

IEEE U.K. & Rep Of Ireland Section Report October 2013**Nihal F Sinnadurai****Highlights from the past**

- VAT AND ITS IMPACT ON IEEE VOLUNTEER EVENTS: The initiative by UK&RI leadership has resulted in VAT compliance NOT being inflicted on volunteers' learned society events.
- Industry Relations: Research to Industry (R2i) may become an annual event. Researchers are given the opportunity to present successful research outcomes to potential industrial routes to market.
- Professional Activities have been revived this year. A range of professional advice talks were arranged and delivered. Practitioner talks: 'Safeguarding Intellectual Property & how best to manage your lawyers', 'Seeking Venture funding'.
- Awards received by IEEE UK&RI Volunteers
 - Outstanding CIS UK&RI Chapter Recognised The IEEE Computational Intelligence Society has recognised the outstanding activity by the UK&RI CIS Chapter lead by Damien Coyle and awarded the chapter the Outstanding Chapter award for 2013. We congratulate the leadership of this vibrant Chapter.
 - Professor John Crowcroft (IEEE Internet – Technical Field Award)
 - Professor Brian Hutton (IEEE Marie Sklodowska-Curie – Technical Field Award)
- Milestone: On 12th June an IEEE Milestone was celebrated at Imperial College, to mark the invention of holography in 1947 by Dennis Gabor.

Future activities

- New Section Chair from 1st January 2014: Steve Nightingale
- R2i3- Research-to-Industry - July 2014
- OutReach continuing
- Activation on WIE

Best practices

- Outreach IEEE UK&RI and the Institute of Physics (IoP) have joined forces to reach out to students to show them how attractive and interesting Science and Engineering can be. We are doing this locally together with the involvement of teachers of local senior schools. Two such Outreach talks at Ipswich schools elicited much interest by Fifth and Sixth formers:
 - 'A Glimpse Into the Use Of Science in a Jeweller's Business', May 2013
 - 'An Insight Into Implant Technologies Used to Overcome Human Disabilities And Ailments', 26th June 2013 The teachers raved "The talks were brilliant! The feedback from students has been hugely positive. Many thanks to IEEE for finding such great advocates for Physics and Engineering!"
- Revival of SSIT Chapter On 16th August IEEE UK&RI SSIT Chapter elected a new blood committee comprising the Chair Paul Cunningham, Vice Chair Dave Dyke and an additional three committee. Section Chair chaired the election. IEEE UK&RI SSIT Chapter now has a strong new team in place who will be effective in serving the members with events and information. MGA has now removed the Chapter from the Inactive list.
- Senior Member support with due diligence

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- IEEE HQ Staff over-population In keeping with the drive to operate efficiently and frugally, we are concerned that IEEE HQ is overpopulated with its civil servants. This is totally at odds with the pressures in industry and many national civil services to drive austerity through the organisations. We propose a 50% reduction in HQ civil servants to be achieved by removing the many self-important 'Senior Directors' and 'Senior Managers' and tightening the belts at Piscataway and New York. Keeping the IEEE civil service in the USA contradicts the membership growth trend outside the USA. HQ civil servants must be relocated at 2 per large Section across the world.
- All actions by IEEE in the country of a Section must involve and be guided by the Section leadership.
- Change the unreasonable and overbearing IEEE 'Copyright' document to a 'Licence to Publish' document.

Miscellaneous

- 16th October 2013, London. Distinguished Lecture: 'Electronics and its impact on the Environment' IEEE Distinguished Lecture, Prof Nihal Sinnadurai, CEO ATTAC.