

IEEE Iran Section Report October 2013**Mahmud Fotuhi-Firuzabad****Highlights from the past**

- In 2013, Iran Section organized the 4th General Annual Section Congress in Mashhad. This event is open to all members. During this meeting, the section ExCom report the major activities of the past year. The annual congress is also an opportunity for Iran Section ExCom to have face-to-face discussions with IEEE members in Iran and to find out about their views and obtain their feedback.
- Section board of directors held a student activities workshop with members and student branches representatives in Mashhad. At this meeting several important points relating to the manner of student activities were discussed including:
 - how to stimulate activities of branch counselors,
 - modifications and corrections of the student branch bi-laws, and
 - local fund raising. The workshop was ended by a tour of the historical city of Neishabour, home to the great 12th century Persian Mathematician, and Philosopher Omar Khayyam (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar_Khayy%C3%A1m). Khayyam was the mathematician who originally discovered the triangular table of coefficients used for polynomial expansion (Attributed to Pascal in western literature).
- Biennial agenda of committees have been provided by the respective officers and revised in the monthly ExCom meetings. Once finalized, they are posted on the IEEE Iran Section website.

Future activities

- To motivate IEEE volunteers by introduction of a national volunteer award and encouragement of Iranian IEEE members to further engage with existing international IEEE activities.
- To develop section industrial relations to aid national technological growth.
- To promote and guide local scientific and technological advancements through progressive and targeted policy-making on conferences and Chapter.

Best practices

- Iran Section has been driving a sustained campaign to encouraged Student branches to increase their collaborative activities. Two student branches: Isfahan University of Technology and University of Tehran student branches took part in the STU 2013 and the paper from Isfahan University of Technology has won the second prize of STU 2013.
- Iran Section provided a schedule for officers to submit and present their committee activities regularly year around.
- Iran Section newsletter was electronically available at the end of each season. This year the Newsletter has been redesigned with the aid of a professional newspaper editor and will be available in a new format. To celebrate the launch of the new Newsletter, the ExCom has made arrangements to have the first edition printed and sent to major national, academic and research establishments. The new design will have space set aside for each committee to report their activities.
- Iran Section ExCom used to have a regular meeting every month. These meetings have now been interlaced with a meeting specifically for the Board of Directors every month. Consequently the Section Board of Directors regularly meet around every two weeks. This has greatly reduced the section decision making time.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- To be a partner in developing national standards.
- To contribute in preparation of a roadmap for education and research in areas within the scope of IEEE.

Miscellaneous

- In collaboration with the University of Tehran, Iran Section has introduced two new national awards. These are the "National Prof. Jabedar Award in teaching" and "The national Prof. Lucas award in Research on Intelligent Systems". These award are in additional to the existing 9 other national awards that the section awards.
- One new student branch and one new SB Chapters on Industry Application in Khajeh Nashir Tousi Univerity are established
- Industrial relations committee by collaboration with educational activities committee held two workshops and panel discussions on "Telecommunications" and "Instrumentation, automation and Control" in Isfahan.