

**IEEE Region8 News Report October2013****Zhijia Huang, Roland Saam**

IEEE Region 8 News is published and printed by the IEEE Region 8 committee. It is a membership benefit which is sent free with IEEE Spectrum to more than 70,000 IEEE members in Europe, Middle East and Africa. The newsletter is written by many contributors from all over Region8.

The Editors: Roland J. Saam (UK&RI Section); Zhijia Huang (UK&RI Section)

<http://www.ieeer8.org/category/member-activities/r8news-newsletter/>

**Highlights from the past****IEEE Region News Special Issue: Jubilee book (April 2013)**

The IEEE Region 8 News editorial team was really pleased to see the Jubilee issue distributed to the members all around the region. Members who attended the Region 8 Committee meeting in Madrid, where the 50th anniversary was officially celebrated, have given us great feedback. We are also glad to receive comments from other members through email and other ways. We appreciate the help from the Jubilee book workgroup and everyone who contributed.

- Jubilee Book Work Group:
  - Jubilee Book Coordinator: Kart Richter
  - Jubilee Book Editor: Charles Turner
  - History Activities: Tony Davies
  - R8 Director: Martin Bastiaans
  - R8 Treasurer: Brian Harrington
  - Region 8 News Editor: Roland Saam
  - Region 8 Editor: Zhijia Huang
  - Technical Editor: Ali Dabbs

- Contributions from Our Members

Really appreciate the contributions from all our members to provide material and photos to show the great history of IEEE Region8 from its birth (The Origins of IEEE Region8), its growth (Activity in Eastern Europe; The Middle East, Africa) and current status.

- Remarks from IEEE President, R8 Director, the Past Directors and the Editors
- Introduction to the Various Achievement of Region 8 and its members in the past 50 years
  - Membership Growth
  - Section Development
  - Technical Activities
  - Roll of Honour and Recognitions
  - Student and GOLD Activities
  - The IEEE Milestones in Region 8
  - Conferences
  - Standards
  - Professional Activities
  - Life Members
  - Women in Engineering

**IEEE Region News August Issue (August 2013)****Region News (10):**

Hungary Section celebrated its 25 anniversary and we have highlighted the 'robotics for kids' workshop in Spain and Kenya Sections' EPICS project to provide access for visually impaired students educational content through mobile devices. We also have the report from Technical Activities and R8 pre-university activities reports.

**Section News (11):**

From Sections and different chapters we still have a good number of articles reporting events from events with well-known speakers Will.I.AM and Bill Gates, chapter chair gathering, to TISP workshop and lecture on Electric Vehicles.

**WIE News (2):**

There are events from the WIE AG in Palestine and establish of new WIE AG for ISCTE-IUL.

**GOLD (1):**

We have the 3rd IEEE Greece GOLD AG summer school event.

**Student News(20+9):**

As usual we have the SAC's message to all student members and just a lot of contribution from different Universities all across Region8. Due to the amount of articles and limited space, some of the articles have been shown as "In Brief". And also we could not include all the contribution and submission from all the members.

**Future activities**

1. Enhance digital version of R8News.

We are planning to provide limited service for digital version of the R8News for our members. This service will expand depends on readers feedback. It will be available as readable format for access through web browser from computers, tablets and mobile phones. It will provide an alternative way for members to consume R8news and also allowing members to share the R8News content through social network. At the same time, we still support PDF download so that members can have a digital copy if required.

2. Involve more in other IEEE activities related to member activities and publishing.

One of the IEEE R8News editor will attending the IEEE Editors in Chief meeting 2014. It is

Zhijia continue to serve on the advisory board for the Institute.

We are trying to nominate technical editor Ali Dabbs to related IEEE publication committees so that we can get more involvement and insight into the latest directions.

**Points of concern/Topics for future discussion**

1. Improve the R8News news item submit, store and indexing process.

Currently, contributors will submit Region8 news items through email where the format of text, photos and other attachments varies. This has introduced a lot of overhead for the editors to standardize them for print. We are currently exploring new ways for members to submit news items. Furthermore, we have an increased amount of contribution from R8 members. We could encourage more submission if the process is easy and fast.

On the other hand, although we have many back issues dated back to 2002, we have not much info regarding the contribution from sections and authors. We would like to improve the store and indexing of the published news items, so that we can encourage more contribution from less active Sections and follow up on projects reported several years ago.