

## Vice-Chair: Technical Activities

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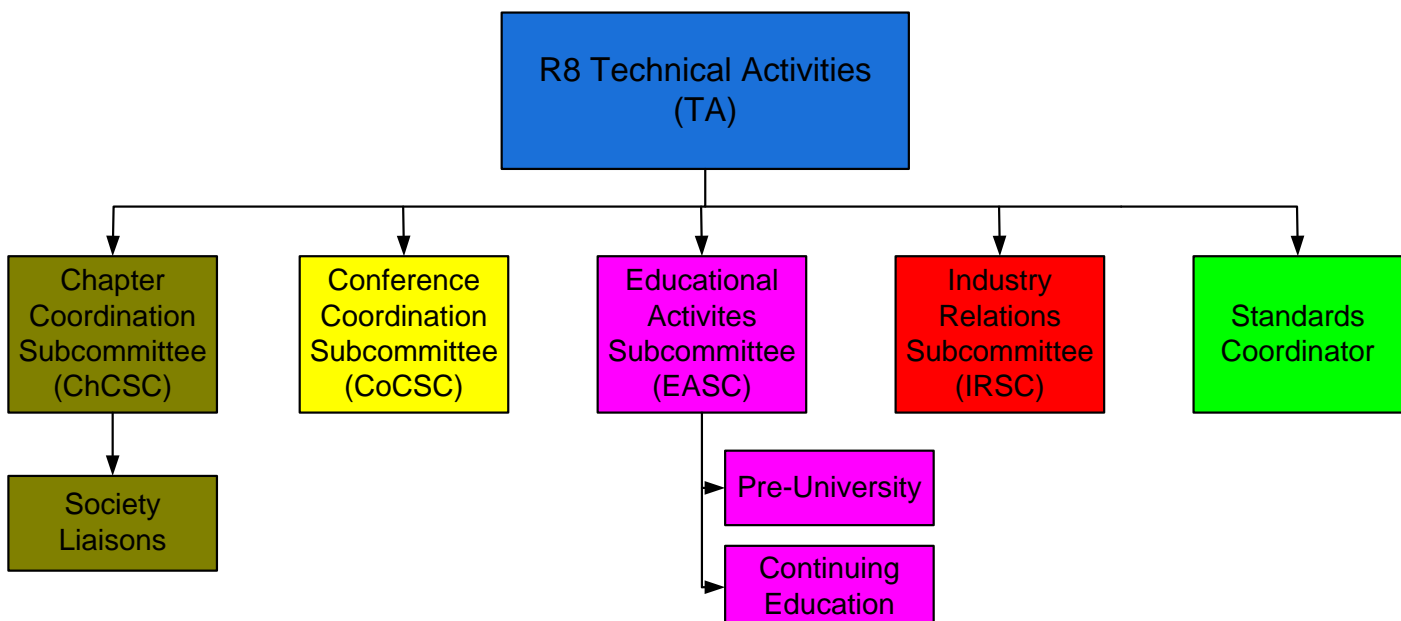


A block diagram of the current organization of the Technical Activities portfolio is shown in the figure at the bottom of this page. The standing committees / coordinators for 2013 are: chapter coordination, conference coordination, educational activities, industry relations, and standards. More information is available on the Technical Activities website: <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/>

Since the last IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting, we continued building on the past best practices while having a changeover of volunteers during the first month of this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Saurabh Sinha, for all his support during these challenging times.

The **chapter coordination subcommittee** (ChCSC) has attended chapter chairs meetings and student branch chapter awareness meetings. There is a lot of potential for new chapters in Region 8 and the ChCSC will be working towards fostering chapter growth and disseminating best practices and benefits. The subcommittee will be working on eNewsletter and a more effective presence in the Social Media. There is discussion towards awarding best student branch chapters to stimulate and reward the younger generation of professionals. The ChCSC has also decided the best chapter award for 2012 from the five nominations received, the ChCSC will make an effort to attract more submissions in the coming years.

The **conference coordination subcommittee** (CoCSC) has continued attracting technical and financial co-sponsorship of conferences. Technical co-sponsorship remains our main contribution but its increase is widening the visibility of IEEE Region 8. The memorandum of understanding is now automatically generated and approval is online. The new conference application is done using IEEE Conference Exchange (ICX) tool. ICX will continue to incorporate more tools to help conference organizers and streamline reporting. Conference paper inclusion in IEEE Xplore is not anymore automatic and papers have to pass quality checks. This means that technical and financial IEEE sponsors have to increase their involvement in conferences and make sure that quality is maintained. The CoCSC has also worked on a handbook to help conference organizers. This is being developed to get organizers up to scratch with new conference requirements and tools.



The **educational activities subcommittee** (EASC) is responsible for pre-university works (PUW), continuing education and university activities. Teacher In-Service Programme (TISP) hands-on workshops were delivered to increase awareness. More workshops will be delivered during the year. A TISP-on-Tour is being planned during May-June. The PUW will also continue to disseminate awareness of the EPICS-in-IEEE program. The subcommittee also hosts a number of webinars both for continuing education and PUW. The EASC is also disseminating the X Academic project which is intended to provide new resources of education for students. A series of presentations will be held in various events.

The **industry relations subcommittee** (IRSC) continues working in strengthening the link between industry and IEEE Region 8. This is done through promoting membership within industry, attracting support for activities, and encouraging networking. Webinars and awards are being planned for this year. The IRSC will continue its support to Sections and recommends the appointment of an industry relations officer to liaise with the local industry. Sections will also be encouraged to have stronger links with the local professional societies for improved collaborations.

The **standards coordinator** works closely with IEEE-Standards Association (IEEE-SA) and the IEEE-SA & EAB joint Standards Education Committee (SEC). In collaboration with these entities, talks and workshops on standards are being held in our Region 8 flagship conferences.

Overlap between the various subcommittees is being identified and during the meeting of the respective subcommittees in Madrid, interaction between the groups is being encouraged. The vice-chair for technical activities extends appreciation for the hard-work done by all volunteers involved in TA. The reports from the subcommittees/coordinators are found in the upcoming pages of this agenda booklet.