELECON Conference, in Tel-Aviv.
- The IEEE 27th Convention of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in Israel (IEEEI 2012) was held on November 14-17, 2012 at the Hilton Hotel in Eilat, celebrating **50 Years of IEEE-Israel as Region 8 Section.** Representatives of Israel Prime Minister and Israel Minister of Defence presented certificates of IEEE Life achievements to Mr. Uzia Galil, who was among the founders of the Section and Dr. Michael Rode, past Chair of theIsrael Computers Chapter.
- The AP/MTT Chapter organizes since 2003 yearly Symposia, which became since 2008 COMCAS International Conferences (Conference On Microwaves, Communications, Antennas, Solid State Circuits and Electronic systems), chaired by Shmuel Auster, with up to 1200 participants and a large Technical Exhibition (80 booths).
- The Communications Chapter hosted "INFOCOM 2000" in Tel-Aviv.
- The Life Member Group holds since 2008, a series of 3-4 „Technical Fridays" per year with 5-6 lectures and about 200 participants per event.
- Israel Section represaentative initiated the series of HISTELCON Conferences held in Paris {2008},Madrid (2010) and Pavia (2012). Region 8 Conference Committee approved the holding of HISTELCON 2015 in Israel, in conjunction with ICOHTEC.
- Israel IEEE members participate in many of the IEEE Technical Conferences worldwide and are very active in publishing papers in IEEE Journals.
- **IEEE Milestones**
IEEE Israel Section has sponsored the following IEEE Milestones in Electrical Engineering and Computing:
    1. **Lempel-Ziv Data Compression Algorithm** 1977 – dedicated in September 2004
    The Lempel-Ziv compression algorithm became a basis for enabling data transmission on the Internetin an efficient way. The plaque is placed at the Technion in Haifa, Israel
    2. **WEIZAC Computer** 1955 – dedicated in December 2006.
    The computer was built during 1954-1955 at the Weizmann Institute of Technology in Rehovot, Israel. It was based on drawings of the IAS computer of Princeton University and was the first digital electronic computer built in the Middle East. The plaque is placed at the Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel.
- The IEEE Israel Section is the main Technical organization in Israel in Electronics. Its membership is largely recognized in Academia and in High-Tech Industry. IEEE Israel Section is incorporated as a Non for Profit (NPO) Association (Amuta).
- Members of IEEE Israel Section serve in many positions in IEEE Committees and Societies. One of its members – Elya B. Joffe - was 2008/9 President of EMC Society and is 2011 President of PSES. Members of the Section serve as officers of IEEE Region 8 Committee, members of Corporate and Societies Committees and participate in Conferences Committees.

2. Future activities
- IEEE Israel Section continues to be the leading learned organization in Electronics in Israel and develops activities in advanced and emerging technologies, as nanotechnology and bio-engineering. It strives continuously to nurture a strong cooperation between academy and industry.
- 2013 IEEE International Conference on Microwaves, Communications, Antennas and Electronic Systems (COMCAS) will be held on 22-24 October 2013 at the David Intercontinental Hotel in Tel-Aviv.(www.comcas.org)
- IEEE HISTELCON 2015 is plannedto be held on 24-28 August 2015 at the Yehud Conference Center, near Tel-Aviv.

4. Points of concern / Topics for future discussion
- Since the of contact to IEEE Xplore Digital library from University computers, it becomes difficult to enroll students to IEEE

5. Miscellaneous
- Dr. Frohman-Bentchowsky received the IEEE Jack Morton Award, the Israel Prize in Engineering and the IEEE Edison Medal in 2008 "For pioneering the development of the MOS Erasable, Programmable Read Only Memory (EPROM), a key enabler of the information age revolution."
- Members of the IEEE Israel Section serve as Distinguished Lecturers of IEEE Societies.