

IEEE South Africa Section Report October 2013**Riana H Geschke****Highlights from the past**

- IEEE President Staecker visited Johannesburg, South Africa in June this year, where an agreement with the SAIEE was signed (refer Miscellaneous).
- Dr Gordon Day, Past President & 2013 Member of the Board of Directors, IEEE visited South Africa in June 2013. Dr Day delivered a talk on 13 June 2013: "Science and Engineering for Innovation" at the Meraka Institute, Pretoria. The inaugural event of the University of Pretoria Student Chapter of the Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) was held on 31 July 2013 in Pretoria.

Future activities

- Prof Martin Bastiaans, 2013-2014 IEEE Region 8 Director, will present a talk at the SAIEE Council Chamber in Johannesburg on 13 September 2013 on "Time-frequency signal representations". This is a joint meeting of the IEEE Signal Processing and Communications Society (SP/ComSoc) Chapter, IEEE South Africa Section and the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE).
- The first IEEE SMC conference focusing on Enterprise Systems (ES 2013): ES 2013 will be hosted in Cape Town, South Africa, 7-8 November 2013 at the Cape Town International Convention Center. ES 2013 will be co-hosted by the IEEE SMC TC on Enterprise Information Systems and the IEEE SMC TC on Enterprise Architecture and Engineering.
- The next IEEE Power and Energy Society Power Africa 2014 conference is to be hosted at university of Witwatersrand in collaboration with the SAIEE in 2014.
- DISTRIBUTION INSULATION AFRICA 2014 also in planning stage.
- The joint AP-MTT-EMC chapter is planning a national conference to be held in Pretoria on 5-6 May 2014.
- Distinguished Lecture on: "Predictive Control - the Powerful Method to Control Power Converters and Drives in the Future" by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Ralph Kennel of Technische Universität München.

Best practices

- Participation regarding the national strategy for Science and Technology: the IEEE TISP group in South Africa were fortunate to have been invited to a Mathematics Science and Technology roundtable discussion, hosted by the Minister and Deputy Minister of Education in June 2013. The department of Basic education is concerned about Maths, Science and Technology education in South Africa. At the moment educator training is taking place nationally and we are involved in that. It was thought that many educators need help especially with the Electricity part of the curriculum for grades 7, 8 and 9 - The Western Cape came up with a suggestion to provide electricity kits with worksheets. Eskom is helping with the funding of this project. This is a pilot project and we are hoping that the IEEE and Eskom funding will act as seed funding so that the kits and worksheets will eventually be provided by the Education Department as standard items.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Handover between outgoing and incoming OU chairs and officials at the end of term for student branches.

Miscellaneous

- The South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE) and the IEEE has had an established memorandum of understanding (MoU) since 1995. The agreement has been renewed for the period 2014-2016. The new agreement was signed at the SAIEE headquarters, Johannesburg, South Africa on 14 June 2013. The agreement was signed at the SAIEE headquarters, Johannesburg, South Africa on 14 June 2013 on behalf of the SAIEE by Dr Pat Naidoo, Deputy President, on behalf of the IEEE by Dr Peter Staecker, President & CEO, on behalf of the IEEE South Africa Section by Jacques van Wyk, past Chair.
- The renewal of the IEEE as a Recognized voluntary association for the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) was completed. ECSA is a statutory body established in terms of the Engineering Profession Act, 2000 (Act No. 46 of 2000).
- The IEEE South Africa Section is pleased to note that a grant of US \$ 7,500 was approved by IEEE EAB in Dec. 2012 towards developing/adopting low-cost museum exhibits in Sci-Enza, South Africa. We foresee that the initiative will assist towards attracting pre-university students (electrical, electronic and computer engineering).

- A new EMBS chapter in South Africa is planned for 2014.