United Arab Emirates Section   Essa Basaeed

Getting Closer to Industry

- IEEE UAE Section signed several MoUs with partners in the country. For example, one MoU was signed by IEEE HQ represented by the IEEE President with Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA). Another MoU was signed by the section with the local Engineering Society.
- Companies, NGOs, and government entities, in this part of the world, are keen on signing MoUs and similar official agreements with international professional organizations such as the IEEE.
- Creating a standard template of such an MoU and the support of the legal department in IEEE HQ are essential to foster industrial relations.
- Another suggestion is to create a special/new membership category for professionals working in industry with benefits the are more tailored to their interests. This will help improve relations with the industry while generate income at the same time.
- One other idea is to create an "institutional membership" category where the membership is for the industrial entity and this enables its employees to get free/reduced membership fees and other benefits.

Students and Young Professionals

- UAE Section organizes yearly the IEEE UAE Student Day. Students from different universities participate in a number of competitions with categories ranging from freshman to senior-level and from technical to social-nature.
- The Section also created an award for the Best Student Branch.
- YP carried out several STEP events to present work environment challenges to senior students.
- Mentoring and career support schemes were introduced in collaboration between universities and YP. Students were counseled by experienced young professionals in studying their career options and provided with help during their first steps in working environments.
- In addition, YP hold a technical workshop in coordination with one of the students chapters to allow young professionals share some technical knowledge with undergraduates allowing them to look at what type of knowledge might be useful when working in electrical field.
- Moreover, UAE YP has participated in TISP program, helped in organizing Dubai TISP workshop.
- It will be useful to produce more publications targeted towards students and YP. For example, such publications might have technical articles that are introductory in nature and written for beginners. Such publications will also include articles targeted to help YP in their early careers.

Section Vitality

- As evident from its steady progress, the UAE section has been successful in promoting the IEEE within the country.
- A combination of varied activities and diverse initiatives have worked well to drive the vitality within our section. One of the most important aspects being that the section have been instrumental in developing and maintaining a very close relationship with all its members.
- Moreover, the section has been proactive in capitalizing on opportunities to promote the values and benefits of IEEE by employing various techniques to ensure IEEE presence during most local events.
- As a result we have seen phenomenal growth in our members base and numerous success stories have evolved in the interim. For example, twice we won the IEEE Photo competition and had few members win the MGM award.
- Furthermore, upon the UAE officers call, many institutions participated in the IEEE-Day in their own way, which was thus celebrated with full fervor across the country, including activities like cake cutting ceremony and a group photo-shoot.
- As such, we believe that nurturing relationship with corresponding members-base, motivating the student population and regular implementation of diverse/fun activities are a few vital catalysts to improve vitality within any section.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The section has been involved in significantly increasing the number of IEEE conferences organized in the UAE. For 2015 IEEE WiMob and the IEEE Midwest Symposium will be held in the UAE.
- In 2016, IEEE EDUCON will be hosted.
- We are also in the final stages of bidding for IEEE GLOBECOM.