



The 104th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting

28-29 March 2015
Limassol

Agenda Book



This document contains the Agenda Book for the The 104th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting. Due to the technical constraints when compiling this document from over 111 individual reports, the layout of some reports may have been slightly modified. You will find an electronic version of this document, together with the original version of each report on <http://www.ieee.org/r8>. Feel free to contact George Michael (xeirwn@ieee.org) with related questions.

The following is from the IEEE Policies, Section 7 - Professional Activities (Part A - IEEE Policies).

7.8 IEEE Code of Ethics

We, the members of the IEEE, in recognition of the importance of our technologies in affecting the quality of life throughout the world, and in accepting a personal obligation to our profession, its members and the communities we serve, do hereby commit ourselves to the highest ethical and professional conduct and agree:

- 1) to accept responsibility in making decisions consistent with the safety, health, and welfare of the public, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment;
- 2) to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible, and to disclose them to affected parties when they do exist;
- 3) to be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data;
- 4) to reject bribery in all its forms;
- 5) to improve the understanding of technology; its appropriate application, and potential consequences;
- 6) to maintain and improve our technical competence and to undertake technological tasks for others only if qualified by training or experience, or after full disclosure of pertinent limitations;
- 7) to seek, accept, and offer honest criticism of technical work, to acknowledge and correct errors, and to credit properly the contributions of others;
- 8) to treat fairly all persons and to not engage in acts of discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;
- 9) to avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious action;
- 10) to assist colleagues and co-workers in their professional development and to support them in following this code of ethics.

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Agenda

time	min	#	type	item	presenter
Friday evening event					
17:00	60			Registration / Refreshments	
18:00	45			Cyprus Section presentation	Antoniou
18:45	15			Signing of MOU, IEEE Cyprus Section - Cyprus Technical Chamber	Antoniou/Achniotis
19:00	30			Technical Lecture	Wargaming
19:30	30			Cocktail reception	
20:00	150			Dinner and Award Ceremony - Dress code: Formal	Delimar
22:30				Dinner ends	
Saturday morning meeting					
8:00	5	101	Procedural	Call to order	Stasopoulos
8:05	15	102	Procedural	Roll call and Introduction of new officers	Schmid
8:20	5	103	Procedural	Welcome by Cyprus Section	Antoniou
8:25	5	104	Procedural	Introductory remarks	Stasopoulos/Schmid
8:30	5	105	Action	Approval of the agenda	Stasopoulos
8:35	5	106	Action	Approval of the consent agenda	Stasopoulos
8:40	20	107	Discussion	Director's address	Stasopoulos
9:00	5	108	Discussion	Address by the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment	Kouyialis
9:05	15	109	Discussion	IEEE Presidents' address	Michel
9:20	15	110	Discussion	IEEE Executive Director's address	Prendergast
9:35	25	111	Procedural	Break	
10:00	10	112	Discussion	IEEE Collabratec	Day
10:10	10	113	Discussion	Nominations & Appointments	Bastiaans
10:20	40	114	Discussion	Member Activities report	Boskovic
11:00	10	115	Discussion	MGA Chair's address	Wong
11:10	20	116	Discussion	MGA Managing Director's address	Jankowski
11:30	45	117	Discussion	Technical Activities report	Kuzle
12:15	10	118	Discussion	Interactive Session Instructions	Stasopoulos/Schmid
12:25	1	119	Procedural	Recess	Stasopoulos
12:26	4			Group photo	
12:30	60			Lunch	
13:30				Lunch ends	
Saturday afternoon meeting					
13:30	5	201	Procedural	Call to order	Stasopoulos
13:35	150	202	Discussion	Interactive Session	All
16:05	1	203	Procedural	Recess	Stasopoulos
Saturday evening program					
16:45	165			Cultural visit by bus to the ancient city of Courion - Dress code: Casual, comfortable shoes	
19:30	165			Dinner at a Cyprus restaurant with traditional music and dance (Shiambelos Restaurant)	
22:15				Dinner ends, transfer to hotel by bus	
Sunday morning meeting					
8:30	5	301	Procedural	Call to order and roll call	Stasopoulos/Schmid
8:35	45	302	Discussion	President-Elect candidates debate	Arvaniti/Mintzer/Bartleson
9:20	5	303	Discussion	Secretary's report	Schmid
9:25	15	304	Discussion	Treasurer's report	Harrington
9:40	40	305	Discussion	Student Activities report	Ghassemian
		306	Action	Establishing Region 8 Section Award for Student Activities	Arvaniti/Ghassemian
10:20	10	307	Discussion	Awards & Recognitions	Delimar
10:30	30	308	Procedural	Break	
11:00	20	309	Discussion	Section development and vitality	Szabo/Eriksson
11:20	10	310	Discussion	Reflections of the Past-President	De Marca

11:30	15	311	Discussion	Building Technical Communities: TABs Priority and MGA Cooperation	Piuri/Ruggieri
11:45	15	312	Discussion	What is new in Standards?	Karachalios
12:00	10	313	Discussion	IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Africa	Kaabunga
12:10	10	314	Discussion	IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Engagement in Europe	Delimar
12:20	15	315	Discussion	Future R8 Conferences (Histelcon, Africon, Eurocon, Energycon, Melecon)	Kuzle
12:35	10	316	Action	Motions	Stasopoulos
12:45	30	317	Discussion	New business	Stasopoulos
13:15	10	318	Info	Next meeting	Schmid/Burnik
13:25	5	319	Action	Adjournment	Stasopoulos
13:30	60			Lunch	
14:30				Lunch ends	

Consent Agenda

#	type	item
401	Action	Approval of the minutes of the 103rd Region 8 Committee meeting
402	Action	
...	Report	Reports

List of Participants

Full name	Position
Abdelouahab Mekhaldi	IEEE Algeria Sub-Section
Adam Jastrzebski	IEEE R8 Assistant Treasurer
Adeel Sultan	IEEE R8 Membership Development Chair
Adel Abdulla	IEEE Bahrain Section Chair
Adel M. Alimi	IEEE R8 Conference Coordination Chair
Adrianus Bernardus (Bart) Smolders	IEEE Benelux Section Chair
Ahmed Darwish	IEEE Egypt Section Chair
Aleksandar Szabo	IEEE R8 Section Vitality Coordinator
Alexandros Osana	IEEE R8 Chapter Coordination
Alexey Rodionov	IEEE Russia (Siberia) Section Chair
Ali Hessami	IEEE UK and Ireland Section Chair-Elect
Alistair Dabbs	IEEE R8 News Production Editor
Amara Amara	IEEE France Section Chair
Amer Al-Hinai	IEEE Oman Section Chair
Ana Katalinic Mucalo	IEEE R8 Professional Activities Chair
Ana Madureira	IEEE Portugal Section Chair
Andrejs Romanovs	IEEE R8 Latvia Section Vice Chair
Antonio Luque	IEEE R8 Membership Development
Athanassios Skodras	IEEE Greece Section Chair
Bakr Hassan	IEEE Gulf Accreditation Subcommittee Chair
Basak Yuksel	IEEE Turkey Section Representative
Brian Harrington	IEEE R8 Treasurer
Carl Debono	IEEE R8 Strategic Planning
Carlos A. López Barrio	IEEE R8 Student Paper Contest Coordinator
Cecelia Jankowski	IEEE Managing Director, MGA
Charles Turner	IEEE R8 Life Member Activities Coordinator
Cheryl Sinauskas	IEEE Director, Geographic Activities
Christian Schmid	IEEE R8 Secretary
Costas Stasopoulos	IEEE R8 Director
Dalius Navakauskas	IEEE Lithuania Section Vice-Chair
Dana Al-Tehmazi	IEEE Bahrain Section Secretary
Daniel Pasquet	IEEE R8 Strategic Planning
Dinko Jakovljevic	IEEE R8 SAC Awards and Contests
Doug Gorham	IEEE Managing Director, Educational Activities
Dusanka Boskovic	IEEE R8 Vice-Chair, Member Activities
E. James Prendergast	IEEE Executive Director and COO
Efthymia Arvaniti	IEEE R8 Student Representative
Elya Joffe	IEEE R8 Strategic Planning
Emilio Corchado	IEEE Spain Section Chair
Fadhel Abulhasan	IEEE Kuwait Section Secretary/Treasurer
Flavia Dinca	IEEE R8 Young Professionals Chair
Florin Pop	IEEE Romania Section Student Activities
Fred Mintzer	IEEE 2016 President-Elect Candidate
George Michael	IEEE R8 Electronic Communications
Georgi Stoyanov	IEEE Bulgaria Section Chair
Habib M Kammoun	IEEE R8 Strategic Planning
Hadi Moradi	IEEE Iran Section Secretary
Hafidh AlSamarrai	IEEE Saudi Arabia (West) Section Vice-Chair
Heind ElRawy	IEEE R8 SAC Electronic Communications
Howard Michel	IEEE President and CEO
Ievgen Pichkalov	IEEE Ukraine Section Vice-Chair
Igor Kuzle	IEEE R8 Vice-President, Technical Activities
Imad Elhadj	IEEE Lebanon Section Chair
Jacob Baal-Schem	IEEE R8 Nominations and Appointments
Jan Haase	IEEE R8 Conference Coordination
Jens Haubrock	IEEE Germany Section Chair
John Matogo	IEEE R8 Action for Industry
John Day	IEEE Director, Member Products and Programs
Jorge Soares	IEEE R8 Awards and Recognition

Kabwe Bellington	IEEE Zambia Section Chair
Kalle Tammemäe	IEEE Estonia Section Chair
Karen Bartleson	IEEE 2016 President-Elect Candidate
Karine Iffour	IEEE Business Development Europe Director
Kateryna Osypenko	IEEE R8 Young Professionals
Khaled AlFawaz	IEEE Saudi Arabia (East) Section Treasurer
Konstantinos Karachalios	IEEE Managing Director, Standards Association
Lawrence Wong	IEEE Vice-President, MGA
Lebogang Madise	IEEE R8 Student Branch Coordinator
Ljupco Karadinov	IEEE Macedonia Section Chair
Maja Matijasevic	IEEE Croatia Section Vice-Chair
Manuel Castro	IEEE R8 Educational Activities Chair
Margaretha Eriksson	IEEE R8 Director-Elect
Maria-Alexandra Paun	IEEE Switzerland Section Secretary
Marina Ruggieri	IEEE Division IX Director
Marios Antoniou	IEEE Cyprus Section Chair
Marko Delimar	IEEE R8 Awards and Recognition Chair
Martin Bastiaans	IEEE R8 Past Director
Matej Pacha	IEEE Czechoslovakia Section Chair
Mats Edvinsson	IEEE Sweden Section Chair
Messaouda Azouzi	IEEE Algeria Sub-Section Secretary
Mohamed Abdelazeez	IEEE Jordan Section Chair
Mohamed Amin	IEEE R8 Action for Industry
Mohamed Almualla	IEEE United Arab Emirates Section Chair
Moira Patterson	IEEE Global Activities, Standards Association
Mona Ghassemian	IEEE R8 Vice-Chair, Student Activities
Nazih Khaddaj Mallat	IEEE R8 Chapter Coordination Chair
Nihal Sinnadurai	IEEE R8 Action for Industry Chair
Ole M Lauridsen	IEEE Denmark Section Chair
Owen Casha	IEEE Malta Section Chair
Panayiotis Symeou	IEEE Cyprus Section Past Chair
Patrick Mahoney	IEEE Chief Marketing Officer
Paul Canning	IEEE Xplore for Europe and Africa
Peter Palensky	IEEE Austria Section Chair
Peter Nagy	IEEE R8 Conference Coordination
Peter Kadar	IEEE Hungary Section Chair
Rafal Sliz	IEEE Finland Section Chair
Raja Chiky	IEEE R8 Young Professionals
Ralph Kennel	IEEE PES R8 Chapter Coordinator
Raphael Onoshakpor	IEEE Nigeria Section Vice-Chair
Roberto de Marca	IEEE Past President
Rui Costa	IEEE R8 Educational Activities
Ryszard Jachowicz	IEEE Poland Section Chair
Sara Barros	IEEE R8 Young Professionals
Sebastian Sichelschmidt	IEEE Germany Section Young Professionals
Sergey Shaposhnikov	IEEE Russia (North West) Section Chair
Sergey Nikitov	IEEE Russia Section Chair
Shaun Kaplan	IEEE South Africa Section Chair
Simay Akar	IEEE R8 Women in Engineering
Sohaib Qamar Sheikh	IEEE R8 Educational Activities
Steve Nightingale	IEEE UK and Ireland Section Chair
Tiziana Tambosso	IEEE Italy Section Vice-Chair
Toni Mattila	IEEE R8 Action for Industry
Urban Burnik	IEEE Slovenia Section Chair
Valentin Baranov	IEEE Belarus Section Chair
Vera Markovic	IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section Chair
Victor Croitoru	IEEE Romania Section Representative
Vincent Kaabunga	IEEE Committee on Activities in Africa Chair
Vincenzo Piuri	IEEE Vice-President, Technical Activities
Vladimir Kutuzov	IEEE Russia (North West) Section Past Chair
Vytautas Urbanavicius	IEEE Lithuania Section Chair

Wanda Reder	IEEE Board of Directors
Youmna El Bitar	IEEE R8 Assistant Secretary
Yuming Jiang	IEEE Norway Section Chair

Unapproved Minutes from of the 103rd IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting held on 21-22 August 2014 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

List of Participants

Full Name	Position
Martin Bastiaans	R8 Director
Costas Stasopoulos	R8 Director-Elect
Marko Delimar	R8 Past-Director
Ali El-Mousa	R8 Secretary
Brian Harrington	R8 Treasurer
Aleksandar Szabo	R8 Vice Chair Member Activities
Pablo Herrero	R8 Vice Chair Student Activities
Carl Debono	R8 Vice Chair Technical Activities
Peter Roessler	Austria Section Chair
Wafeeq Ajoor	Bahrain Section Chair
Valentin Baranov	Belarus Section Chair
Luc Vandendorpe	Benelux Section Chair
Dusanka Boskovic	Bosnia and Herzegovina Section Chair
Georgi Stoyanov	Bulgaria Section Representative
Mislav Grgic	Croatia Section Chair
Marios Antoniou	Cyprus Section Chair
Matj Pacha	Czechoslovakia Section Representative
Ahmed Darwish	Egypt Section Chair
Kalle Tammemäe	Estonia Section Chair
Rafal Sliz	Finland Section Vice-Chair & R8 YP Chair
Amara Amara	France SectionChair
Rajan John	Ghana Section Chair
Athanassio Skodras	Greece Section Chair
Peter Kadar	Hungary Section Chair
Thomas Philip Runarsson	Iceland Section Vice Chair
Amin Nobakhti	Iran Section Treasurer
Jacob Baal-Schem	Israel Section Representative & R8 LM coordinator
Ermanno Cardelli	Italy Section Chair
Mohamed Abdelazeez	Jordan Section Chair
John Matogo	Kenya Section CS Chapter Chair
Fadhel Abulhasan	Kuwait Section Secretary & Treasurer
Andrejs Romanovs	Latvia Section Vice Chair
Ghassan Shaban	Lebanon Section Chair
Dalius Navakauskas	Lithuania Section Chair
Owen Casha	Malta Section Secretary
Gloria Chukwudebe	Nigeria Section Chair
Olav Gaute Helleso	Norway Section Vice Chair
Amer Saif Al-Hinai	Oman Section Chair
Ryszard Jachowicz	Poland Section Chair
Sofia Gomes	Portugal Section Vice Chair
Ljupeco Karadzinov	Republic of Macedonia Section Chair
Mircea Eremia	Romania Section Vice Chair
Grigorii Khazankin	Russia (Siberia) Section Secretary
Muhammad Al-Dhamen	Saudi Arabia (East) Section Chair
Reem Turkey	Saudi Arabia Western Section Representative
Natasa Neskovic	Serbia and Montenegro Section Chair
Urban Burnik	Slovenia Section Chair
Shaun Kaplan	South Africa Section Secretary
Emilio Corchado	Spain Section Vice Chair
Mats Edvinsson	Sweden Section Chair
Maria-Alexandra Paun	Switzerland Section Secretary
Jaleddine Ben Hadj Slama	Tunisia Section Vice Chair
Basak Yuksel	Turkey Section Representative
Ievgen Pichkalyov	Ukraine Section Vice Chair
Hussain Al-Ahmad	United Arab Emirates Section Vice Chair
Stephen Nightingale	United Kingdom and Ireland Section Chair

