

IEEE Benelux Section Report October 2013**Luc Vandendorpe****Highlights from the past**

- IEEE Benelux Section General Assembly and Meet the Fellows (January 2013): As part of the General Assembly introducing the new Executive Committee, three of IEEE Benelux members recently upgraded to the grade of IEEE Fellow gave a presentation on their field of expertise.
- IEEE Region 8 student paper contest: The Benelux Section was well represented with 2 papers amongst the 5 finalists (out of a total of 43 submissions) and the first place of the contest.
- 4th HVDC Doctoral Colloquium: the fourth HVDC colloquium was organized in Leuven (Belgium) in July 2013, allowing researchers and PhD students to discuss their research in the fields of HVDC transmission and integration of large offshore wind power. This event was also sponsored by the Benelux Chapter of IEEE Benelux Joint Chapter IAS/PELS/PES.
- 9th annual IEEE Student Branch Leuven Power Engineering Symposium (March 2013).

Future activities

- IEEE Sections Congress: the 2014 edition will be organized in Amsterdam (Netherlands), August 22-25 2014.
- IEEE Advancement and Admissions committee Senior member evaluation: The IEEE A&A committee will meet in Leuven (Belgium) to hold an elevation evaluation event in Leuven. Senior members and fellows are invited to take part in the evaluation of new prospective candidates for senior membership.
- IEEE SCVT 2013: The 20th IEEE Symposium on Communications and Vehicular Technology in the Benelux will be held in Namur (Belgium), November 21, 2013.

Best practices

- The 2013 General Assembly was preceded by a meeting between the Section ExCom and the Chapter and Affinity Group Chairs. The purpose of this meeting was to strengthen the connection between the ExCom and the Chapters/AGs, to share good and bad practices on Chapter/AG activation and organization, and to spread information about the various online tools that IEEE provides for volunteers (vTools, SAMIEEE, etc.).
- The IEEE Benelux LinkedIn Group is active with more than 300 members.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Website update remains an area for improvement.

Miscellaneous

- Awards and other signs of recognition
 - Willem Boone (KEMA): 2014 IEEE Herman Halperin Electric Transmission and Distribution Award
- Distinguished Lecturers programs
 - Dr. Rakesh Kumar: "Challenges, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Microelectronics" (June 2013), organized by the UCL IEEE Student Branch (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium).
 - Prof. Bin Yu: "Graphene and Beyond: 2D Nanostructure-Enabled Applications" (July 2013), organized by the UCL IEEE Student Branch (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium).
 - Enrique Acha: "Distributed Wind Generation and its Impacts on the Network" (September 2013), organized by the IEEE IAS/PELS/PES Benelux Chapter (Gent, Belgium).
- New Geographic Units (Chapters, Affinity Groups, Student Branches, SB Chapters): Women in Engineering AG and Robotics Chapter will hold a kick-off meeting in 2013.