

IEEE Kenya Section Report October 2013**Vincent Kaabunga****Highlights from the past**

- The Kenya section teamed up with the Nairobi iHub to host the Kids Hacker Camp 2013. The camp is a 6 day long camp for kids aged between 10 – 18 years, who are interested in making, creating, crafting, hacking, tinkering, and discovery. The participants worked in teams and each team had a mentor and a tech intern to guide them along. The event ran from August 26-30, 2013 and was attended by 40 pre-university students.
- An EPICS project to provide an off-grid solar power solution to a rural school in Kasiluni, Kenya was launched in late April 2013. The project is being implemented by the section students branch, the Jomo Kenyatta University Christian Union and Power Technics. When completed the system will power the school's classrooms and administration block, providing much needed electric power for lighting and light electronics including laptops.

Future activities

- The section is working with the Faculty of Engineering at Kenyatta University and the Chandaria Business Incubation and Innovation Center to set up a center for IEEE Low-cost Museum Exhibits. The exhibits will be used to introduce and de-mystify science and engineering principles for pre-university learners and inspire them to pursue careers in science and engineering.
- As Kenyan university students can no longer access IEEE Xplore via the UNESCO INASP, the section is assisting in the formation of a consortium of over 20 local universities that will be able to access Xplore through EBSCO Information Services. This activity is being carried out in collaboration with IEEE AHCAA.

Best practices

- The section keeps its active members, as well as those in arrears, abreast of section activities via email and social media. Email communication is done using mailing lists based on target technical forums and special interest groups, while social media is open to the public and includes Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.
- The practice has helped to keep members informed of activities, even when they are not able to participate. It has also encouraged members in arrears to renew their membership, and for the general public to learn about IEEE.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- There is very heavy competition for new members with the national association of engineers, which now has mandatory membership for licensed engineers by law. There is now a need to clearly demonstrate the value for members to have to join two professional associations.