Kabwe Bellington	Zambia Section Chair
Charles Turner	R8 Awards and Recognition Chair
Victor Fouad Hanna	R8 Awards and Recognition SC Member
Elya Joffe	R8 Chapter Coordination Chair
Simay Akar	R8 Chapter Coordination SC Member - SB Chapters
Jan Haase	R8 Conference Coordination Chair
Stefano Zanero	R8 Conference Coordination SC Member
Fotini-Niovi Pavlidou	R8 Educational Activities Chair - Continuing Education
Sohaib Qamar Sheikh	R8 Educational Activities SC Member - Pre-university
Rui Costa	R8 Educational Activities SC Member - University
George Michael	R8 Electronic Communications Coordinator
Anthony Davies	R8 History Activities SC Chair
Kurt Richter	R8 History Activities SC Member
Andreas Neumeier	R8 Industry Relations SC Member
Antonio Luque	R8 Membership Development Chair
Andreas Koltjes	R8 Membership Development SC Member
Zhijia Huang	R8 News Editor
Alistair Dabbs	R8 News Productions Editor
Urmet Jänes	R8 Professional Activities Chair
Habib Kammoun	R8 Professional Activities SC Member
Shashank Gaur	R8 Professional Activities SC Member
Jorge Soares	R8 Strategic Planning SC Member
Christopher James	R8 Strategic Planning SC Member / EMB018
Elias Nassar	R8 Student Activities Past Chair
Piotr Graca	R8 Student Awards and Contest Coordinator
Efthymia Arvaniti	R8 Student Branch Coordinator
Younna El-Bitar	R8 Student Electronic Communications Coordinator
Djordje Paunovic	R8 Student Paper Contest Coordinator
Christian M. Schmid	R8 Student Representative
Daniel Pasquet	R8 Voluntary Contribution Fund Coordinator
Joyce Mwangama	R8 Women in Engineering Coordinator
Ana Katalinic	R8 Young Professionals SC Member
Flavia Dinca	R8 Young Professionals SC Member
Elena Pareja	R8 Young Professionals SC Member
Margaretha Eriksson	R8 Director-Elect Candidate
Magdalena Salazar Palma	R8 Director-Elect Candidate
Igor Kuzle	R8 OpCom candidate
Manuel Castro	R8 OpCom candidate
Nazih Khaddaj Mallat	R8 OpCom Candidate
Vince Socci	IEEE Director Region 1
Peter Staecker	IEEE Past President (2013)
Roberto de Marca	IEEE President & CEO
Tariq Durrani	IEEE President-Elect Candidate
Gianluca Setti	IEEE Vice President, Publication Services and Products
James Prendergast	IEEE Executive Director
Doug Gorham	IEEE Managing Director, Educational Activities
Jonathan Dahl	IEEE Global Sales Dept.
Cecelia Jankowski	IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Managing Director
Jamie Moesch	IEEE MGA Senior Director, Member Experience
Joe Lillie	IEEE National Society Agreements Coordinator
Paul Canning	IEEE Xplore Digital Library for Europe, Africa (Staff)
Moira Patterson	IEEE-SA Sr. Manager, Global Activities
Holly Schneider Brown	IEEE Staff Lead, SIGHT (Special Interest Groups on Humanitarian Technology)
Karine Iffour	Director, Business Development Europe
Athanasios Kakarountas	Greece Section PSD for SC14
Jose Pedro Silva	Portugal Section Secretary
Mladen Koprivica	Serbia and Montenegro Section Treasurer
Mourad LOULOU	Tunisia section Past Chair
Hassene Mnif	Tunisia Section Treasurer
Maryam Althani	UAE Section Past Chair
Paul Cunningham	United Kingdom and Ireland Social Implications of Technology Chapter Chair

Adel Alimi	Sfax Sub-Section Chair
Bakr Hassan	Gulf Accreditation SC
Peter Nagy	HTE Managing Director

Thursday, 21 August 2014

101. Call to Order

Region 8 Director **Martin Bastiaans** opened the 103rd IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting by welcoming everyone and then asked the R8 Secretary, **Ali El-Mousa** if there was a quorum. The secretary replied in the affirmative.

103. Welcome

IEEE Benelux Section Chair **Luc Vandendorpe** thanked the local committee and welcomed everybody to the city of Amsterdam on the behalf of the Benelux Section.

104. Introduction of New Officers

All Section chairs introduced themselves by stating their names and home Sections.

105. Introductory Remarks

Director **Martin Bastiaans** announced the loss of 1989-1990 R8 Director Sven-Olof hrvik and called for a moment of silence. [An obituary](#) can be found on the meeting website. Secretary **Ali El-Mousa** announced some logistic information.

106. Approval of the Agenda

Director **Martin Bastiaans** announced minor changes to the agenda that were approved by the committee. He also informed the committee that minor changes may be required due to Sections Congress and other regional meetings.

AGENDA

Thursday, 21 August 2014

Time	#	Type	Item	Presenter
8:00	101	Procedural	Call to order	Bastiaans
8:05	102	Procedural	Roll call	El-Mousa
8:10	103	Procedural	Welcome	Vandendorpe
8:15	104	Procedural	Introduction of new officers	El-Mousa
8:25	105	Procedural	Introductory remarks	Bastiaans/El-Mousa
8:30	106	Action	Approval of the agenda	Bastiaans
8:35	107	Action	Approval of the consent agenda	Bastiaans
8:40	108	Discussion	Directors address	Bastiaans
8:55	109	Discussion	Secretarys report	El-Mousa
9:10	110	Action	Treasurers report budget for 2015	Harrington
9:30	111	Discussion	Strategic Planning	Delimar
9:35	112	Discussion	Sections Congress 2014	Salazar-Palma/Skodras
9:55	113	Discussion	Awards & Recognitions	Delimar/Turner
10:10	114	Procedural	Break	
10:40	115	Discussion	Student Activities report	Herrero c.s.
			Student and Young Professional Congress outcome	Herrero/Schmid
			Student Branch revitalization	Arvaniti
11:25	116	Discussion	MGA Managing Directors address (MGA Information Management)	Jankowski
12:25	117	Procedural	Recess	Bastiaans

12:30			Group photo	
12:40			Lunch	
13:00	201	Procedural	Call to order	Bastiaans
13:35	202	Discussion	Presentation of OpCom candidates	Delimar
14:35	203	Discussion	Presentation of N&A Subcommittee candidates	Delimar
14:50	204	Procedural	Break	
15:20	205	Discussion	Discussion about OpCom candidates	Delimar
15:50	206	Procedural	Election of OpCom members	Delimar
16:10	207	Discussion	Discussion about N&A Subcommittee candidates	Delimar
16:20	208	Action	Election of N&A Subcommittee members	Delimar
16:30	209	Procedural	Recess	Bastiaans

Friday, 22 August 2014

Time	#	Type	Item	Presenter
8:00	301	Procedural	Call to order and roll call	Bastiaans/El-Mousa
8:05	302	Discussion	IEEE Presidents address	de Marca
8:35	303	Discussion	IEEE Executive Directors address	Prendergast
9:05	304	Discussion	Member Activities report	Szabo c.s.
9:50	305	Discussion	TM Council change to Technology and Engineering Management Society	Desmond
			Communication Conference targeted towards industry	Desmond
10:00	306	Discussion	Section development and vitality: Metropolitan Area Workshop	Stasopoulos
10:010	307	Discussion	Section development and vitality: Entrepreneur activities	Stasopoulos
10:20	308	Procedural	Break	
10:50	309	Discussion	Technical Activities report	Debono c.s.
			Appropriately allocating expenses from technically cosponsored conferences	Debono
			Education challenges in the Global Village	Pavlidou
			The Distinguished Lecturer program	Joffe
			Webinars on conference organization	Haase
			Industry Relation activities experiences and how to proceed	Neumeier
11:34	310	Discussion	Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology (SIGHT)	Brown
11:45	311	Discussion	National Society Agreements	Lillie
12:00	312	Discussion	IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Europe (Africa Ad Hoc Committee Update)	Delimar
12:15	313	Discussion	Director-Elect's address	Stasopoulos
12:30	314	Action	Motions	Bastiaans
	315	Action	Revision to IEEE Region 8 Operations Manual	Delimar
12:45	316	Discussion	New business	Bastiaans
12:50	317	Info	Next meeting	El-Mousa/Antoniou
12:55	318	Action	Adjournment	Bastiaans
13:00			Lunch	
14:00			Lunch ends	

Consent Agenda

- 401 Action Approval of the minutes of the 102nd Region 8 Committee meeting
- 402 Action Revision to collection of IEEE Region 8 donations

107. Approval of the Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was presented by Martin Bastiaans and was adopted unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

x	Type	#	Item	Author
x	Action	100	Approval of the Minutes of the 102nd Region 8 Committee meeting in Budapest, 5-6 April 2014	Ali El-Mousa
x	Report	101	Awards & Recognition	Charles Turner

x	Report	102	Chapter Coordination	Elya B. Joffe
x	Report	103	Conference Coordination	Jan Haase
x	Report	104	Educational Activities	Niovi Pavlidou
x	Report	105	Electronic Communications	George Michael
x	Report	106	History Activities	Tony Davies
x	Report	107	Industry Relations	Terje Gjengedal
x	Report	108	Life Members	Jacob Baal-Schem
x	Report	109	Membership Development	Antonio Luque Estepa
x	Report	110	Nominations and Appointments	Marko Delimar
x	Report	111	Professional Activities	Urmet Janes
x	Report	112	Region 8 News	Roland Saam / Zhijia Huang
x	Report	113	Sections Congress	Athanassios Skodras
x	Report	114	Strategic Planning	Marko Delimar
x	Report	115	Voluntary Contribution Fund	Daniel Pasquet
x	Report	116	Women in Engineering	Joyce Mwangama
x	Report	117	Young Professionals	Rafal Sliz
x	Report	201	Austria	Peter Roessler
x	Report	202	Bahrain	Wafeeq Ajoor
x	Report	203	Belarus	Valentin Baranov
x	Report	204	Benelux	Claude Oestges
x	Report	205	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Dusanka Boskovic
x	Report	206	Bulgaria	Rossitza Goleva
x	Report	207	Croatia	Mislav Grgic
x	Report	208	Cyprus	Marios Antoniou
x	Report	209	Czechoslovakia	Jan Vrba
	Report	210	Denmark	Ole Lauridsen
x	Report	211	Egypt	Ahmed Darwish
x	Report	212	Estonia	Kalle Tammemae
x	Report	213	Finland	Rafal Sliz
x	Report	214	France	Amara Amara
x	Report	215	Germany	Axel Richter
x	Report	216	Ghana	Rajan John
x	Report	217	Greece	Athanassios Skodras
x	Report	218	Hungary	Peter Kadar
x	Report	219	Iceland	Thomas Philip Runarsson
x	Report	220	Iran	Farzaneh Abdollahi
x	Report	221	Iraq	Sattar Bader Sadkhan
x	Report	222	Israel	Simon Litsyn
x	Report	223	Italy	Ermanno Cardelli
x	Report	224	Jordan	Mohamed K Abdelazeez
x	Report	225	Kenya	Aniruddha Shahapure
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x	Report	227	Latvia	Andrejs Romanovs
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x	Report	232	Nigeria	Gloria Chukwudebe
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x	Report	235	Poland	Ryszard Jachowicz
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	Report	237	Qatar	Yacob Mulla Saleh
x	Report	238	Republic of Macedonia	Ljupco Karadinov
x	Report	239	Romania	Mircea Eremia
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x	Report	241	Russia (Northwest)	Sergey Shaposhnikov
x	Report	242	Russia (Siberia)	Grigoriy R. Khazankin
x	Report	243	Saudi Arabia (East)	Muhammad Al-Dhamen
x	Report	244	Saudi Arabia (West)	Reem H. Turkey
x	Report	245	Serbia and Montenegro	Natasa Neskovic

x	Report	246	Slovenia	Urban Burnik
x	Report	247	South Africa	Riana Geschke
x	Report	248	Spain	Oscar M. Bonastre
x	Report	249	Sweden	Mats Edvinsson
x	Report	250	Switzerland	Maria-Alexandra Paun
x	Report	251	Tunisia	Faouzi Bouani
	Report	252	Turkey	/ Gözde Bozdagi Akar
x	Report	253	Ukraine	Ievgen Pichkalov
x	Report	254	United Arab Emirates	Essa Basaeed
x	Report	255	United Kingdom and Ireland	Steve Nightingale
x	Report	256	Zambia	Bellington Kabwe

The reports and presentations that follow can be found at:

<http://www.ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2014-august-amsterdam/>

108. Director's Address

Director Bastiaans highlighted special guests and special agenda items. He informed the committee that the IEEE presidential elections are open and that there will be Region 8 OpCom elections during the meeting for which he explained the election process. Martin Bastiaans also talked about the agenda book, Sections congress, and the importance of reporting. He reminded the committee about the 3 strategic challenges

- Go to industry!
- Increase IEEE's footprint!
- Think education!

More information about milestones, awards, MGA and other points from his address can be found in the [Director's presentation](#) and in [his report](#). Finally he pointed out the value and importance of Sections Congress which happened after the Regional meeting.

109. Secretary's Report

Secretary **Ali El-Mousa** reported on the last meeting in Budapest and pointed out the meeting website. Issues of concern were out-of-date Section websites and officer reporting. Ali El-Mousa advised that the 122 registered attendees should make good use of meeting and Section Congress. Functional Google accounts are now being tested for R8 officers. Finally Ali El-Mousa announced motion drafts on appointments and accountability, for which he asked for feedback. More information can be found in [his presentation](#) and in [his report](#).

110. Treasurer's Report - Budget for 2015

Treasurer **Brian Harrington** explained the reimbursement form and the budget of the current year (can be found in the [treasurer's presentation](#)). He explained why the assets were building up and made predictions about the status at the end of the year. Brian Harrington pointed out the importance of reporting and said that he is working on administrative issues to minimize procedural bureaucratic hurdles. In summary the treasurer feels confident about the budget and the future financial outlook of Region 8.

Some discussion of the budget followed Brian's presentation:

- Question from the committee: Who does R8 spend 70k on publications?
 - Answer by Brian: The reason is the R8 News, which are very important for Region 8 to have in print for visibility/publicity.
 - Comment from Marko Delimar: Being about 1 USD/member this is money well spent.
 - Comment from Zhijia Huang: R8 News is a push service that is important compared to pull services (e.g., websites).
 - Comment from Tony Davies: Pointed out the important of R8 News for publicity.
- Question from the committee: What are the current financial market conditions, aren't they good now?
 - Answer by Brian: The long term outlook is good, still exchange rates are a problem. Sometimes IEEE MGA makes things difficult.
- Question from Ali El-Mousa: Can the budget for the website be increased?
 - Answer by Brian: This can be handled as special project outside the Secretary budget.

The committee approved the 2015 budget for IEEE Region 8 unanimously.

111. Strategic Planning

Marko Delimar pointed out the importance of the strategic key challenges in [his presentation](#). Many past challenges can be considered as solved. Others like the activities in Africa and in the EU are on track. The sub-committee reports reflect how the

sub-committees tackled the key challenges in their respective areas. Marko Delimar also reminded the committee about IEEE's key challenges. A short discussion followed.

- Comment from the committee: It is time for a better representation of the Middle East in Region 8.
 - Response by Marko Delimar: During his term there were many officers from the Middle East, but he also agrees that one should look into options to strengthen Technical Activities in the Middle East.

More information can be found in the [Strategic Planning report](#).

112. Sections Congress 2014

Magdalena Salazar-Palma highlighted the opportunities during Sections Congress (SC) for learning and networking with the over 1000 SC attendees. The three MGA goals

- Deliver a World-Class membership experience
- Expand IEEE's global membership presence
- Modernize the volunteer experience

are deeply embedded in the congress through a combination of breakout sessions, learning labs, ignite talks, fish bowls, exhibits, honor ceremony and other sessions. More information can be found on the [sections congress website](#) and through the Sections congress mobile application.

