



Women in Engineering (WIE) Report

100th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting to be held in Madrid, 19-21 April 2013

By IEEE R8 WIE Coordinating Committee

Joyce Mwangama (South Africa) – Chair

Reem Turkey (Saudi Arabia West) – Corresponding Advisor

Bernadette Bouchon Meunier (France) – Corresponding Advisor

1 Introduction

IEEE WIE is under IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Board.

1.1 IEEE WIE aims

The IEEE Women in Engineering of Region 8 would like to address the following issues (particularly during WIE sessions and events at IEEE conferences):

- *how to prepare high school girls to make an unprejudiced choice regarding their study and careers in Science & Engineering and give them good background for that;*
- *how to seal the academic pipeline of women in order to minimize the “pipe leakage” phenomena;*
- *how to overcome barriers to the advancement of women in Science & Engineering;*
- *and how to balance career and family life.*

Our society cannot afford to lose women’s talents in Science & Engineering.

1.2 R8 WIE Team objectives

The role of the Women in Engineering (WIE) Coordinator and advisory team, appointed by the Director after consultation with the Vice Chair – Member Activities, is:

- *Liaison with WIE activities at MGA Board level and with the Educational Activities Board*
- *Establishing and maintaining contact with all Region 8 WIE Affinity Groups*
- *Encouraging WIE activities in parts of Region 8 where no WIE Affinity Group exists, and assisting Sections in the creation of new WIE Affinity Groups*

Supporting activities aimed at encouraging science and engineering careers for women.

1.3 Region 8 Membership Statistics

As of February 2013 IEEE WIE membership in Region 8 (Europe, Africa and Middle East) was at 1457 members.

Region	Feb-12	Feb-13
US	2,293	2,344
Canada	247	241
Europe, Africa & Middle East	1,711	1,457
Latin America	1,261	944
Asia & Pacific	3,182	3,739
Undefined	2	
Total	8,696	8,725

This shows a decline in membership retention for the region in the past year, a similar trend is seen in Latin America. We will be investigating ways to increase membership (and retention).

WIE AFFINITY GROUPS

Region	Regular	Student	Total
R1	12	3	15
R2	5	1	6
R3	9	4	13
R4	5	2	7
R5	5	0	5
R6	10	2	12
R7	9	12	21
R8	25	53	77
R9	13	71	84
R10	26	154	180
TOTAL	119	302	421

Section Affinity Groups (AGs) in the region total 25, while Student Branch AGs total 53, 77 altogether.

New SBAG:

- ISCTE University Inst of Lisbon Women in Engineering Student Affinity Group in Portugal

2 WIE Activities

2.1 Past reported activities

This is a list of recent reported WIE events in the Region

WIE R8 Coordinator	Teleconferences with WIE	monthly
WIE R8 Committee	Teleconference call with WIE R8 Committee	January 2013
Participation of WiE Western Saudi Arabia Section in "10th Learning & Technology Conference: Cloud Spacing" at Effat University	Western Saudi Arabia Section	25-26 February 2013
WiE Western Saudi Arabia Section organized WiE Introductory lecture and Technical Seminar titled: "Using Agile Project Management in Software Projects" at KAU	Western Saudi Arabia Section	13 March 2013
WIE Workshop at the Iberian Student Branch Congress	IEEE Universidade do Porto Student Branch	16 March 2013

2.2 Upcoming / planned events

This is a list of upcoming or planned WIE events in the region:

WIE STAR activity	IEEE UCT WIE Student Affinity Group	March/April 2013
Potential WIE Workshop at Central European Student Branch Congress	Poland	May 2013
EESTEC / Germany Section WIE affinity group Women's Workshop	Germany Section WIE Affinity Group	April 2013
Potential 1 ST Region Wide WIE Affinity Group Meeting*	Collocated with IEEE CIVEMSA conference in Milan, Italy	July 2013

* The region 8 Women In Engineering Committee is exploring the possibility to have a meeting for all WIE groups (Section Affinity Groups or Student Branch Affinity Groups) to be collocated at the IEEE International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Virtual Environments for Measurement Systems and Applications (IEEE CIVEMSA) in Milan, Italy 15 - 17 July 2013.

The purpose of this meeting will be for attendees to:

- learn more about IEEE WIE

- present on your own local activities and experiences
- network with others in the region participating in IEEE WIE

The format of the meeting will likely be confined to a single day, filled with workshops, presentations and networking. A call has been sent targeted at those who were already in any case planning to attend the conference. Planning for the meeting will start once we have a general idea of how many AGs will be able to participate.

2.3 Other WIE updates

Below are some other updates relating to general running of IEEE WIE in the region

2.3.1 Clementina Saduwa Award 2013

We are expecting to announce the winner of the Clementina Saduwa award at IEEE R8 Madrid Meeting. Winner is judged by WIE R8 Coordinator and ad hoc evaluation committee consisting of past and present members of the IEEE R8 WIE committee. We also received a donation to the fund for the award from Pender M. McCarter, retired public relations director for IEEE-USA and a longtime IEEE member. This will also be acknowledged at the Region 8 Meeting.

2.3.2 Potential WIE STAR / Pre University Works Webinar planned for May

In collaboration with the Pre-University Works subcommittee under Educational Activities, we are planning on having a Webinar presenting about the WIE STAR programme for region 8 members. STAR is an initiative by WIE Fostering Student Teacher and Research Engineer/Scientist mentorship.

2.3.3 Continuing Education collaboration with IEEE R8 WIE

We are also investigating ways to increase the collaboration between WIE and Educational Activities subcommittee in Region 8 for avenues to pursue in terms of continuing education.

2.3.4 Ways to increase WIE visibility in the region

- Regular updates of R8 WIE Webpage
- Launch of R8 WIE Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/IEEER8WIE>
- Post events and calls to R8 newsletter, and internal WIE chairs (SAGs and SBAGs mailing list/newsletter)
- Promotion of free membership for students (for both males and females) to increase the number of WIE especially as student membership level and potentially use this as stepping stone to form new SBAGs and workshops at regional student meetings and congresses.

3 Conclusions

IEEE WIE in region 8 is off to a decent start in 2013 but many challenges still to be overcome

3.1 Challenges

- Growth of AGs and SBAGs good, however need to ensure that these affinity groups are sustainable in the long run. Also communication is difficult with some groups being dormant.
- Need to increase the participation of WIE volunteers locally.
- Declining membership for WIE in the region.

Finding ways to improve WIE membership value in among members, by targeting volunteers to engage better with their local members (webinars, workshops as student events and planning for region wide WIE meeting). This is main objective for R8 WIE in the next coming months