

Professional Activities Subcommittee (PASC)**Urmet Janes**

Region 8 Professional Activities (PA) operate on several levels:

- local PA events
- Region8 PA Speaker program
- PASC coordination and guidance

The local activities are organised by several IEEE units. There is a PA Chair appointed in less than half of the sections - 23 total. Due to the soft skills orientation of PA topics, many Student Branch and Young Professionals activities on career topics fall into our domain, but the committee is only involved if financing or PA speakers are requested. The committee goal for 2014 is to improve indirect support to local activities by showcasing successful local programs and provide inspiration to less active sections.

The speaker program has been the main pillar of PA for years. Workshops by Kurt Richter (e.g "Body language in Business" and "Development of Leadership Skills") and Han van Loon ("STARS Thought Leadership") are always well received and often repeated in the same location. In 2014 the committee wishes to add speakers to the program to cover topics such as entrepreneurship and international careers.

The PA committee coordinates the programs, spreads awareness of PA needs and maintains an information store on the R8 website, as well as in a LinkedIn group. The committee has been discussing with IEEE-USA to identify programs developed in

Highlights from the past

- Six Professional Activities workshops by Kurt Richter during 2013
- Support for workshop at NIGERCON 2013
- Discussions with IEEE-USA and MGA to spread success stories from the US

Future activities

- Recruiting new speakers, expanding topics covered
- Survey of members on their needs in the PA domain
- Workshops being planned for Saudi Arabia, South Africa
- Publishing of case studies to inspire sections for local activities
- Update of R8 website and LinkedIn group as an information source for sections
- Publishing good practices from the US

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- The level of local PA activity is a concern in many sections
- Needs for support and information are area-specific - for instance Western Europe has a number of organisations and school programs outside IEEE that cover PA topics, whereas Africa is much less developed in that respect