Athanasios Skodras explained the recommendation and voting process which shall help the board of directors define future directions. The top five recommendations will be presented at picked up by MGA. There were 34 recommendations in total and the primary section representatives can vote via the mobile application. iPads are available for representatives who have no mobile devices. More information can be found in the [Sections Congress report](#).

113. Awards & Recognitions

In his [presentation](#) **Charles Turner** pointed out the list of MGA and institute awards and encourages Sections to become more active in awards. An awards officer in every Section would be helpful. Awards are a means to promote Section vitality. Also awards should be on display, e.g., on the Section websites. Instituting new awards can also be beneficial for Sections and other IEEE OUs. Three awards were presented to the following Sections

- Hungary Sections: Certificate of Appreciation for hosting the 102nd Region 8 committee meeting
- Lebanon Section: Certificate of Appreciation for hosting MeleCon 2014
- Croatia Section: Certificate of Appreciation for hosting EnergyCon 2014

115. Student Activities Report

Efthymia Arvaniti presented results on the [student branch \(SB\) revitalization](#). The first step was to gather information from the Section chairs. The analysis served as a basis for trying to reactivate dormant student branches: 10 SBs were reactivated, 5 more are in progress. Efthymia also provided reasons why SBs become inactive. The Student and Young Professional (SYP) Congress 2014 helped to reactivate dormant SBs and keep others active by transfer of knowledge. The project should be continued.

- Questions by Aleksandar Szabo: What does SAC do to increase membership numbers?
 - Answer by Efthymia: The key is to promote the benefits of IEEE.
- Comment by Pablo Herrero: Efthymias project achieved 10 reactivated SBs at a budget of 0 USD.
- Comment from the committee: MOUs between IEEE and universities can help.

Pablo Herrero and **Christian M. Schmid** presented some of the [outcomes of the SYP congress](#) that was attended by 420 attendees (partially funded by IEEE Region 8). Highlights that were aligned with the Region 8 goals were highschool students at the congress, industry involvement and the engaging poster session. **Younna El-Bitar** showed a [selection of photos](#) from the event and commented on them. Finally Pablo and Christian pointed out some benefits of SYP congress for Sections.

- Comment from Spain: The Spanish SYP congress participants gave very good feedback.
- Comment from Nigeria: Visas were denied.
- Comment from Egypt: Visas 7 out of 15 students were denied.
- Comment from Finland: Most important thing is to apply in time.
- Question from committee: How to retain student members?
 - Answer from Rafal (YP): We are working on this.
- Comment from the committee: A transition program could be beneficial.

Additional information can be found in the [subcommittee report](#).

306. Section Development and Vitality: Metropolitan Area Workshop

The agenda point was shifted to Thursday.

Costas Stasopolous showed a short video on [metro area workshops](#) which is an initiative from R1-R6 targeted at practitioners to inform them about the benefits of IEEE. The workshops are 1-2 day seminars about a current topic and proved to be a great benefit. Workshop fees are low and often paid by employers. Costas also presented the 10 steps to organize such a workshop and informed the committee that the first workshop in Region 8 will be organized in France. More information will be available during SC.

- Comment from Ali El-Mousa: Close cooperation with an advisory committee can be beneficial. The event proved to be successful in Jordan.

116. MGA Managing Director's Address

Cecelia Jankowski started by inviting the committee to take the opportunity to interact with staff during SC. She handed over to **Vera Sharoff**, who gave an overview about [electronic tools for volunteers](#):

- E-Notice: Will be replaced by a new application soon
- V-Tools Voting: Has undergone some improvements (voter lists, ...)
- Sections Dashboard: The one stop for Section officers, added also chapters.
- Google for OUs: generic accounts assigned to officers.

There were a couple of questions.

- Question from Portugal: Will the Sections Dashboard work for student branches also?
- Question from Sweden: What is the timeline for Region 8 Sections?
 - Answer by Vera: Not exactly sure yet?
- Question from Christian Schmid: What is done to update data in SAMIEEEE, especially student branch data?
 - Answer by Vera: There is still a lot to do, but the data has improved.
- Question from Jorge Soares: Can birthday dates be made available for Sections sending out birthday notes?
 - Answer by Vera: This is a difficult question that involves privacy.

Cecelia Jankowski started [her presentation](#) by talking about some ideas from the Budapest meeting and the problem of finding solutions that work in every geographic region. The MGA goals are however generic and important everywhere:

- Deliver a World-Class membership experience
- Expand IEEE's global membership presence
- Modernize the volunteer experience

The goal is to reach member and partner satisfaction through programs that are scalable globally. Many of the issues touched by Cecelia Jankowski during the talk will be addressed during Section Congress. The three goals are the key.

- Questions from the committee: How to involve and do more for life members?
 - Answer by Cecelia Jankowski: A survey was conducted and the most valuable thing seems to be the life member newsletter.

202. Presentation of OpCom Candidates (Presentations)

Marko Delimar introduced the N&A Subcommittee and [explained the election process](#). He started by explaining the IEEE president election process, the R8 Director election and continued with the OpCom procedure. All 12 OpCom candidates had 4 minutes [to introduce themselves](#). Here is the list of candidates.

- Secretary
 - Ali El-Mousa (Jordan) nominated by petition
 - Christian Schmid (Austria) nominated by R8 NA
- Treasurer
 - Brian Harrington (UK and Ireland) nominated by R8 NA
- Vice-Chair, Member Activities
 - Dusanka Boskovic (Bosnia Herzegovina) nominated by R8 NA
 - Manuel Castro (Spain) nominated by R8 NA
 - Christopher James (UK and Ireland) nominated by R8 NA
- Vice-Chair, Student Activities
 - Mona Ghassemian (UK and Ireland) nominated by R8 NA
 - Nazih Khaddaj Mallat (UAE) nominated by R8 NA
 - Andrejs Romanovs (Latvia) nominated by R8 NA
- Vice-Chair, Technical Activities
 - Elya Joffe (Israel) nominated by R8 NA
 - Igor Kuzle (Croatia) nominated by R8 NA
 - Daniel Pasquet (France) nominated by R8 NA

The slate can also be found in the [Nominations and Appointment Subcommittee presentation](#). The candidate presentations are also [to be found online](#).

203. Presentation of N&A Subcommittee Candidates

The slate for the N&A Subcommittee Elections 2014 was given as follows

- Rui Cruz (Portugal)
- Athanassios Skodras (Greece)
- Jacob Baal-Schem (Israel)

205-208. Executive Session: Discussions and Elections

The outcome of the OpCom elections was as follows:

- Secretary
 - Christian Schmid (Austria)
- Treasurer
 - Brian Harrington (UK and Ireland)
- Vice-Chair, Member Activities
 - Dusanka Boskovic (Bosnia Herzegovina)
- Vice-Chair, Student Activities
 - Mona Ghassemian (UK and Ireland)
- Vice-Chair, Technical Activities
 - Igor Kuzle (Croatia)

The outcome of the N&A Subcommittee elections 2014 was as follows:

- Rui Cruz (Portugal)
- Athanassios Skodras (Greece)
- Jacob Baal-Schem (Israel)

Recess

Friday, 22 August 2014

301. Call to Order

Region 8 Director, **Martin Bastiaans**, restarted the meeting by welcoming everyone again and then asked the R8 Secretary, **Ali El-Mousa**, if there was a quorum and the secretary replied in the affirmative. The meeting continued to the presentation of the election results (see above).

303. IEEE Executive Director's Address

James Prendergast gave a presentation that included the following topics:

- Business Highlights,
- Major Initiatives,
- Operations,
- Products & Services Snapshots,
- and Recognition and Impact.

Details about all of those topics can be found in the [presentation available online](#). A short discussion followed.

- Question from the committee: Can you please shed some light on corporate sales?
 - Answer by James: Corporate sales is selling services to large cooperations, e.g. Xplore for companies.
- Question from the committee: Is there bundling of membership offerings?
 - Answer by James: Membership bundling is not done and is not believed to be successful.

302. IEEE President's Address

Roberto de Marca gave [an overview about the membership development, publications and conferences](#) with respect to geography and demography. The main message is that IEEE should do better. Region 10 dominates, but that IEEE Region 8 is doing ok. Providing value to members (also in industry) should be priority number one to increase membership numbers. The president sees the following issues that have to be resolved:

- Membership Strategy and how to add value to members. Membership growth has been slow.
- Improve financial reporting and control on IEEE finances.
- How can we bring new revenue streams that are aligned to our core values.
- .org vs. .com
- Should we continue to be a volunteer driven organization?

- How can we continue to be a respected and relevant organization in the future?

A discussion followed the presentation.

- Comment from the Tony Davies: IEEE should stay a volunteer driven organization.
- Question from the committee: Why is the membership number in the US dropping.
 - Answer by Roberto: The interest and support of industry members is getting smaller, it is also a question of membership value.
- Question from the committee: How is the structure of IEEE responding to the challenges it faces?
 - Answer by Roberto: There has to be discussions and they are ongoing.
- Comments from the committee: Remove negatives and add positives for industry members.
- Comments from Costas Stasopoulos: IEEE should focus on improving student retention.
- Question from the committee: What does “Improve financial reporting and control on IEEE finances.” mean?
 - Answer by Roberto de Marca: We have to understand how we spend money.
- Comment from the committee: Members from developing countries will not choose the electronic membership, as they have other cheaper membership options.
- Comments from Marko Delimar: E-membership is not targeted at members with low income.
- Comments from the committee: Membership fees should be reconsidered for retired members.

304. Member Activities Report

Aleksandar Szabo pointed out the importance of cooperation between sub-committees. After highlighting the tools for volunteers and showing some membership statistics he started with the first sub-committee presentation.

- **Life Members:** Highlights include the life member groups, the e-notice letters and activities at HISTELCON 2015.
- **History Activities:** Tonie Davies gave an update on IEEE milestone activities in Region 8.
- **Membership Development:** Antonio Luque presented the current membership statistics and current subcommittee activities.
- **Women in Engineering:** Joyce Mwangama showed WIE membership and affinity group statistics. Future activities will include revitalization of dormant groups and awards.
- **Professional Activities:** Urmet Janes gave an overview on the activities of the subcommittee. Successful activities were the speakers program and a survey that was conducted.
- **Region 8 News:** Zhijia Huang pointed out the importance of the R8 News for the members and IEEE’s viability/publicity.
- **Young Professionals (YP):** Rafal Sliz and his team gave a presentation about SYP congress, the status of the YP affinity groups in R8 and the activities of the affinity groups. An award was presented to the Nigeria Section YP affinity group.

All member activities presentations can be found on the [R8 website](#). More details are available in the Amsterdam meeting agenda book and on the [Amsterdam Meeting website](#).

- Comment from committee: Thank you to the Young Professionals for helping in the organization of the Student and Young Professional Congress 2014.

305. TM Council change to Technology and Engineering Management Society: Communication Conference targeted towards industry

Celia Desmond talked about a conference targeted at industry and about the change of the TM council into the new engineering management society. Sections will be needed to promote the new society.

Role of Professional Societies in Addressing 21st Century Global Grand Challenges

Tariq S Durrani presented [his vision](#) about the Role of Professional Societies in Addressing 21st Century Global Grand Challenges.

307. Section Development and Vitality: Entrepreneur Activities

Costas Stasopolous gave a presentation about Entrepreneur Activities in cooperation with the European Union. He focused on the key objectives and the next steps. Details can be found in the [online version of the presentation](#).

309. Technical Activities Report

Carl James Debono and his team provided an [update about the activities in their department](#). A motion was presented to host the next MELECON 2016 in Cyprus. The motion was approved by the committee. The members of his subcommittees delivered presentations on the following topics:

- **Niovi Pavlidou, Sohaib Qamar Sheikh** and **Rui Costa** reported on educational activities.
- **Elya B. Joffe** reported information about the distinguished lecturers program.
- **Jan Haase** reported about activities of the conference coordination subcommittee.
- **Andreas Neumeier** reported about activities of the industry subcommittee and on short and long term goals.

A discussion followed.

- Comment from the committee: IEEE should not only think locally, but should also focus on companies.
 - Answer by Andreas Neumeier: An efficient structure has to be defined.
- Question from the committee: Is there a list of distinguished lecture videos?
 - Answer by Elya Joffe: Some societies have browseable lists, but not all societies.
- Comments from the committee: How can companies like Cisco be not aware of IEEE.
 - Answer by Andreas Neumeier: They are aware of IEEE, but not necessarily about the full scope of IEEE.
 - Answer by Andreas Neumeier: There is a database, but what would be the benefit?
- Question from the committee: What about cooperation between subcommittees?
 - Answer by Carl Debono: Confirmed that this is an important aspect.
- Comment from the committee: Are there any formal procedures for the Section technical activities officers?
 - Answer by Carl Debono: Section officers can be reported via vtools and can get in touch with the R8 committee.

More information can be found in the technical [activities report](#).

310. Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology (SIGHT)

Holly Schneider Brown presented the [SIGHT program](#) to the committee and invited the participants for interaction during Sections Congress.

311. National Society Agreements

<http://www.ieeer8.org/download/19344/> Joe Lillie

312. IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Europe (Africa Ad Hoc Committee Update)

Peter Staecker presented activities of the Africa Ad Hoc Committee and Marko Delimar gave an [update of the Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Europe](#).

- Comment from the Margaretha Eriksson: Pointed out the EUREL organization to the committee and proposes a cooperation.
- Question from Kurt Richter: Who elects the members of these committees.
 - Answer by Marko Delimar: There was a transparent appointment process.
- Comments from the committee: A Gulf Cooperation Council committee may also be useful.
 - Answer by Marko Delimar: There should be a thought process to continue the conversation.

313. Director-Elect's address

Director-Elect **Costas Stasopoulos** presented the vision and mission of region 8. He also explained what his vision is for Region 8 and his plan to promote the vision. His presentation can be found on the R8 webserver <http://www.ieeer8.org/download/19365/>.

314. Motions

No additional motions were brought forward.

315. Revision to IEEE Region 8 Operations Manual

Based on the e-mail sent out to the committee members on 8 July 2014 proposed a motion of for the revision to IEEE Region 8 Operations Manual. A summary of the motion can be found in the appendix to the meeting minutes. The motion passed.

316. New Business

There was no new business.

317. Next Meeting

The next Region 8 Committee meeting will be held in Limassol, Cyprus on 27-28 March 2015. Cyprus Section Chair **Marios Antoniou** gave a [presentation](#) on Cyprus and invited everybody to attend the meeting.

318. Adjournment

The **Region 8 Director** entertained a motion to end the Region 8 Committee meeting. The motion was adopted.

Adjourn

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Director

Costas Stasopoulos

The Past

Directors calendar since 1 January 2015

- IEEE Board Retreat and Meeting and MGA Board Retreat - San Juan, Puerto Rico
- IEEE Board Series and MGA Board Meeting - New Orleans, USA
- IEEE Board of Directors Industry Outreach Germany, March 1-March 7 Together with IEEE President and 3 other Directors we visited Germany in the process of the IEEE Board of Directors Industry Outreach. We had a full day round table meeting and discussion with leading industrialists in Munich as shown below: Mr. Hans Beckhoff, Beckhoff Automation, Dr. Franz Laermer, Bosch GmbH, Ms. Christin Eisenschmid, Intel, Dr. Rodolfo Schoeneburg, Daimler AG, Mr. Maximilian Riegel, Nokia, Mr. Arnulf Rupp, OSRAM, Dr. Ulrich Rohde, Rohde Schwarz, Prof. Dr. Helmut Klausling, VDE, Dr. Klaus Vedder, Giesecke Devrient We had half day visits and talks with high level managers in the following companies-institutions: FESTO in Stuttgart NOKIA in Munich SIEMENS in Munich VDE in Frankfurt. We also had meetings with local volunteers and members of the German ExCom.

The aim of the visit was to understand the needs of the Industry through a series of talks and presentations. Listening to them and answering to their questions was part of the process. The whole visit will be followed up and valuable conclusions will be drawn.

