

Simay Akar

Women in Engineering Coordinator

The Past

- Monthly WIE coordinator and advisors conference calls
- Preparation of articles for R8 newsletter and WIE Newsletter
- Clementina Saduwa Award 2015 coordination
- Support to formation of WIE AG and SB WIE AG
- R8 WIE represented by Reem Turky at "International Women's Day Summit" in Kuwait 8-12, March, 2015

Outlook

- Cooperation with Students and Young Professionals: WIE involvement in organizing Student Branch and Young Professional Congresses: IEEE West European Student and Young Professional Congress in Eindhoven, Netherlands, May 20-24, 2015; IEEE Central European Student and Young Professionals Congress in Zagreb, Croatia, May 8-10, 2015; IEEE Middle East Student and Young Professionals Congress; Amman, August 4-7, 2015
- Getting Closer to Industry: hosting industry representatives in monthly webinars, encouraging WIE AG's to organize WIE Coffee Talks and invite industry representatives;
- Representing Region 8 at the IEEE WIE-ILC International Leadership Conference, in San Jose, USA, April 23-25, 2015
- Section Vitality: encouraging AGs to collaborate with women NGO's and organize joint activities for Section's members; monthly teleconference with WIE representatives
- Increasing the footprint: encourage new R8 WIE AG formation and revival of dormant AGs, approach to Sections to assign WIE representatives, even before AG formation if applicable; increase the number of Regional WIE Awards to highlight outstanding WIE AGs and Volunteers; approach Sections that do not have Regular WIE AGs.
- Organizing events and AG activities: encourage and motivate WIE AGs to organize joint events as Coffee Talks, and increase the public visibility of events; define and monitor measureable indicators for activities as number of newly created WIE AGs; coordinate WIE activities within Region 8 conferences and make sure WIE members will gather in a session or social activities during the conferences; collaborate with WIR groups within Societies in the Region and get involved their activities, as Women in Power activities organized by PES members.
- WIE membership development: support training for WIE Volunteers; organize round tables and trainings within Regional events as conferences, cross-section Student and YP congresses etc.
- Collaborating with other institutions to increase number of scholarships for WIE student and young professional members

Best practices

- Organizing trainings and events at conferences as round tables, workshops.
- Increasing public visibility through joint events with other IEEE entities.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Problem how to provide support for WIE events, need for a separate WIE activities budget
- Region 8 should consider including support for WIE students to attend events like SYP
- Introducing new awards for Region 8 WIE members, to avoid unbalanced competing for the same award by Senior and Student Members
- Newly established SB WIE AGs: National Engineering School of Bizerte (ENIB) formed on 28 August 2014, National Engineering School of Gabes (ENIG) formed on 16 December 2014, both in Tunisia Section
- Number of WIE AGs in the Region 8: 26 at section level, and 61 at Student Branch level, total of 87 AGs.
- Total number of WIE members in R8 is 1658