

Slovenia Section

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Highlights from the past

- A lecture "Web Accessibility on the Desktop, Mobile, and TV" has been given by Shadi Abou-Zahra from W3C and organised by the Communications Society Chapter. The distinguished lecturer explained the main reasons for implementation of accessibility features in ICT services and applications as well as the on-going work on accessibility standards.
- Communications Society Chapter cooperated with Electrotechnical Society of Slovenia and Society for Telecommunications in organisation of 30th Telecommunications workshop VITEL on May 12-13, 2014.
- IEEE Young Professionals Slovenia have organised a discussion and workshop "Electrical Engineers vs. the World" given by Professor Tim Baxter from MIB - International Business School Trieste. A Leadership Development workshop was organised as a STEP event and took place on June 19, 2014 in Ljubljana.
- A series of notable events has been organised or co-organised by SB Ljubljana and Maribor. These include Business breakfast with Harry van Dorenmalen - Build up your career at IBM Innovation Center Ljubljana, student visits to Slovenian aircraft manufacturer Pipistrel and to Ljubljana Airport. SB Ljubljana has also organised a semester of lectures dedicated to Python programming language.

Future activities

- IEEE Slovenia Section will participate in organisation of the 23rd International Conference ERK2014 in September. Traditionally this is an important regional event in the field of electrical and computer science and engineering and an excellent chance to promote IEEE presence in Slovenia. The conference establishes strong links with industry by means of invited lectures initiated by Industrial Relations Affinity Group.
- Preparation for student competition for the Region 8 contest are in progress.
- Preparations for the annual international seminar "Multimedia technologies: New approaches in acoustics and sound" co-organised by Signal Processing Chapter are under progress.
- The COMSOC Chapter will remain involved in organisation of VITEL Seminars.
- The use of the distinguished lecturers programme by our Chapters will further be promoted.
- We are planning to establish 1-2 new Chapters.

Best practices

- Good cooperation with Electrotechnical Association of Slovenia and Slovenian Association for Electronic Communications on organisation of seminars is continuing.
- Affinity group Women in Engineering partners cooperates with national affinity groups in promotion of engineering career in primary and secondary schools. WiE collaborates at the project proposal "With mentorship to the top development centre to increase the leadership potential of women"
- Student Branch Ljubljana is cooperating with other institutions to organise student events. They participate with local sponsors to cover expenses.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- The Section is proud on increased activity and revival of Student Branch activities in Ljubljana and in Maribor. However, recent activities of the Maribor Branch need to be encouraged.
- The active YP members are working heavy and with good results, despite the fact most of them have recently moved from academia to commercial businesses. This fact as such represents a challenge of stronger penetration of IEEE into Slovenian industry; however, number of active members should be increased.

Miscellaneous

- Power Engineering Chapter has organised a distinguished lecture by Mladen Kezunovic, "Flexible load: why, when and how".
- The talk focused on the role of the flexible loads, often called "prosumers" (producing and consuming) or "prostormers" (producing and energy storing). It examined why such loads may be introduced, when they may become a deciding force and how such loads may be operated. This talk was reflecting on unique impacts from renewable resource variability, distributed generation interfacing, uses of power electronic controllers, penetration of electrical vehicle EVSE, etc. that are felt at large scale only recently. The concept of microgrids and transactive energy was revisited in the context of the electricity markets making distinction between traditional whole sale and retail markets participation vs. a market that may evolve directly between the willing and able parties making arrangements "behind" the meter much more flexible and personalized. The dual role of the flexible load, both supporting the grid and operating independently, was discussed.