Outlook

- 1) Getting closer to Industry As more than 50our members work in the Industry (as opposed to Academia), we need to focus on the needs of the contemporary and future engineers and related professionals and define new IEEE products and services that support them and stimulate their interest. This action will aim to activate IEEE relevance to industry in Region 8. In order to achieve this we will need change within IEEE, we will need to rejuvenate IEEE involvement with Industry, enhance engagement with Sections throughout the R8 and appoint active Industry Ambassadors. We have set up a strong Action for Industry committee. The task is challenging but the potential is great. Commitment, open mindedness, collaborative spirit and the support from the whole community are vital for its success. Chapters and Affinity groups can contribute to this and new ways of collaboration must be explored.
- 2) Students and Young Professionals Students and Young professionals are in the heart of Region 8. Having recognised that the quality of their experience within the association can determine and even shape the future of IEEE, we need to inspire them and find new ways to appeal to them. The first step is already accomplished; we have set up very strong and potent teams in our Students and Young Professionals Committees. The next objective is to make sure that these committees are truly dedicated and have all possible tools, resources and support available to them, so as to effectively direct their efforts towards increased activities with special emphasis on added value to membership. It is of great importance that we plan various Regional Congresses, that will aim to stimulate and inspire the student community and also provide them with plenty of opportunities for interchange of ideas and friendships. Region 8 has had several extremely successful experiences in the area of Student Regional Congresses and we are very proud that we have actually started to be used as a Model by various USA Regions planning similar actions. But success is not a title or a privilege and it is surely not given. Every event needs to be carefully planned with the following key objectives: to find new ways to motivate our members, create new competitions and find ways for a smooth transition from students to Young Professionals. Chapters, Affinity groups and Sections will play a vital role here.
- 3) Section Vitality Section vitality is the corner stone of all activities. We need to have alive and active Sections in order to have and maintain the Chapters, Affinity groups and Student Branches. This has been long recognised of course, but a more dedicated and focused initiative started as of last year and I would like to see this to continue strongly into 2015 as well. The aim here is to drive efforts, ideas and resources into the empowerment and rejuvenation of Sections in order to help them and motivate them to become more active and more diverse. Again, in order to be successful in something as big as this, a large number of volunteers will need to be stirred and motivated for action. We have started with a top down approach and looking for effective and inspiring leadership to take it from there. Executive committees should be a mixture of young and old, academic and Industry people from various areas of the Section. All the appointed positions should be filled with capable people. The Chapter, Affinity group and Branch chairs should be invited to the Executive committee meetings. Sometimes it is hard to find the right or any volunteers but if we create that right mix of professionalism, technical knowledge and social atmosphere we can achieve it.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Establishing an IEEE Office in R8
- New Conferences in R8

Miscellaneous

- Help Subsections that reside directly under the Region to become a full Section
- Explore the possibility for new Geographic Units in those parts of our Region where no Sections exist
- Assist with the legal registration of Sections where required

Upcoming major events in Region 8

- R8 OpCom meeting, Glasgow, UK, 18-19 July 2015
- R8 Committee meeting, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 10-11 October 2015 (105th meeting), TBA
- R8 Nominations and Appointments Subcommittee meeting, TBD
- IEEE Day, 6 October 2015

Upcoming Region 8 conferences

- HISTELCON 2015, Tel-Aviv, Israel, 16-21 August 2015
- EUROCON 2015, Salamanca, Spain, 8-11 September 2015
- AFRICON 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-17 September 2015

Recent and upcoming Section anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60)

- 18 August 2014, Turkey, 25th Anniversary
- 5 October 2014, Israel, 60th Anniversary
- 20 February 2015, Kuwait, 25th Anniversary, celebrated in the GCC Conference
- 20 March 2015, Sweden, 50th Anniversary, to be celebrated in the R8 meeting in Limassol
- 15 August 2015, Romania, 25th Anniversary
- 15 August 2015, Russia, 25th Anniversary
- 8 September 2015, Egypt, 60th Anniversary

Upcoming dedications of IEEE Milestones

April 1, 2015, Blumlein Historic Milestone, UK and Ireland, London, UK
Abbey Road Studios Invention of Stereo Sound Reproduction, 1931

Plaque citation:

Alan Dower Blumlein filed a patent for a two-channel audio system called stereo on 14 December 1931. It included a "shuffling" circuit to preserve directional sound, an orthogonal Blumlein Pair of velocity microphones, the recording of two orthogonal channels in a single groove, stereo disc-cutting head, and hybrid transformer to mix directional signals. Blumlein brought his equipment to Abbey Road Studios in 1934 and recorded the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Zenit Parabolic Reflector L-band Pulsed Radar, 1938, Ukraine Section, Kharkiv, Ukraine

Citation:

The 1938 Zenit radar test at the Laboratory of Electromagnetic Oscillations of the Ukrainian Institute of Physics and Technology was a major advance in the development of radar. Designed by Abram Slutskin, Alexander Usikov and Semion Braude, microwave scientists and magnetron pioneers, Zenit established the practicality of combining the pulsed method and a shorter wave band for determining precisely all three coordinates of airborne targets.

Date and venue TBD

News from Member and Geographic Activities (MGA)

Electronic Membership dues increase The 2015 eMembership dues was increased to USD 75.00.

Student Membership dues increase - MGA tried to increase the 2016 student dues but the motion failed at the BoD where it needed 2/3 majority. IEEE Region 8 was against this increase.

Region 8 members in MGA leadership positions in 2015:

Martin Bastiaans: MGA Vice Chair Geographic Unit Operations, MGA Geographic Unit
Operations Support Committee Chair, MGA Operations Committee Member

Pablo Herrero: MGA Student Activities Committee Chair

Urmet Janes: MGA ieee.tv Advisory Committee Chair

Antonio Luque Estepa: MGA Membership Recruitment and Recovery Committee Chair MGA Strategy Process

Two IEEE Ad Hoc Committees reporting to the Board of Directors that focus on Region 8 specific issues have been established for 2015:

_ IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Africa Vincent Kaabunga (chair), Joseph Mutale, Towela Nyirenda-Jere, Gertjan van Stam, John Funso, Costas Stasopoulos

_ IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Engagement in Europe Marko Delimar (Chair), Martin Bastiaans, Costas Stasopoulos, Marina Ruggieri, Gianluca Setti, David Law, Dirk Van Hertem, Axel Richter, Christopher James, Gordon Day

Past Director

Martin J. Bastiaans

Region 8 Bylaws, R8-3.1.4: On the expiration of his/her Regional Director's term, the Director shall serve on the Region 8 Committee as Past Director for a two-year term. The Past Director shall be the focal point for the following activities in Region 8:

- Nominations and Appointments
- Strategic Planning
- Awards and Recognition
- Questions concerning R8 Bylaws and R8 Operations Manual
- Human Resources Development and Training

Additional responsibilities may be assigned by the Region 8 Director.

IEEE Region 8 Nominations and Appointments SubCommittee

Composition

- Past Director (ex officio): **Martin Bastiaans** (Benelux), Chair
- Director (ex officio): Costas Stasopoulos (Cyprus)
- Director-Elect (ex officio): Margaretha Eriksson (Sweden)
- (former) Section Chair (elected): Jacob Baal-Schem (Israel)
- (former) Section Chair (elected): Rui Santos Cruz (Portugal)
- (former) Section Chair (elected): Athanassios Skodras (Greece)

Committee report submitted separately

IEEE Region 8 Strategic Planning SubCommittee

Composition

- **Margaretha Eriksson** (Sweden), Chair
- Martin Bastiaans (ex officio) (Benelux)
- Carl Debono (Malta)
- Elya Joffe (Israel)
- Habib Kammoun (Tunisia)
- Daniel Pasquet (France)
- Magdalena Salazar-Palma (Spain)

Committee report submitted separately

IEEE Region 8 Awards and Recognition SubCommittee

Composition

- **Marko Delimar** (Croatia), Chair
- Martin Bastiaans (ex officio) (Benelux)
- Ahmed Darwish (Egypt)
- Jorge Soares (Switzerland)
- Panayiotis Symeou (Cyprus)
- Charles Turner (UK and Ireland), Past Chair

Committee report submitted separately

(Past) Director's calendar since the 103rd Region 8 Committee meeting, 21-22 August 2014

- 22-24 August 2014, Amsterdam, Netherlands: Sections Congress
- 25-26 August 2014, Amsterdam, Netherlands: Board of Directors meeting
- 25 September 2014, Rheinfelden, Germany: Milestone event - Hydroelectric Power Plant
- 10-12 October 2014, Chicago, IL: MGA Operations Committee meeting
- 31 October - 2 November 2014, London, UK: R8 OpCom meeting
- 12 November 2014, Antwerpen, Belgium: Benelux Section ExCom meeting
- 19-24 November 2014, New Brunswick, NJ: Board Series
- 2-3 December 2014, Brussels, Belgium: Conference on internet governance
- 4-5 December 2014, Karlsruhe, Germany: Milestone event - Heinrich Hertz
- 8 December 2014, Paris, France: SEE-IEEE Léon-Nicolas Brillouin Joint Award Ceremony
- 12-13 December 2014, Tirana, Albania: RTA-CSIT and exploration for an Albania or Albania-Kosovo Section

V/C Member Activities

Duška Bošković

Overview

- The Vice Chair for Member Activities (MA) is engaged in supporting the members' needs and enhancing the members growth. The Vice Chair for MA is coordinating activities of the following standing and ad-hoc subcommittees / coordinators: Membership Development (MD), Professional Activities (PA), Young Professionals (YP), Life Members (LM), Women in Engineering (WIE), History Activities and Region 8 News. The activities of all the subcommittees and coordinators are important for member career development and for opportunities for creating strong professional connections.
- With the beginning of the year we had appointment of volunteers for the positions of subcommittee chairs and coordinators. The appointed volunteers demonstrated continued interest and involvement in member activities. In order to enhance cooperation with Region 8 sections more volunteers were included in subcommittees as corresponding members. I would like to use this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Aleksandar Szabo, for his kind, encouraging and continual support during this period.
- The detailed reports from the Subcommittee Chairs and Coordinators are included in this Agenda Book and published on the Limassol Committee Meeting web page. I would like to invite you to read them carefully. In my report I will highlight the potentials for achieving the Region 8 priorities: getting closer to industry, students and young professionals and section vitality.

Membership Development Subcommittee (MDSC)

MD SC is working with all our Sections on recruiting, retaining and recovering members. MD SC Chair Adeel Sultan was already a member of the MDSC and continued with regular activities as MD Monthly Reports and Newsletters distribution. The Institute issue from March 2015 reports that Region 8 is one of three regions with increase in IEEE membership in 2014. It is important to mention that current IEEE Membership Recruitment and Recovery (MRR) Committee Chair is Antonio Luque, Past MDSC Chair, still involved in MDSC activities. We are now facing membership drop, expected for February. MD SC Chair is leading campaign with all MD Officers in sections in recovering members in arrears and they are already achieving improvements in retention statistics. We expect membership growth in the following months, but we all need to be seriously engaged in the recruitment activities.

Professional Activities Subcommittee (PASC)

PASC is engaged in developing non-technical skills programs and organizing workshops. During the reporting period in the last year PASC was continuing with the successful Speaker Program. The Past PASC Chair Urmet J'anes is still active in the subcommittee, and the PASC Chair for 2015 is Ana Katalinić Mucalo and she brings extensive GOLD/PA experience. This is in line with plans to improve cooperation with YP and IR subcommittees. PASC is putting efforts in increasing PA visibility to make sections aware of the PA programs they offer and recruit more volunteers as PA local trainers.

Young Professionals Subcommittee (YPSC)

YPSC was very active during the reporting period. After the Amsterdam Region 8 Committee Meeting YPSC was engaged in preparing operational documents: YP Book, R8 Young Professionals Manual and SYP Manual. The books gather valuable experiences and information for future YP officers and volunteers, and the work was completed at the YPSC meeting in Zagreb in December, lead by Rafal Sliz as PASC Chair for 2014. Continuity of their successful work is provided with appointment of Flavia Dinca as YPSC Chair in 2015. This year focus is on reaching the YPs in industry, with initiatives as: launching the Company Branch Program and starting the R8 Young Professionals Industry Newsletter.

Life Members (LM) Coordinator

LM Coordinator for 2015 is Charles W. Turner who took over from Jacob Baal-Schem. In the past few years the number of LM AGs increased, and LM Coordinator plans to encourage more Sections to start an LM AG and to invite retired members to participate, and all other members to support their activities. The Israel Section LMAG is active in organizing the next HISTELCON 2015. The LM coordinator highlighted the importance to identify the activities that would engage the Life Members willing to serve as volunteers.

Women in Engineering (WIE) Coordinator

WIE Coordinator for 2015 is Simay Akar as successor to Joyce Mwangama. The WIE Coordinator responsibility includes maintaining contact with all Region 8 WIE AGs and encouraging WIE activities in the Region. A committee comprising the WIE Coordinator and WIE advisors decided that the winner of 2015 Clementina Saduwa award is Eman Alashwali from Saudi Arabia for her professional and personal achievements.

History Activities Coordinator

History Activities Coordinator for 2015 is Anthony C Davies. He is continuing with successful milestone activities. A milestone dedicated for the Heinrich Hertz has been unveiled at Karlsruhe, Germany, on 5th December 2014, and a milestone at Abbey Road Studios in London, UK to recognize the stereo sound recording and reproduction inventions is being planned for 1st April 2015. The HISTELCON 2015 Conference will be held in Israel August 16-21, and the IEEE History Committee plans to change HISTELCON to a worldwide conference rather than just a Region 8 event.

Region 8 News

Region 8 News editors: Roland Saam, Zhijia Huang and associate editor Bojan Nikolić are delivering Region 8 News digital and print editions regularly.

Best Practices

- Recognizing areas for cooperation between subcommittees, like PA events dedicated for Young Professionals, WIE sessions at YP and Students congresses, History Activities and LM Coordinators involvement in HISTELCON. The cooperation is especially important when bringing together Technical and Member Activities, like joint YP and IR Newsletter, PA and IR events, WIE engagement with Education Activities.
- Building sustainable networks of volunteers in the Region 8 dedicated for specific member activity areas as PA, MD, and History; or Affinity Groups as YP, LM, WIE. We have started with inventory of current officers in Sections engaged in these member activity areas, and we aim to enlarge that number and make strong networks.
- A concluding message to section chairs is to join us in our activities. For more information, questions, and ideas please feel free to contact me at dusanka.boskovic@ieee.org.

V/C Student Activities

Mona Ghassemian

The Past

- Awards Advertisement Campaign: we have launched online campaign called "Who Dares Wins" for raising awareness about Awards and we wanted to encourage students to apply for awards. Result of campaign is that we had 33 submissions for Exemplary Student Branch Award which is new record. Also we had 10 submissions for Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award which is great result. Currently we are working on evaluation of the awards so we can send results to MGA until 22nd May. We are working on campaign for Region 8 website contest. [Dinko and Ahmet]
- Call for Proposal about SYP: Proposal for SUP 2016 was prepared jointly with YP. The call is out and is advertised on social media. The deadline is set for 15th of April. [Femia, Dinko]
- SB/SC Petition approvals: A total of 14 Student Branches have been approved thus far, with 1 pending approval and 7 approved Chapter Societies. [Lebo, Ruba]
- Events attended so far in 2015:
 - Femia: IEEE IST 25years Anniversary (6-8 of March 2015): Efthymia Arvaniti, as the Region Student Representative, participated in the three-days celebrations in Lisbon, for one of the exemplary student branches in Region 8. During the event, both technical and non-technical presentations took place, with emphasis in IEEE. Also, a QA panel with IEEE Officials took place, and many interesting questions were raised and discussed. A one-hour long plenary session about Student Activities in Region 8 and the world was hosted and students and other participants were informed about the interesting activities that are happening and they can participate and get inspired.
 - Mona: IEEE United Kingdom and Ireland Section, 9th Student Branch Chair Meeting, London, 14th March 2015- Hosted by IEEE Student Branch Kings College London - (March 14th 2015): Mona Ghassemian was invited as the SAC vice-chair to present the SAC across region to the SB chairs in IEEE UK and Ireland Section. This event included a workshop by University of Southampton on "How to Run a Successful Student Branch" as well as extensive round the table discussion which highlighted the examples for good and bad practices across section SBs.

