IEEE Kenya Section Report April 2013

1. Highlights from the past

- **Empowering the visually impaired**
  IEEE Kenya commenced an EPICS project in which it is working with Automated Research Systems and the Kenya Society for the Blind to provide access for visually impaired persons to educational content on mobile devices.
- *Advocacy.*
  By leveraging its partnerships, the section was enabled its members to shape industry policy. Through the KEPSA ICT sector board, the section provided input to drive the Kenya Information Bill 2011 and the Draft Cybercrime Bill 2012, as well as working with KEBS to form Technical Committees for selected electrical and related standards.

2. Future activities

- *Annual Innovation Expo.*
  The 15th Annual Innovation Expo (formerly the Engineering Students' Exhibition) will be held during September 2013 in Nairobi. The event has attracted young innovators from all over the East African Community and will also feature a Teacher-In-Service workshop for pre-university educators from the E. Africa region.
- **IST-Africa 2013 Conference & Exhibition**
  The IST-Africa Conference Series provides a platform to strengthen Information Society and ICT related policy dialogues within Africa and between Africa and Europe through Plenary Sessions, rich thematic knowledge exchange through the Scientific Programme and co-located multi-lateral (e.g. JEG8) and bi-lateral meetings. Hosted by the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology, supported by the European Commission and African Union Commission, IST-Africa 2013 will take place in Nairobi from 29 - 31 May 2013.

3. Best practices

- *Member engagement.*
  The section conducted a students membership survey to identify action areas for delivering value to its graduate and undergraduate student membership. Engagement with the members continued to be enhanced through the use of multiple communication platforms including social media.

4. Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- The IEEE legal registration process has had an unexpected negative impact on the running of the section. The section has not been involved in the process, and is therefore unable to obtain information regarding the extended delay in completing the process. The result of this situation is that the section is unable to perform any actions for which legal registration is required, e.g. opening a new bank account.
- Owing to the connectivity challenges in the region, the section is grappling with the challenge to implement an effective virtual meeting solution that can easily be utilized by the membership. The current solutions on offered by the IEEE are not fully supported in our geographic area.

5. Miscellaneous

- On March 11 2013 the IEEE Kenya Section Affinity Group, GOLD, was officially formed following the approval of the Regional Director and the GOLD Committee Chair.