

Secretary**Ali El-Mousa****102nd R8 Committee Meeting in Budapest**

- A successful event as indicated by the many positive feedback messages that were received. The meeting was attended by 131 representatives.
- Included lively discussions on a number of topics including section vitality, IEEE visibility, and Entrepreneur Networks.
- We had a very interesting and well attended workshop about increasing the IEEE footprint. The results can be found here <http://www.ieeer8.org/download/17878/>.
- The unapproved minutes of the meeting can be found on the Amsterdam meeting web page <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2014-august-amsterdam/>.
- The social program was greatly appreciated. Deep appreciation goes to the Hungary section for their dedication and hard work.

Best practices

- A system for section chair reporting for R8 meetings was introduced. It was utilized by 41 sections. I invite the other sections to use it to update the section information.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Many sections still fail to update their web sites.
- Many sections who have had elections and therefore new leadership fail to inform IEEE through Vtools officer reporting tool about this. This is of great importance as this is the only way for all concerned officers and staff to realize that changes took place. It is also noted that in many sections, the officers' term does not end by year end. This is causing complications as the IEEE system recognizes that officer's terms end by year end only.
- Sections are not submitting their reports for the R8 meeting on time. This is a serious issue that needs addressing by all concerned.
- Delayed attention to the requirements for obtaining a Visa by many attendees. This causes delays in the process of registration and causes unnecessary headache to all concerned parties.

Miscellaneous

- I facilitated the visit by the IEEE President to many sections within the region. The visits were successful.
- I put forward to the IEEE IT department a suggestion to expand the utilization of the relationship with Google so that we can utilize the different apps to help in management of sections and regions. I happy to report that my suggestion was approved and a pilot project is now underway. The goal is to help in the management of the OU emails and documents such that these are kept even though the persons holding the officer position are changed.
- I would like to thank my colleagues in OpCom and our R8 communications coordinator for all of his efforts.