Outlook

- 1) Goals and priorities: Revitalization Project continuation
 - a) Create an awareness about half price membership.
 - b) Promote the member get a member reward system to reduce the renewal of IEEE membership fees.
 - c) Encourage the student branches to have fun events and less technical events so that they can attract freshman or new undergraduates at the universities.
 - d) Encourage social media interaction, especially Facebook in advertising events and highlighting past events in a fun way that will attract new students.
 - e) Link existing student branches in neighbouring cities to the new student branches so they can get motivated by the success of the old branches and learn how they overcame their difficulties.
 - f) Contact with student branches in Ghana, Algeria and South Africa. Kenya to provide necessary support. [Lebo]
- 2) How will you achieve your goals: The idea of the pre-approval forms to be discussed [Mona, Lebo, Ruba]
- 3) How will you know that you achieved your goals (e.g., how to you "measure" your achievements)

Our ongoing activities: Cookbook preparation, Participation in Cross-Sectional Congresses, Contact Section Chairs and Section Officers about student activities, Engage with Students and Young Professionals, Industry Relations with Students in our Region (Intel Webinar for recruitment etc), New Project Discussion (Mind the Gap), Reach out to Students with more needs in Africa and Middle East, Online SAC Webinars to discuss with students and listen to their questions, needs and opinions, Strong Online Presence through active Pages and Social Media [Femia]

"Mind the Gap! is SAC's newest project: a contest challenging IEEE graduate and undergraduate students in Region 8 to come up with a project proposal that helps reduce the gap between generations and bring them together, via technology. It should be feasible, useful and beneficial to all generations, using technology to the advantage of humanity. Our aim is to extend Mind the Gap! into a collaboration between SAC and both IEEE Life Members and EPICS in IEEE, to the benefit of Region 8 students." [Youmna, Mona]

Best practices

- Our facebook online message communication
- In terms of Electronic Communications, we established our new links with the region students by updating our biographies and contacts on the R8 website and sharing it with them through our facebook page; encouraging them to stay in contact, ask questions and keep us updated of their activities. We're working on increasing the interaction with the students and maintaining a two-way communication with them. As part of that, we have been sending out reminders for the AC deadlines via email and through our website and facebook page. We've also made sure we have an up-to-date database of SB officers and counselors and had a plan in place to share with them the SB guides and periodic tips and ideas to keep them involved. [Heind]



Future Events

- 4th Iberian Student Branch Congress (ISBC) Madrid (Spain)
 - 3rd Central European Student and Young Professional Congress (CEuSYP) Zagreb (Croatia)
 - 4th Middle East Student Branch Congress (ME-SBC) Amman (Jordan)
 - 3rd Hellenic Student Branch Congress (HSBC) Thessaloniki (Greece)
 - 1st West European Student and Young Professional Congress Eindhoven (Netherlands)
- as well as many other regional events and celebrations.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Network for Counselors: to find a way to encourage and get counsellors more engaged specially in the newly established SBs.
- Finding scalable and time efficient methods to monitor SB activities proactively to avoid going dormant.

Miscellaneous

- Issues about Turkey, Palestine and Iran student branches reported to SAC that will be discussed in Limassol. [Mona, Ahmet]
 - Budget Discussion (SPC prize) [Carlos, Mona]
- In general: Please review your report with the 3 Region 8 priorities in mind:
- Getting Closer to Industry: YP collaboration [Femia]
 - Students and Young Professionals: Call for proposal SYP 2016 [Femia]
 - Section Vitality: We look at this from student activity point of view. [Lebo]

RSR Report: One of the main goals for this year is to attend as many Student Events as the Committee can afford, with main interest in the Cross-Sectional Events, focusing on transferring knowledge to the students and contribute to the exchange of ideas between different Student Branches. Being part of those small-core Congresses is valuable both for the Committee as we can better understand the needs and problems that students face, and the student activities regionally, as during our presentations/workshops, we try to advertise all IEEE Activities, Projects, Programs, Awards, Contests and Events, and encourage students to be a great part of them.

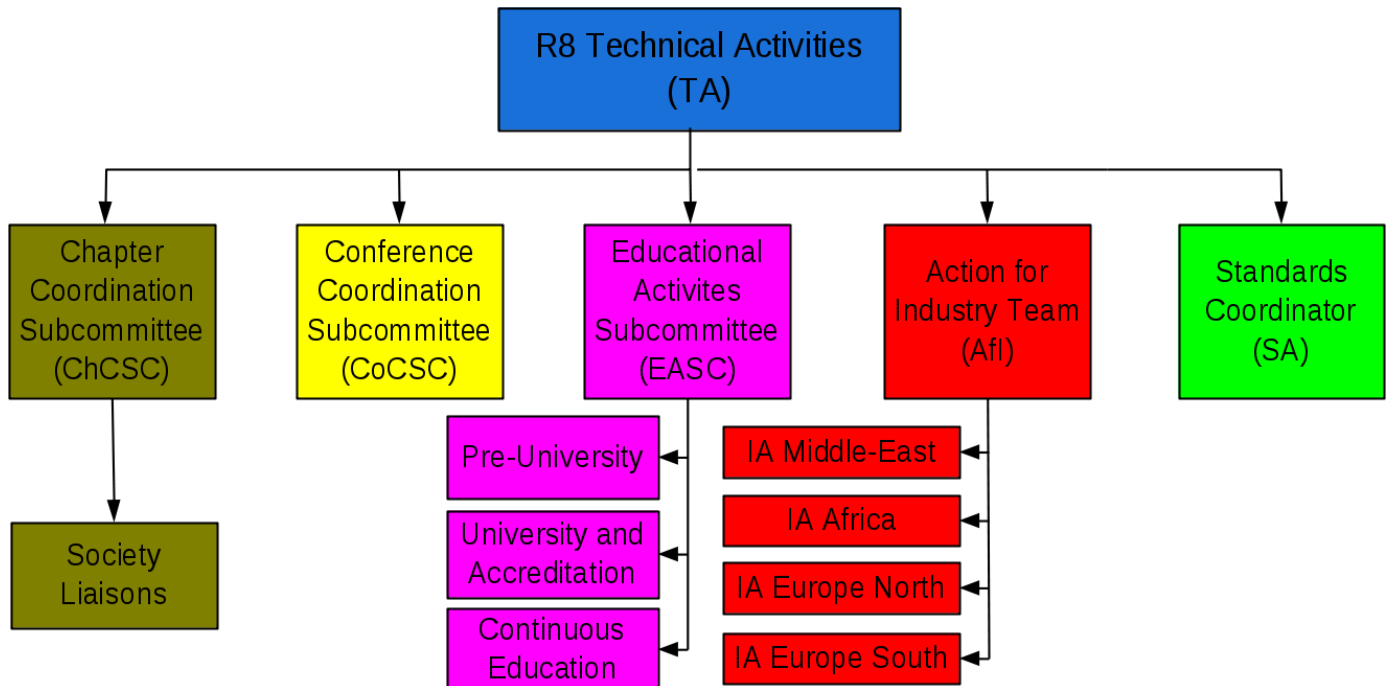
Reaching out to members in every part of our Region, is vital for the continuation of the Activities and the rise of new ideas and challenges. As Students are the Future Leaders of IEEE.

V/C Technical Activities

Igor Kuzle

Introduction

The Region 8 Technical Activities is supported by the Chapter Coordination, Conference Coordination and Educational Activities subcommittees and Action for Industry Team. Furthermore, a Standards Coordinator liaises with the IEEE Standards Association. The Technical Activities places efforts to support technical activities, educate volunteers and members, and collaborate with industry. More information is available on the Technical Activities website: <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/> The structure of the Technical Activities responsibilities is depicted in the following diagram:



An overview of the work done since January 2015 is given below:

Chapter Coordination Subcommittee (ChCSC)

The ChCSC has received and reviewed a number of new chapter and council applications and 11 new chapters is approved. They improved Chapter of the year nomination process, received 25 nominations for the chapter and SB chapter awards and prepare recommendations for the R8 director and Awards Committee. The ChCSC is currently working on the annual ChCSC meeting in Autumn 2015.

Conference Coordination Subcommittee (CoCSC)

The CoCSC has processed a number of technical and financial sponsorship requests. The organizers of MELECON 2016 and ENERGYCON 2016 have been approved during the Amsterdam meeting and R8 is looking for candidates for EUROCON 2017 and AFRICON 2017. Sections interested in hosting any flagship conference should contact the CoCSC. CoCSC will organize two free webinars in order to allow conference organizers to familiarize with IEEE procedures and gain knowledge on organizing successful conferences.

Educational Activities Subcommittee (EASC)

The EASC has continued organizing and supporting Teacher In Service Program (TISP) and Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS-in-IEEE) workshops throughout Region 8. The committee is working on increase of the EASC visibility, and synergies with the IEEE Education Activities Board (EAB participation in March 2015 R8 Committee meeting R8 EAS meeting).

Action for Industry (Afi)

Collaboration with Industry is one of the priority areas of the OpCom and the Afi is working to update the strategy and develop an action plan. To achieve stronger connection with the industry Afi introduce Industry Ambassadors for Africa, Middle-East, and Europe (North and South). The purpose of the Ambassadors is to improve the interaction with sections leaders and industry relations officers and support their efforts to become closer to the industry.

Standards Coordinator

The standards coordinator acts as point of contact between Region 8 and the IEEE-SA and the standards education committee. Various meetings and workshops on standards are being held in the region (for example in Zambia and South Africa, IEEE-SA Board of Governors meeting was held in Brussels, IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee plenary meeting in Berlin).

Treasurer

Brian Harrington

See the supplement provided by IEEE Region 8 Treasurer Brian Harrington for the financial report.

Secretary

Christian M. Schmid

Mission Statement

The job of the IEEE Region 8 Secretary Team is to support the committee and the Region 8 OpCom to accomplish its mission for the members of IEEE Region 8. The team consists of

- Youmna El Bitar, Assistant Secretary Social Media and Web pages, youmna.elbitar@ieeer8.org
- George Michael, Electronic Communications, xeirwn@ieee.org
- Christian Schmid, Secretary, c.schmid@ieee.org

Our tasks include helping to organize the committee meetings and the OpCom meetings, supporting the sub-committees and the Sections, managing the R8 web presence and many more. Many of the things we do are of administrative nature and will stay in the background. The important thing is that those tasks by themselves are not the goal. They are not self-sufficient. The greater goal is to support and enable the committee to focus on the three priorities of Region 8 for 2015:

- Getting closer to Industry
- Students and Young Professionals
- Section Vitality

Our mission is to make sure all of our activities are aligned with these priorities, the important question being: "Does what we do / ask from the committee members serve the three goals?". As a starting point you will find that all Section reports in this agenda book are written with respect to the three goals. The next step will be a hopefully interactive and inspiring meeting in Limassol. We rely on the combined effort of the members of the Region 8 Committee to make it happen!

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Action For Industry (AfI)

Nihal Sinnadurai

The Past

Instead, we are looking to the future.

Outlook

Industry members are the traditional majority of IEEE and remain the majority in Region 8. Yet, IEEE takes them for granted, and some staff had implemented steps that have worked against the interests of Industry. To return our attention to industry and to serve our industry members, we must re-establish a relevance of IEEE to industry. Starting in Region 8, we seek to achieve by dedicating significant resource to the task.

To progress IEEE Action for Industry in Region 8, the following is proposed:

The end objective must be change within IEEE from complacent expectation of support from Industry to commitment by IEEE Board to 'Action for Industry'

An intermediate objective is that R8 through its Director will make representations to the Board for Action for Industry.

The steps to generate intelligence for such Action will come from activity within R8 to rejuvenate IEEE involvement with Industry.

IEEE R8 Action for Industry will be enabled by engagement with Sections throughout R8. To achieve this engagement we will establish an Action for Industry team with Industry Ambassadors (IAs) for Africa, Middle-East, Europe, plus support from additional Corresponding members (members participating by correspondence) of the team. The Industry Ambassadors will have a roving role (travel telephone) to reach out to all Sections. Engagement of all Sections is vital to build strong relations with industry in the nations of R8. We must not expect the Sections to deliver without a corresponding commitment from R8. So, we will involve them and support them (with guidance and funds) in active participation.

We will make use of existing Industry Initiatives by Sections and build on the good things they may be doing with Industry.

We will access Senior and Fellow members based in industry as a means of reaching their companies.

We will implement specific actions (see the Stages below) within Sections which will be mentored by the IAs and the R8 Action for Industry Chair. We will not burden our Section volunteers with obscure generalities, but with specifics.

Year 1 will be a period of engaging with Sections and identifying and establishing contacts and actions with industry.

Year 2 will be threefold - (i) to consolidate on productive actions from year 1, (ii) amending and implementing alternative solutions to overcome impracticalities, (iii) to develop IEEE Actions for Industry based on what has worked, together with the inputs we already have received from industry about what must be done by IEEE to make it more acceptable to industry.

Year 1

Stage 1. Dec 2014 - Jan 2015: Appointment of R8 Industry Ambassadors

Region 8 Ambassador for Industry in Africa

Region 8 Ambassador for Industry in Middle-East

Region 8 Ambassador for Industry in Europe North

Region 8 Ambassador for Industry in Europe South

Stage 2. 2015: Appointment of R8 Action for Industry Corresponding members, where needed. Note: This action has been deferred

Stage 3a. Jan-April 2015: Industry Ambassadors (IAs) interview Section leaderships and obtain details of all industry oriented activities.

Stage 3b Jan-April 2015: Corresponding Members to identify and list all IEEE Senior Members and Fellows based in industry in Africa, Middle-East and Europe. This action requires full co-operation from R8 Member Development Chair (R8 Director to secure this commitment) plus all member development chairs of each Section.

Stage 3c. 27th March 2015: 3a to be reported at R8 Committee in Cyprus.

Stage 4. April 2015: Extracting the best from identified Industry initiatives and planning deployment actions in the Sections of R8. If there are insufficient such initiatives, the R8 Action for Industry Chair will provide the detail to be implemented. These may include: Internship, Research-to-Industry Workshops, Technology Insight by practitioners. For Internships we will establish a process for assessing capable students and then support them in reaching out to specific identified companies to provide industry internships. In making such representations we must show credible disciplined high level of professionalism without favour - no corruption will be tolerated.

Stage 5. April-July 2015: Section leaders (and Section IAs) make contact with Industry Senior Members and Fellows and socialise those contacts to establish friendly relationships (avoid the arrogance of asserting that 'We are IEEE'). If useful, arrange evening receptions with senior industrialists as VIP guests.

Stage 5. April-September 2015: Implementing the action plan. Continuous monitoring of progress with guidance by IAs.

Stage 6. October 2015: Of R8 Industry team and all Section leaders or IAs at a pre-meeting at R8 Committee. Discuss progress, difficulties encountered and practicalities. Devise practicable Solutions. Report progress and next phase to R8 Committee.

Best practices

Best examples of progress towards industry will be developed from those observed from inputs from Sections.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

Progress towards industry has been superficial and has disengaged from the Sections. Engagement of Sections as part of the Action for Industry Team is vital. They will be the local interfaces and communicators and engagers with industry. During 2015 we will re-engage with Sections and involve their participation at the October meeting of R8 Committee - for which R8 has committed budget.

Miscellaneous

In general:

This is the initiative that has the best opportunity for IEEE to

- 1) 'Get closer to Industry'
- 2) Seek to benefit Industry by identifying top calibre Students and Young Professionals for Internships in Industry
- 3) Improve Section Vitality by active engagement with Industry Practitioners

Awards & Recognition Subcommittee (A&RSC)

Marko Delimar

Membership

- Marko Delimar (Croatia) Chair
- Martin Bastiaans (Benelux) ex-officio
- Ahmed Darwish (Egypt)
- Panayiotis Symeou (Cyprus)
- Jorge Soares (Portugal Switzerland)
- Charles Turner (UK and Ireland) Past Chair

2015 Awards

The subcommittee met by teleconference in advance of the Region 8 Spring Meeting to evaluate the nominations received.

