

IEEE Benelux Section Report April 2013

1. Highlights from the past

- September 22, 2012: Region 8 Membership Development Workshop in Leuven – The event was hosted by the KU Leuven and was attended by 12 MD officers, the Director-Elect and 3 MD officers.
- January 31, 2013: Chapter Chair Meeting – To strengthen the contact with the chapter chairs and share best practices, a chapter chair meeting was held. The meeting consisted of a presentation on electronic tools and a discussion between section officers and chapter chairs.
- January 31, 2013: General Assembly – Chairman Wim van Etten gave a welcome speech and presented the main ExCom activities in the past two years. Then MD officer Dirk Van Hertem and Treasurer Dirk Rabaey presented the Membership Development Report and Financial Report, respectively, and the new ExCom was elected.
- January 31, 2013: Meet the Fellows Event – Keynote speeches were given by Geert Leus, Anton van der Steen and Marco Guglielmi, three of the newly elected Fellows in 2012 and 2013.
- The chapters organized various international symposia.

2. Future activities

- The IEEE ITMC & 19th ICE Conference will take place in The Hague, June 24–26, 2013.
- The IEEE 13th International Working Conference on Source Code Analysis and Manipulation (SCAM) will take place in Eindhoven, September 22–23, 2013.
- The IEEE 15th International Symposium on Web Systems Evolution (WSE) will take place in Eindhoven, September 27, 2013.
- In 2014 the Section Congress will be held in Amsterdam (August 22–25). Former Section Chairman Wim van Etten is the local chair and will compose an organizing committee.
- The chapters will organize various international symposia.

3. Best practices

- Seventeen chapters, two AGs (GOLD and WIE) and six Student Branches are active.
- The number of Senior Members increased by 25%. Six Senior Members were elevated to Fellow in 2013.
- The section is financially sound. The balance sheet showed a positive gain for 2012, mainly due to an increase in rebates.

4. Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- The total number of members dropped by approximately 150 in the past year. This is partly attributed to the exceptional visibility of the Benelux Section in 2010, although the decline is also visible throughout Region 8 and even IEEE-wide. To remedy the decline, action was taken by IEEE, MD, chapter chairs, and the section (newsletter and reminder e-mail to all people in arrears), resulting in some noticeable improvement.
- It is still unclear whether the IEEE bylaws regarding legal status of the section/chapters and liability of their volunteers are compatible with the Dutch and Belgian laws. This is currently under investigation by former Chairman Wim van Etten and Treasurer Dirk Rabaey, in close connection with HQ and Dutch and Belgian lawyers.
- The chapters on CE and NPS were discontinued. The chair of the ED chapter resigned so this chapter is currently dormant. Chapter & AG Coordinator Kees van 't Klooster is investigating the viability of such a chapter.
- The new Region 8 Director Martin Bastiaans resigned as Award and Membership Elevation officer. Chairman Luc Vandendorpe is currently looking for a successor.

5. Miscellaneous

- The ExCom meeting in November 2012 was attended by Abhay Phansikar, Secretary of the IEEE Bombay Section. Best practices were shared, and our members were invited to come over to Bombay and give invited lectures.
- Lieneke Kusters is the new Student Representative, and Stoyan Nihtianov is the new officer Industrial Relations and Conferences.
- The three newly approved chapters and the new AG WIE have started. Two of them have held kick-off meetings.
- The Student Branch in Leuven has erected a Joint Student Chapter on Industry Applications and Industrial Electronics. This has been approved by HQ.