

IEEE Saudi Arabia (East) Section Report October 2013

Highlights from the past

- A couple of administrative meetings were held to discuss routine activities of the Section and the support required for Chapters and Affinity Groups.
- The Teacher-In-Service Program (TISP) was supported by Saudi Aramco and the Ministry of Education. It is similar to a professional development workshop program aimed at helping teachers bring exciting hands-on engineering lessons into their classrooms. Once trained, the teachers and IEEE volunteers can connect with pre-university schools in their local communities to deliver the hands-on program. The objective of TISP is to attract the young generation towards taking up Engineering as a profession and thereby develop the Kingdom's future workforce. This workshop was held at Holiday Inn, Al-Khobar. Support by the Ministry enabled attendance by over one hundred teachers, both male and female, from the Government Schools in Eastern Province. Support by Saudi Aramco Social Affairs and Media Relations helped in having a very successful event. Further details and event videos are available at <http://ieeesaudi.org/tisp>. Further similar events are planned for other regions in the Kingdom.
- Try Engineering Org web site was another major milestone that was completed with the support of Saudi Aramco. Under this initiative, the Section worked with KFUPM and a translation agency in Egypt to translate the TryEngineering.org website that is a resource for students, their parents, their teachers and their school counselors in to the Arabic language. The translation was completed, quality assured and made available on the internet, accessible by all Arabic speaking population all over the world. We have received excellent feedback from Arabic speaking countries about the usefulness of this site. For more information please visit <http://TryEngineering.org/lang/arabic>.

Future activities

- The Saudi Arabia Section is actively involved in the 7th IEEE GCC Conference and Exhibition to be held from 17th to 20th of November 2013 at Doha, Qatar, under the patronage of H.E. the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Al-Thani of the State of Qatar. Info-mailers have been used to publicize the event in the Section jurisdiction. The Saudi Section is proud of the IEEE GCC Conference & Exhibition that was organized for the first time in Bahrain by the section as an international event several years ago and based on its huge success it has become a regular event. This conference runs for four days and is accompanied by several tutorials and workshops as well as an industrial exhibition.
- Technical Dinner Meetings will be organized on a regular basis by the various Society Chapters in its area of specialization. Such meetings are normally attended by an average of 80-100 members and guests.

Best practices:

- Helping members to process payments using an Officer's credit card increases customer satisfaction and the membership retention rate.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion:

- IEEE name used by non-IEEE entities for their own publicity or financial benefits. Saudi Arabia Section has found that two of its original domain names were hijacked by unscrupulous entities. These domains are the following:
 1. www.ieee-energycon.org
 2. www.ieeegcc.org

There may be other instances where expired IEEE related sites have been grabbed by non-related persons or entities for financial gain. What can IEEE do to protect IEEE interests and regain back these web domains?

5. Miscellaneous

- None