- **Region 8 Volunteer Award:** A significant number of good nominations were received, and the subcommittee selected a recipient, to be announced at the meeting.
- **Region 8 Section Award:** No recipients awarded.
- **Region 8 Clementina Sudawa Award:** The nominations and selected recipient were received from the WiE subcommittee, and will be announced at the meeting.
- **Region 8 Chapter of the Year Award & Region 8 Student Branch Chapter of the Year Award:** The nominations and selected recipient were received from the Chapter Coordination subcommittee, and will be announced at the meeting.

Improving the R8 award nomination process

Nominations for Region 8 awards are currently handled in an inconsistent way, with the nomination process being award-specific and done through a mix of offline and online forms submitted to different endpoints. In order to streamline the process, we are working with MGA staff to unite all awards under the FluidReview platform already in use at the global level. This will provide a single point of information and a standard interface, making it easier for members to submit nominations.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Region 8 Committee Meeting in Limassol, Cyprus, in the morning of Friday the 27th March 2015.

Chapter Coordination Subcommittee (ChCSC)

Nazih Khaddaj Mallat

The Past

- Review Chapter and Councils Applications
- New Chapters Approved since Jan. 19th, 2015
 - 6 Chapters
 - 4 SB Chapters
- S/C R8 Chapter Coordinators Roster
 - Updated S/C R8 Chapter Coordinators Roster
 - Communications with S/C Presidents
 - S/C R8 representatives appointed (after 2 reminders S/C to Presidents)
- Facebook Presence

Future Activities

- Chapter Award and SB Chapter Award
- Recommendations for R8 director and the Awards Committee
 - 20 Nominations Received (13 for Chapter award and 7 for SB award)
 - Prepare the annual ChCSC meeting in Autumn 2015
- Chapter Formation Requests
- Continued and complete work on:
 - Consolidated "Best Practice" Manual
 - Create a regular timeline for ChCSC activities
- Continue participation in SB Chapter Congress

Best practices

- Early and repeated requests for S/C representative nominations (Resulted in a full slate of representatives)
- Improved Chapter of the Year Nomination Process (Resulted in a broader nominations)
- Present 1-day training during a general conference.
- Establish good contacts with the societies
- Attract more chapter chairs to attend the annual ChCSC Meeting in Autumn 2015

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Transfer of knowledge should be better particularly when a new chair is appointed
- Budget for this subcommittee: More information should be provided on how to use this budget, how to apply and it is for what kind of events.

Miscellaneous

- Regarding the R8 priorities, more information need to be shared about the "Getting Closer to Industry"

Conference Coordination Subcommittee (CoCSC)

Adel M. Alimi

Overview

The CoCSC coordinates financially or technically co-sponsored conferences in the region. Currently it consists of Adel M. Alimi (Tunisia, CoCSC chair), Jan Haase (Austria, CoCSC past chair), and Pèter Nagy (Hungary).

Present and Future R8 Conferences

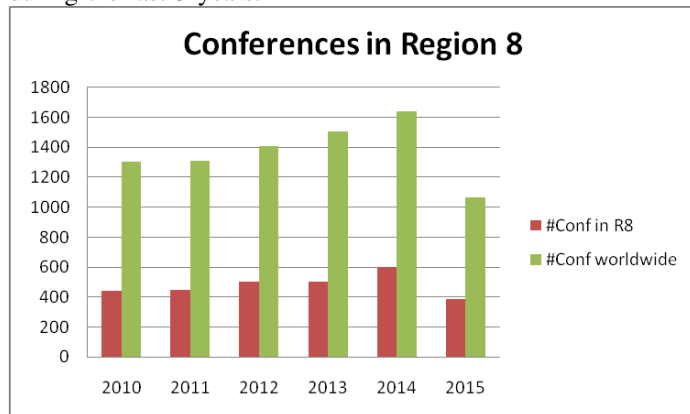
- HISTELCON 2015, August 16-21, Tel Aviv, Israel <http://www.ieeeahn.org/wiki/index.php/Histelcon>
- EUROCON 2015, September 8-11, Salamanca, Spain <http://eurocon2015.usal.es/>
- AFRICON 2015, September 14-17, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia <http://africon2015.org/>
- ENERGYCON 2016, Leuven/Ghent, Benelux <http://www.ieee-energycon2016.org/>
- MELECON 2016, Limassol, Cyprus
- EUROCON 2017 - looking for candidates
- AFRICON 2017 - looking for candidates
- HISTELCON 2017 - looking for candidates

CoCSC sessions at R8 committee meetings

CoCSC session will be organized on Friday at R8 meeting in Limassol in March 2015.

Financially and Technically Co-sponsored Conferences in Region 8

The number of conferences sponsored by IEEE units in region 8 is increasing. The figure below shows the number of conferences during the last 5 years:



The top 7 sections organizing conferences financially or technically co-sponsored by IEEE units in region 8 on 2015 are Italy (51), France (32), UKI (30), Germany (27), Portugal (24), Spain (17), and Tunisia (17).

Conference Organizers Handbook

The CoCSC prepared a handbook (or howto) for conference organizers to be sure which steps to take and which forms to submit when and where. This handbook was created mostly by the work of Dirk van Hertem and then improved by Jan Haase. The handbook itself can be downloaded from the R8 CoCSC webpage at <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/conference-coordination/>

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Increase the paper quality at IEEE conferences organized in the region
- Increase the participation of industrials in the conferences
- Increase organizing IEEE conferences in Africa
- Select the organizers of 2017 Region 8 conferences
- Look for new R8 flagship conferences (Big Data, Cloud Computing, Gaming, etc.)
- 3 free students registrations in R8 technically co-sponsored conferences instead of the general administrative fees of \$500.

Miscellaneous

- Coordinate with section's conference officers
- Organize free webinars to help conference organizers to familiarize with IEEE procedures and gain knowledge on organizing successful IEEE conferences.

Educational Activities Subcommittee (EASC)

Manuel Castro

The Past

- Participation in Frontiers in Education conference Madrid, October 2014
- TISP organization and events
- Continuous education webinars and events

Outlook

- Reorganization of the Subcommittee after the new IEEE R8 Direction:
 - Increase the number of people involved in the Subcommittee areas
 - Past chair involvement
- Increase of the Education Activities, visibility and synergies with the IEEE Education Activities Board:
 - Mini EAB meeting - March 2015
 - EAB participation in R8 Committee meeting & R8 EAS meeting March 2015
 - IEEE EAB Managing Director
- Organize more Seminars and Webinars

Best Practices

- TISP and EPICS 2015 new activities
 - Zagreb (Croatia), Central European Student and Young Professionals Congress May 2015
 - Corua (NorthWest Spain) meeting of TISP at MUNCYT (Technology Museum) with EAS participation May 2015
- New Region 8 based events - wide scope
 - IEEE Student Branches
 - IEEE Sections
 - New projects

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

Not all Sections have an EA Officer ζ push

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

Synergies with the virtual conferences area

Electronic Communications Coordinator (ECC)

George Michael

The Region 8 Electronic Communication Coordinator's job is to facilitate communication, both between members of the Region 8 Committee, and between this committee and present or future IEEE members.

IEEE Region 8 website (<http://www.ieee.org/r8>)

The IEEE Region 8 website serves as a common reference point for all information regarding our Region. It supports besides hosting of articles, the hosting of photo galleries and document repositories. From the website you can get information about: latest news regarding R8, offers and services from IEEE, jobs, the full section roster and links to the sections' websites, links to important conferences, IEEE related important links and many more. We are always accepting new articles so feel free to let us know of what your Section is doing so that we can let the whole Region know.

Server

We migrated the Region 8 website to IEEE owned servers. The site is again operational. Some functionality like emails is still not available yet but will be in the near future.

Before the migration we were using a shared plan on hosting provider, which it was not enough to handle the traffic of our site. We were not supposed to use more than 25% of the CPU, which we sometimes did. Whenever that happened our site would be disabled for a period of time. That period of time could be seconds or a few days depending on the severity of the situation. Right now, we are hosted on IEEE servers, we could not do in the past because we required more features than what was offered for a standard website. By migrating to IEEE servers that, we get the support of IEEE staff and the possibility for seamless upgrade of the server if needed in the future. IEEE has a better plan than any basic plan we would rent on our own, so that will allow us to have more bandwidth, processing power and replication capabilities. These mean that we should have a faster and more reliable website.

Statistics

According to the monitoring tool that has been installed on our websites these are the statistics that were obtained over the period from the 12th of August 2014 to the 15th of March 2015. Over this period, more than 32,000 people visited the website and over 78,000 pages were viewed with our homepage receiving more than 35,000 of the traffic with more than 27,500 page views. On an average visit, a user stays for about a minute and a half. Our visitors come from 150 countries/territories all around the world, many of whom are outside Region 8. Our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2490621134/> has more than 4,700 members! Please note that all of our news and articles are cross posted to the group.

Performance

In an attempt to improve the quality of service for our website we are now using the CloudFlare service that provides us with Caching/Mirroring and Firewall services.

Mailing Lists (<http://listserv.ieee.org/>)

It is the responsibility of the ECC to maintain the Region's mailing lists - depending on the type of group or list - this means adding/deleting members if subscribing is not permitted or reviewing/editing messages if moderating is required. Important lists for volunteers can always be found at the homepage of our site.

vTools (<http://vtools.ieee.org/>)

vTools abbreviation stands for "Volunteer Tools". vTools simplify the administrative tasks to our volunteers via use of online tools, reduce time spent managing activities, and assist in member development. vTools are developed and made possible by IEEE volunteers. The toolbox simplifies administration by offering web based software, reduces time spent managing activities, and assists in member development.

Redirects

To make it easier for our volunteers to promote the content they post on the website, we created redirects for their pages to shorten the URLs and make them more user friendly. For example the GOLD group can be accessed from this URL <http://gold.ieeer8.org>, Student activities from <http://student.ieeer8.org> and <http://students.ieeer8.org>. The same functionality is being applied to sections, for example <http://cyprus.ieeer8.org> translates to <http://ieee.org.cy> Sections and groups that want to use this functionality, please contact me.

Reports

During this period we are still testing various methods to receive the reports of the committee. For this reason a survey is being used to collect section reports at <http://surveys.vtools.ieee.org> and a word document with limited formatting capabilities is used by the rest of the members of the committee. The final version of the Agenda Book and the individual reports were converted to Latex to improve their quality of typesetting. As the incoming reports are not in Latex, this process takes significant amount of time to complete. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Youmna El Bitar for her invaluable help and the many hours she dedicated for the completion of this task!

Presentation Tools

A new timing tool was developed that is more flexible than the last one. It takes less space, it is highly configurable and it is more responsive.

Please contact with me at xeirwn@ieee.org for more information or assistance.

History Activities Coordinator

Anthony Davies

The Past

A milestone dedicated for the Heinrich Hertz demonstration of electromagnetic waves has been unveiled at Karlsruhe on 5th December 2014. In the past, there was an IEEE award named after Hertz, but it is now discontinued, no awards having been made after 2001. Funds for this award were from Region 8, and it seems that discontinuation was because company financial support became difficult to obtain.

Outlook

- Arrangements are underway for the dedication of a milestone at Abbey Road Studios in London to recognize the stereo sound recording and reproduction inventions of Alan Dower Blumlein in the early 1930s. A major event is being planned for 1st April 2015.
- A milestone has been approved for the L-band 3D pulsed radar developed in Kharkiv, Ukraine in 1938. Progress with installation is uncertain because of the military activities in Ukraine. Several other prospective milestones in Ukraine are in the proposal development stages.
- Enrico Fermi's major contribution to semiconductor statistics, Florence, Italy, 1926 is awaiting a decision by the IEEE History Committee.
- Several Milestone proposal plans are well under way in the UK and Ireland Section.
- The HISTELCON 2015 Conference will be held in Israel August 16-21, and the significance of this event is recognized by the IEEE History Committee with plans to change HISTELCON to a worldwide conference, rather than just a Region 8 event.

Best Practices

There is no shortage of good suggestions for History Milestones in various locations in Region 8, but in many cases, champions to carry them through from idea to accepted proposal cannot be found. The IEEE History Center and the IEEE History Committee is keen to see more successful proposals from Region 8 and can offer advice and help.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Changes in the IEEE Global History Network (GHN): IEEE is collaborating with six other engineering Societies in the new Engineering and Technology History Wiki (ETHW). These include the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) as well as the Society of Women Engineers. Clearly there is an overlap in interests between IEEE and all of these. Collaboration with the IET (former IEE) has been proposed and various suggestions made, but no progress has occurred so far. The IET Archives are now re-housed in a more special environment and in the process of becoming available to visitors who make reservations in advance.
- ASME and ASCE both have Landmarks which correspond to the IEEE Milestones and the IEEE Milestones data has been moved to the ETHW website. For the time being, there is automatic re-direction from the GHN website, but it is recommended that the ETHW site be used from now onwards. The ASME website lists 275 landmarks generally these are preserved objects such as engines, etc. The ASCE landmarks are civil engineering projects: bridges, viaducts, etc. For example, Brunel's Thames Tunnel in London, completed 1843 and still in continuous use, is one of them. It was the first shield-driven tunnel and the first underwater railway tunnel. ASCE has some 260 landmarks. Compare with about 150 for IEEE.
- The ETHW website (www.ethw.org) has an innovation map which shows the locations of all the milestones and landmarks: 222 are shown for the eastern USA area, and 49 for the Western Europe area, which illustrates the unbalanced recognition of technology progress, and the need for more milestones in Region 8.
- The ASME and ASCE landmarks may be found at the following locations: www.asme.org/about-asme/who-e-are/engineering-history/landmarks and <http://www.asce.org/Landmark-Program>
- Since some in IEEE are not much interested in History of Technology and might wish to reduce the financial support for it, it may be that in due course, the GHN could be phased out and replaced completely by having all the material in ETHW. Although IEEE seems to be the strongest partner in ETHW, such a change might not be favorable for IEEE, so a careful watch on these plans is recommended!

Life Member Coordinator

Charles Turner

The Past

In taking over from Jacob Baal-Schem this year, it is a pleasure to acknowledge the excellent work that he carried out to develop Life Member activities, creating a sound foundation from which they can grow..

Outlook

- There are currently 11 Life Member Affinity Groups (LM AGs) in the Region. There are also several Sections where there are enough Life Members to justify consideration of the formation of an LMAG. In addition, if it could be agreed that retired members could be granted nominal Life Member status, the number of Sections in a good position to form viable LM AGs increases significantly. This year I plan to contact these Sections to encourage them to form an LM AG and to invite retired members to participate. Of course, all members are welcome to support activities organized by Life Members.
- The most positive development for LM AGs would be the emergence of a clearly defined set of activities that would command the interest and commitment of Life Members willing to serve as volunteers. Looking across to the USA and Canada, many LM AGs there are active in helping schools, in mentoring young engineers, and in community projects. Remaining active is appealing to retired engineers, who often have special skills to offer. This should apply, in theory, to the members in Region 8. The challenge is how to harness this large pool of talent for the benefit of the local community. A first step would be for all Sections to appoint a volunteer as Section Archivist/Historian with responsibility for documenting the progress of the Section since its formation.
- The IEEE Life Members Committee (LMC) organizes technology-themed tours around the IEEE Milestones. The fifth tour will be organized in the Region 8 (France, Switzerland, and Germany), 6-17 May 2015.

Best practices

One of the most popular interests among Life Members is the history of technology. Sometimes this relates to personal history (or reminiscences) drawn from careers spent in industry, academia, or government service, including in the military. The IEEE Global History Network (GHN) provides unlimited opportunities for individual members to contribute their own personal experiences, or their personal research into historical events within the scope of IEEE's interests. Two current examples illustrate the high level of interest in history among LMAG volunteers. The first is the HISTELCON 2015 Conference being held in Israel August 16-21. Another example is the Milestone ceremony to be held on April 1st in London to celebrate the invention by Alan Blumlein of stereophonic sound reproduction in the 1930s. Other Milestones in France, Germany, Switzerland and the Ukraine have been awarded this year or are in the pipeline.

Membership Development Subcommittee (MDSC)

Adeel Sultan

MDSC Team composition for 2015

- Adeel Sultan, UAE Section, Chair
- Antonio Luque, Spain Section, Member
- Andrejs Romanovs, Latvia Section, Corresponding Member
- John Matogo, Kenya Section, Corresponding member

General status of MD in R8

At the end of February 2015, membership in our Region was at 54,608 (post arrear deactivation) with total additions YTD of 4373 members. Renewal period recently ended and the region was only a few points short of the retention goal. Major efforts for retention are currently underway to minimize final arrear count. Recruitment drives are also running in parallel and some sections have already met their recruitment targets for 2015. Overall, the region is slow to start this year and seeing more arrears than previous years due to various factors (including economic and geo-political uncertainty), however, with the amount and kind of efforts underway, we are very optimistic that the region will end the year on a high note.

Some Major Activities

- Recruitment retention efforts were in full steam until the arrears cut-off date. Recovery campaigns ongoing after the deactivation.
- Plan to continue to increase the recruitment of higher grade members at conferences within the Region.
- Direct communication with section MD officers to understand the dynamics in their domains and to extend the necessary support.
- Regular updates and timely messages were sent out, not only to section MD officers but also to Chairs and other officers to ensure appropriate action during the retention drives.
- Conference calls with MD officers and MRRC calls with other Region MD chairs and members of the MRRC and more planned throughout the year
- Close coordination and collaboration with various sections within the region to share the best practices knowledge and assist in the growth of the overall region.

Membership statistics

R8 Membership at the end of Feb 2015 was 54608, distributed as:

Member -ship Status	H	H Total	LF	F	F Total	LS	SM	SM Total	LM	M	M Total	AM	AM Total	GSM	GSM Total	Higher Grade Total	StM	StM Total	Grand Total
Active	7	7	285	769	1054	448	5810	6258	822	31204	32026	920	920	8006	8006	48271	6337	6337	54608

Nominations and Appointment Subcommittee (N&ASC)

Martin J. Bastiaans

Region 8 Operations Manual, R8-6.1.2.1: The Region 8 Nominations and Appointments SubCommittee shall identify qualified candidates for elected and appointed positions of Region 8 and its Committees, including candidates for the Director-Elect slate.

IEEE Region 8 Nominations and Appointments SubCommittee

Composition

- Past Director (ex officio): Martin Bastiaans (Benelux), Chair
- Director (ex officio): Costas Stasopoulos (Cyprus)
- Director-Elect (ex officio): Margaretha Eriksson (Sweden)
- (former) Section Chair (elected): Jacob Baal-Schem (Israel)
- (former) Section Chair (elected): Rui Santos Cruz (Portugal)
- (former) Section Chair (elected): Athanassio Skodras (Greece)

Elected candidates must fulfill one of the following criteria at the time of their election:

- be a Section Chair in office
- have been a Section Chair within the past 3 years
- have been a Section Chair and currently holding an elected or appointed position of the R8 Committee.

IEEE Annual Election 2015

- Key dates:
 - 8 May – Petition nominations for candidates to be elected by the membership must be received.
 - 17 August – IEEE annual election ballots are sent to all voting members on record as of 30 June.
 - 1 October – Last day for receipt of ballots from voting members.
- The IEEE Board of Directors has nominated Karen Bartleson and Frederick C. Mintzer as candidates for IEEE President-Elect 2016; the petition process, which could lead to additional candidates, is still going on.
- The list of candidates for all positions is available at <http://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/election/candidates.html>.
- *Note:* The IEEE Region 8 Delegate-Elect/Director-Elect is elected once every two years in the even years (see 2016 below).
- *Note:* The IEEE Board of Directors endorsed proposed revisions to the IEEE Constitution at its August 2014 meeting. The revisions, in the form of a single amendment, will be presented to the IEEE voting members for approval as part of the 2015 IEEE annual election ballot. To adopt this amendment, an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all ballots cast is required, provided the total number of those voting is not less than 10 percent of all IEEE members who are eligible to vote. For more information see http://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/election/2015_constitutional_amendment.html.

IEEE Annual Election 2016

- The IEEE Region 8 Delegate-Elect/Director-Elect will be elected in this election.
- This individual elected will serve on the IEEE Assembly, the IEEE Board of Directors and the MGA Board in 2019-2020, and in the IEEE Region 8 Committee and the IEEE Region 8 Operating Committee in 2017-2022 (as chair in 2019-2020); as a Director-elect (2017-2018) this individual will be invited to attend IEEE Board of Directors and IEEE MGA Board meetings (as part of preparation and education for the later service).
- Election time line:
 - April 2015 – The call for nominations is announced; nominations are due **1 July 2015**.
 - August 2015 – The IEEE Region 8 Nominations and Appointments SubCommittee proposes a slate.
 - October 2015 – The IEEE Region 8 Committee selects the slate in its 105th meeting.
 - March 2016 – The slate is included in the annual election ballot.
 - See key dates above (2015) for approximate 2016 election dates.
- Position descriptions are available here: http://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/position_descriptions.html.
- Call for nominations will be announced at the 104th IEEE Region 8 Meeting in Limassol, Cyprus, 28-29 March 2015.

IEEE Region 8 Elections 2015

- In October 2015, the IEEE Region 8 Committee will select IEEE Region 8 Vice-Chairs for 2016 at its 105th meeting.
- All nominations are due **1 July 2015**; the three current Vice-Chairs are eligible for election.
- Unless a vacancy occurs, no new IEEE Region 8 Nominations and Appointments SubCommittee members will be selected in 2015.

Professional Activities Subcommittee (PASC)

Ana Katalini Mucale

The Past

- Professional Activities include a variety of non-technical actions which can contribute to and enhance careers. Activities coordinated by Region 8 Professional Activities are held on both local and regional level. Currently, 28 out of 56 (or 50 textpercent) Sections in Region 8 have appointed PA Chair.
- The available regional PA program for the local chairs is the Speaker Program, easy way to organize workshops or seminars conducted by experienced lecturers. Currently, there are six speakers in the program.
- STARS Workshop on leadership organized in South Africa Section by Han Van Loon in September 2014
- Webinar dedicated to organizational issues, October 2014
- Workshop: How should engineers express their ideas, including two seminars: Oral Presentation Skills and How to Write Technical Paper, in Belgrade, by Kurt Richter, November 2014. The workshop was situated at the 22nd Telecommunications Forum - TELFOR, organized by Serbia and Monte Negro Section.
- Leadership skills workshops in Oman and Dubai, by Kurt Richter in February 2015. The workshop in Oman was organized at the 8th IEEE GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) Congress with participants from the following Sections: Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

Outlook

- The main goals and priorities can be summarized into following:
 - Increasing PA visibility on both local and regional level
 - Cooperation with other IEEE entities, mainly YP and IR
 - Enlarging the PA community in Region 8
 - Further strengthening and promotion of Speaker Program
 - Reaching the industry
- The focus of activities towards local communities will be put on further strengthening and promotion of the Speakers Program. In addition to having more speakers in the program, it is planned to increase total number of PA events. In 2014 there were ten workshops; in 2015 PASC will try to reach 15.
- The visibility of PA activities will be addressed mainly via regular updates of PASC website and PASC social media pages. However, it is necessary to motivate local PA officers to report about their local events. In order to support PA officers, PASC will prepare guidelines for running a PA event. We will build a network of PA officers through personal contact wherever possible. Additionally, in order to promote PA activities, mainly the Speaker Program, PASC will keep publishing newsletter with main activities.
- In line with the priorities of R8, special efforts will be put on getting closer to the industry and contributing the Section Vitality in general. This objective will be addressed in a close cooperation with YP and IR.
- Special focus will be put on enlarging the PA community, motivating Sections within Region 8 to appoint PA chairs. This will be achieved via personal approach to Section chairs.
- Expected outcome and indicators:
 - Regular updates of website and social media, with reports on local PA events
 - Guidelines for PA chairs and newsletter published
 - Active collaboration with R8 YP and IR
 - New R8 PA chairs appointed
 - New speakers in Speakers Program
 - Increased number of events within Speakers Program in 2015. Currently planned: April: workshops in Vienna, Austria Section and Oulu, Finland Section; both events by Kurt Richter; May: workshop within CESYP 2015 in Zagreb (TBD)

Best practices

- With regard to industry relations - Egypt Section experience
- With regard to visibility and building community - YP AG Toronto Section, IEEE Elevate Croatia
- With regard to concept - IEEE Metro Events, non-technical programs should be added

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Members are keen to have online courses, which is why local events are often poorly attended. Additionally, there is a great variety in member needs by location, age etc. which should be taken into account when planning an event. This can be resolved in a close cooperation with the local organizer, where PASC can offer its full support.
- The attendance of organized webinars, as well as PA tracks within IEEE conferences, was discouraging. The reason was either poor promotion or not attractive topic, and both can be easily solved.
- Explaining benefits of IEEE membership to the members in the industry is a challenging task. One of the possibilities could be offering exclusive content, like certified soft-skill workshops for members only, as an added value for the membership.

Miscellaneous

The following projects / programs can set a good example and improve both visibility and relations with industry:

- IEEE PACE
- IEEE Metro - industry relations
- IEEE Collabratec - building the community on international level

Section Vitality

Aleksandar Szabo

Introduction

- Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Board has made Section Vitality a priority
- Section Vitality became the main task of the MGA Geographic Unit Organizations Support (GUOS) Committee
- At the 2011 Sections Congress the Section Vitality facts and guidelines have been presented
- GUOS Committee is working on solutions to improve Section Vitality
- Vitality means showing initiative, energy and enthusiasm
- Vital Sections better serve their members

The Role of the MGA Geographic Unit Organizations Support (GUOS) Committee

- Supports organizational units by developing useful materials and tools to facilitate their activity
- Surveys to get information about member needs and satisfaction
- Improvement of rules and documents to better fulfill the needs of members and sections
- Working on FAQ and Answers at the Support Center website
- Cooperation with Region Vitality Coordinators (RVC) who are in closer contact with sections in their regions and are more familiar with local circumstances

Section/Subsection Formation

- Vitality often depends on the start
- The section/subsection formation needs to be well prepared. Be familiar with Geographic Unit Formation Policies and Petitions
- Enough members and enough trained volunteers willing to do their job
- Start with a subsection with a program to increase membership and activity
- Subsection to section elevation criteria

Use Available Tools Effectively and Train Yourself

- Center of Leadership Excellence (CLE)
- MGA Operations Manual (special attention to Section 9. Geographic Organizational Units)
- Region 8 Bylaws and Operations Manual (special attention to Section R8-8)
- Section Vitality Dashboard
- SAMIEEE (Predefined Queries)
- Organization Roster
- v-Tools
- MGA Website and MD Website
- Support Center
- Volunteer Leadership Training (VOLT)

Member Development

- Take care about member needs
- Take care about the Lifecycle of your members
- Organize surveys to learn about member needs in your section
- Explain benefits
- Engage members
- Recruit and train volunteers
- Encourage volunteering through recognition
- Important role of the Section MD Officer
- Welcome new members! Communicate with members by e-mail, phone and/or face to face
- Use every opportunity for membership retention, recruitment and recovery
- Use the material from the IEEE MD webpage (training, communication templates, reports and data, programs and online resources, promotional material including the MD Kit)
- Read MD Monthly, Regional MD Reports and attend the Monthly Membership Development Webcast
- Keep a vigilant eye on the Section membership data (Section Vitality Dashboard) and prevent membership decrease in your Section

Reporting

- Officer, meeting and financial reporting
- Reporting is important to show section vitality and to receive the yearly rebate
- Be familiar with the Geographic Unit Rebate Schedule, Requirements and Procedures
- Submit your reports before the third Friday February deadline (21 February in 2015) to receive the rebate and the 10 textpercent bonus
- Submit your reports before 31 March to receive the rebate
- Exceptions for payments of the rebate to units submitting the reports after 31 March shall be at the discretion of the Region Director. A 10 textpercent penalty shall be applied to all such exceptions.
- Reporting includes all Section organizational units (the Section itself, chapters, affinity groups)
- Most of our Sections and Subsections report and receive their rebate, but some of them don't send a complete report and don't receive the rebate

Elections

- Vitality strongly depends on the engagement of elected and appointed volunteers
- Look for successors, volunteers ready to spend enough time to do the job, to take the responsibility and to serve the members
- Organize elections on time, well before the term end date of the current officers, according to the rules given in the MGA Operations Manual. Section Election Process guidelines available
- Section Officer period of service can be one or two years. In Region 8 it is usually 2 years
- The consecutive period of service in any one office should not exceed 4 years
- All officers shall not serve in any one position, in any single organizational unit, more than 6 years
- Use v-Tools for electronic voting so that all qualified members can vote easily
- Timely elections in chapters and affinity groups

What to do

- All section officers should do their job with pleasure
- Any vacancy occurring during the year shall be filled by majority vote of the Section Committee or Section Executive Committee
- Organize elections on time
- Be informed and efficient
- Fulfill membership needs
- Contact members and obtain member feedback
- Increase membership and increase member engagement
- Recruit and train new volunteers and potential successors
- Fulfill the mission and goals
- Prepare a Program of activities for the calendar year. New initiatives
- Organize meetings (professional, technical, nontechnical, administrative, social) by section, chapters, affinity groups, student branches
- Form new chapters, affinity groups and student branches
- Have a chapter and affinity group coordinator in your Section and keep a vigilant eye on the activity of chapters and affinity groups during the year
- Guide and help chapters and affinity groups and organize a yearly meeting with chapter and affinity group officers
- Encourage cooperation and joint events of section units (chapters, affinity groups, student branches)
- Conduct events with students
- Industry relations (involve practicing engineers), involvement of Young Professionals
- Educational activities (pre-university, lifelong)
- Professional activities (leadership, management), involve Young Professionals
- Student activities (have an active Student Activities officer and a Student Representative in the Section, activity/vitality of all SBs in the Section, involve students into section/chapter activities, help students)
- Awards (member recognition, member grade elevation, volunteer recognition, Section yearly awards)
- Section website always up to date
- Organize an annual social event
- Self assessment - Section Vitality Checklist (sent to all Sections)
- The Region Vitality Coordinator a.szabo@ieee.org is always ready to help you

Standards Coordinator

David Law

The Past

- IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) Zambia and South Africa outreach
 - The IEEE-SA held outreach meetings with a number of organization in Zambia and South Africa during November 2014 in cooperation with local Sections. The focus was on promoting awareness of standards, enabling national adoption, and building institutional relationships.
 - Outreach occurred with National standards bodies (ZA/SA), Utilities (ZA/SA), Local Engineering societies (ZA/SA), Ministry of Education (ZA) and University/Student Events (ZA/SA).
 - A total of 15 meetings and workshops were held with local industry, academia, and government.
- IEEE-SA Board of Governors (BoG) meeting series in Brussels, Belgium
 - The IEEE-SA BoG meeting series was held in Brussels, Belgium, at the end of February 2015.
 - Sixteen meetings and workshops were held with local industry, academia, and government.
 - IEEE-SA roundtable: Interplay of Internet Governance and the Internet of Things: Balancing Growing Data Opportunities with Privacy and Security. Seventeen invited experts from EU institutions and organizations joined IEEE-SA BoG members for the discussion
 - Meeting with the League of Research Universities (LERU) to promote Standards Education
 - Demystifying Standards lecture at K.U. Leuven, in cooperation with the Student Branch
 - Face-to-face meeting of the IEEE-SA Europe Advisory Group and IEEE Policy WG on Standards
- European Multi-Stakeholder Platform for ICT Standardization (MSP)
 - The IEEE continues to participate in the European Commission Multi-Stakeholder Platform for ICT Standardization. Recent meetings of the MSP were in December 2014 and February 2015.
- IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee University Outreach program
 - The IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee plenary meeting took place in Berlin, Germany from Sunday 8th to Friday 13th March 2015.
 - As part of the plenary the University Outreach program is run to expose both students and faculty members, of universities local to IEEE 802 plenary meetings, to the IEEE 802 standards process.
 - Approximately ten students from the Technische Universität Braunschweig attended the University Outreach program in Berlin.

Future Activities

- IEEE-SA Standards Board meeting series
 - The IEEE-SA Standards Board meeting series will take place at the OVE Austrian Electrotechnical Association, in Vienna, Austria from Tuesday 24th to Thursday 26th March 2015.
 - As well as an opportunity for outreach the IEEE-SA Standards Board Forum will take place on the evening Wednesday 25th March on Technology Policy Impact and Import.
 - The Forum will discuss the connectedness of technology and policy in the context of important technological issues and challenges confronting society today, why it is important for technology and standards developers to be engaged, and how technology policy helps foster technological and innovative capabilities.
- IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) Zambia and South Africa outreach
 - Follow-up opportunities include continued engagement with these organizations for both IEEE-SA and local Sections.

Best practices

- Arrange both individual speakers on standards and/or whole standards tracks at major IEEE R8 conferences, potentially collaborating with IEEE Standards Education Committee (SEC).
- Encourage IEEE R8 students and faculty mentors to apply for IEEE Standards Education Grants to help with student design projects with an industry standards component.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Always looking for potential opportunities for potential individual speakers and/or whole standards tracks.
- Always looking for the opportunity to promote IEEE Standards Education Grants.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Margaretha Eriksson

The Past

The new Strategic planning committee was formed in January 2015. The Chairperson is Margaretha Eriksson.

Composition

- Margaretha Eriksson (Sweden) R8 Director Elect
- Carl Debono (Malta)
- Habib Kammoun (Tunisia)
- Magdalena Salazar-Palma (Spain)
- Daniel Pasquet (France)
- Martin Bastians (Benelux)
- Elya Joffe (Israel) liaison to IEEE Strategic Planning Committee

SPC 2015 goals, Mission and Authority

- We are responsible for developing and recommending strategic and long-range plans, goals and objectives. We assist the Region 8 Committee to meet the IEEE-related needs of the Region and to adhere to the R8 Committee Vision and Mission. We also advise on amendments to this Vision and Mission and monitor compliance with the IEEE Strategic Plan.
- We develop long-range plans, and review and revise these as necessary. The plan should correspond with the IEEE and MGA Board Strategic Plans.
- We develop and present Strategic and Operational plans on future activities to Region 8 Committee, and review and revise them as appropriate.
- We monitor the performance of Region 8 in achieving the goals outlined in the Region 8 Strategic and Operational Plans, and report on achievements at each Region 8 Committee meeting.
- We monitor past Sections Congress (SC) recommendations and make use of the recommendations in developing the Region 8 long-range plan.
- We meet during R8 meeting, as well as via mail and telephone to define R8 strategic goals. The goals then need to be adopted by each section and implemented in the local organizations and chapters.

Current Activities

Forming of new team and first face-to-face meeting of the new group in Cyprus.

Best Practices

We base our work on recent future-oriented document as "IEEE in 2030", content in previous Strategic Plans and input from Sections congress. The committee member's views and experience will play an important role in our work.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Getting Closer to Industry - what, why and how
- Students and Young Professionals - attract and support future members
- Section Vitality - how to support and follow-up

Miscellaneous

Do you have ideas, strong opinions or just want to contribute for a better future? Make your voice heard by getting in touch with us!

Voluntary Contribution Fund Coordinator

Adam Jastrzebski

Highlights from the past

In 2013

- 26 requests
- 16 approved for \$12,715
- The budget was only \$10,000
- To avoid overspending: \$1,000 limitation per event for one section

In 2013

- 14 requests
- 7 approved for \$6,602
- 6 did not get section chair's approval
- 1 not approved due to conference outside R8
- The budget was \$10,000, so it was not fully utilised

Proposed future actions

- 1) Promote VCF support in low income countries by regular emails to section and chapter chairs.
- 2) Collaborate with Conference Coordination Subcommittee about clear visibility of the VCF support option on R8 conference websites and in conference announcements. It might attract more people to attend conferences.
- 3) Increase VC Funds by better promotion at the IEEE membership renewal stage. E.g. adding information to mailshots.
- 4) Promote VCF through articles in Region 8 News, e.g. testimonials of VCF beneficiaries.

VCF REQUESTS 2014

VCF No	Grade	Section	Status/Notes	Approved [USD]	Requested [USD]	Conference
TS14.1	GS	Iran	Approved	1000	1000	MELECON, Beirut, Lebanon, 13-16 Apr 2014
TS14.2	GS	Tunisia	Approved	822	822	VISAPP, Lisbon, Portugal, 5-8 Jan 2014
TS14.3	SM	Tunisia	No section chair's approval		1000	MELECON, Beirut, Lebanon, 13-16 Apr 2014
TS14.4	M	Tunisia	No section chair's approval		1000	MECBME, Doha, Qatar, 17-20 Feb 2014
TS14.5	GS	Tunisia	Approved	1000	1000	MELECON, Beirut, Lebanon, 13-16 Apr 2014
TS14.6	GS	Iran	Approved	1000	1000	ICASSP, Florence, Italy, 4-9 May 2014
TS14.7	G	Tunisia	No section chair's approval		743	WCNC, Istanbul, Turkey, 6-9 Apr 2014
TS14.8	GS	Tunisia	No section chair's approval			ICASSP, Florence, Italy, 4-9 May 2014
TS14.9	GS	UAE	No section chair's approval			Region 8 Student and YP Congress, Krakow, Poland, 2014
TS14.10	GS	Algeria	No section chair's approval			SPEEDAM 2014
TS14.11	GS	Macedonia	Approved	1000	1200	EUSIPCO, Lisbon, Portugal, 1-5 Sep 2014
TS14.12	GS	Ukraine	Approved	780	780	RFID-TA, Tampere, Finland, 8-9 Sep 2014
TS14.13	M	Nigeria	Not in Region 8		1000	GHTC, San Jose, USA, 10-13 Oct 2014
TS14.14	GS	Tunisia	Approved	1000	1000	ICCVE, Vienna, 3-7 Nov 2014
Total				6602	10545	

Women in Engineering Coordinator

Simay Akar

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 Turkey 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

Young Professionals Subcommittee

Flavia Dinca

The Past

- Successful transition from GOLD to Young Professionals
- Increased presence of Young Professionals in the SYP congress that took place in Krakow
- New Affinity Groups initialized: Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria
- Increased social media presence

Outlook

- Increase visibility of Young Professionals:
 - Collaborate with cross-section congresses in order to ensure suitable presence and visibility of Young Professionals at the congresses, introduce student members to membership after graduation, engage Young Professionals members in order to encourage collaboration; this will also help improve the transition from student to young professionals membership;
 - Improve online social media presence: reach more members on Facebook, LinkedIN, with more diverse material; build bigger audience;
 - Continue publishing regularly in Region 8 News and GOLDRush;
 - Encourage each Affinity Group to have its own online platform: website, social media page etc.
- Reach out to industry members:
 - Revise and launch the Company Branch Program: help members working in industry connect and network;
 - Start the R8 Young Professionals Industry Newsletter: bringing together region-oriented news from industry, best practices, tips and tricks, information and statistics about the job market, career advice, and other information of interest to members working in industry as well as those interested in entrepreneurship.
- Engage with Affinity Group committees:
 - Improve the Event Exchange Program so Affinity Group representatives can connect and share their events and ideas; this will also serve as a point of inspiration for what events can be organized and how;
 - Re-evaluate how annual reports are submitted: shift from emailed based submissions to online forms;
 - revitalize Affinity Groups that are dormant, inactive, or without a chair;
 - Affinity Groups vitality check: chairs which have held the position for too long need to be replaced with newly elected chairs;
 - Initialize new Affinity Groups in sections with enough Young Professionals volunteers
- Develop and implement key metrics in order to measure the success of our programs and initiatives: Member Satisfaction, Volunteer Satisfaction and Membership Growth

Best practices

- Maintain close contact with Affinity Groups and Section Representatives
- Engage with other Region 8 subcommittees to coordinate and cooperate in order to improve the experience of members
- Encourage Affinity Group members to share their experiences and engage with each other and maintain an ongoing conversation
- Publish the achievements and efforts of Young Professionals from the Region in order to provide visibility

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Affinity groups with decreasing numbers of motivated/able volunteers to help in key positions, such as volunteer to be Affinity Group chair retention process
- Lack of sufficient information about funding sources: a need for Affinity Groups to search for sponsorship makes the first steps more difficult
- Fragmentation of members according to their membership grade: there is a dire need to engage members of different grades to collaborate with each other: students with young professionals, mature members with young professionals in order to improve retention rate by maintaining motivation and desire for members to continue being part of IEEE.

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Austria Section

Peter Palensky

Getting Closer to Industry

- Works well: Dedicated industry sessions and panels at conferences
- Needed: incentives (e.g. reduced entry) for industry delegates that do not present papers

Students and Young Professionals

- Works well: full support (personal and financial) for our fantastic student branches and their activities. Especially networking among student branches is popular. Also courses on fundamental EE things (LaTeX, soldering, etc.) and discussion sessions with industry leaders.
- Needed: Additional funds/scholarships that further enable that.

Section Vitality

- Works well: social meetings among chapters, branches.
- Needed: align mayor section meetings with conferences etc. to reduce travel efforts.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

We had extraordinarily many technical activities last year (courses for Matlab, Programming competitions, etc.), see <http://ieee-austria.org/index.php/past-events/range.listevents>

Bahrain Section

Adel Ahmed Hamed Abdulla

Getting Closer to Industry

- I arranged to visit/ invite companies and factories for IR events
- IEEE/ Region, I want to know from experts ways to foster Industry Relations ...

Students and Young Professionals

- Two students had participated in the 8th IEEE GCC Conference, Exhibition and Student Posters in Oman (1-4) February 2015 Towards Smart Sustainable Solutions in which the students had presented their projects about (ROBODEM Remote Monitoring System Using Web/Mobile Applications & Damping of Sub-Synchronous Resonance in Power System Using Fuzzy Controlled Damping Resistance)
- I am going to activate several students & young professionals chapters in state universities, private universities and other institutions

Section Vitality

- Section new term started 1st January 2015
- Several ExCom meetings had been held to handle correctly all section affairs
- New website was developed: www.ieee-bh.org
- A temporary headquarter was assigned for IEEE Bahrain Section at University of Bahrain
- A social gathering was held for IEEE Bahrain Section Members and Guests on 28th January 2015
- Five members and two students had participated in the 8th IEEE GCC Conference, Exhibition and Student Posters in Oman (1-4) February 2015
- In addition to the officers elected/ appointed above, I have re-activated the following chapters:
 - PES
 - Students
 and the following affinity groups:
 - Young Professionals
 - WIE
- The 9th IEEE GCC Conference and Exhibition will be held in Bahrain (6-9) November, 2016 <http://sites.ieee.org/saudi-arabia/9th-ieee-gcc-conference-exhibition-2016.html>
- We are going to establish the following groups:
 - Communication sub-society
 - Computers sub-society
 - More students branches
 - Biomedical engineering sub-society
- Please IEEE/ Region, give me feedback about section web site and how to develop it!

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The Section will technically sponsor the 5th eLearning conference and exhibition which will be held in Bahrain (5-8) October 2015 <http://econf.uob.edu.bh/conf5/Default.htm>
- To boost up the number of engineering students in Bahrain, I arranged to run the IEEE Pre-University education program in collaboration with University of Bahrain, Private Universities and Ministry of Education
- We attended the 25th Anniversary Kuwait IEEE Section celebration in Oman (1st February 2015)

Belarus Section

Valentin Baranov

Getting Closer to Industry

We have prepared the presentation about IEEE (in Russian) for local possible new members from Industry. The IRO officer delivered it at some industrial enterprises and computer companies. The problem is low technical English level in the country.

Students and Young Professionals

We have prepared the presentation (both in English and Russian) for local possible new members from academia, including foreign post graduated students. Then we have delivered it at some Universities, for instance at the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics.

Section Vitality

Participation in the IEEE evens like workshops, conferences etc. and publicity in the relevant professional organizations

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Under discussion

Benelux Section**Hubregt Visser****Getting Closer to Industry**

- with Alstom R&D and University Relations Director and VP industrial relations within IEEE French section. Intention: exchange ideas about possible collaborations.
- Host meeting at ASML for government-industry-academia discussion on labor market for highly educated technical specialists in The Netherlands and Benelux. Date not fixed yet.
- Conducted survey with IES to open up for industry

Students and Young Professionals

- Activities of several student branches financially supported.
- Two theses awarded second and third prizes in student paper contest.
- Power engineering symposium organized with Student Branch Leuven
- Plan for a joint Young Professional and Student Branches Congress in Benelux (Eindhoven).

Section Vitality

- KIVI (Royal Institute of Engineers, Netherlands) has agreed to sign MoU with Section. Will be discussed with HQ.
- Section support for potential fellows is under investigation.
- Dormant chapters have been revived. Chapter chairs are invited for presentations at ExCom meetings.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Proposal for a milestone on WiFi is under construction.
- MoU with KIVI under construction

Bosnia & Herzegovina Section**Mesud Hadiali****Getting Closer to Industry**

- Section and the ComSoc Chapter were technical co-sponsors of the X International Symposium on Telecommunications BIHTEL 2014, and members took active part in round tables and panel discussions with guest attendants from leading telecom providers. Invited keynote speakers at conferences from industry: ICT Innovations in the Networked Society, Ericsson Nikola Tesla and Developments in 5G Cellular Technology, Samsung Electronics Research Institute.
- Section and a newly established PELS/IAS Joint Chapter were technical co-sponsors of the Industrial electronics symposium INDEL 2014, and hosted the IAS guest lecturer.
- Organizing more PA events - engaging YP members in these activities, especially employed in industry.

Students and Young Professionals

- The SB University of Sarajevo organized several events: Workshop "RoboStart" for students from the University of Sarajevo; visit to the CERN LHC and Museums in Geneva, Switzerland.
- YPAG organized STEP event BeING with graduate students visiting several electrical engineering companies and spending a day at work with host-mentors.
- The Section and SB University of Sarajevo hosted the IAS Day event with the IAS President Blake Lloyd and the IAS CMD Chair Peter Magyar as guests.
- Continual engagement of students in diverse activities as courses of Technical English, workshops, and competitions (IEEEExtreme and similar) attracting the number of students to join IEEE.
- At the IAS Annual Meeting in Vancouver 2014 the SB University of Sarajevo IAS Chapter was presented several awards for their activities within the IAS.

Section Vitality

- Section Annual Meeting with award ceremony recognizing best volunteer and supporting organizations.
- Assisting motivated members to organize chapters and support their many activities to be performed in the framework of the Section.
- Cooperation with the national professional associations and motivating their members to join IEEE and broaden connections, example is BH Association for Medical and Biological Engineering that started co-operation with the IEEE EMBS

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Increasing dollar value and financial crisis resulted in lower retention, and also many members reduced their subscriptions.
- Introduction of vtools for elections and organizing regular elections for Chapters to revive their activities, and get engaged more in the Society actions.

Bulgaria Section

Georgi Stoyanov

Getting Closer to Industry

- The local industry in Bulgaria does not value and back-up IEEE membership and the benefits for the members from industry are not clear. Industry managers also do not see benefits from cooperation with IEEE as they prefer access to marketing and management oriented publications compared to high level scientific papers. Because of that our few members from industry are coming from only several companies, having strong research and design laboratories. This year a new IRO, coming from the industry, was appointed in our Section Committee and it is expected that he will be able to change this stagnating situation.
- Bulgaria Section is having a very active collaboration with the National Union of the Electronics, Electrical and Communication Engineers (UEECE) and an agreement between IEEE and UEECE is re-signed every 3 years. We are planning to start a joint initiative with UEECE to try to improve our collaboration with the industry.
- Up to now very few activities, recommended in the IEEE IRO Manuals, are applicable in our situation.

Students and Young Professionals

- Last year a Project Electronics day: Future innovations depend on you, organized by the student branch and IEEE chapter members in city of Varna, was approved and funded by CASS. It included lectures and training of 132 high school students from 18 schools in 8 towns, considered as a primary target group for future engineering students. During the trainings (including design, implementation and measurement of different Arduino based circuits), students from the IEEE branch in TU Varna were mentoring the participants in their work. At the end of the training more than 80 percent of the participants declared in the survey their intention to enroll in electronics related engineering education in the future.
- In Bulgaria both, Industry and Academia are not considering the IEEE Membership (and the belonging to any other professional organizations) as a merit, but rather as your personal choice, so it is not bringing any carrier or other benefits. Our Section must increase its efforts to change this.
- We are expecting a considerable help from our newly established YP Affinity Group in our efforts to increase the student membership and to re-activate some dormant Student Branches.

Section Vitality

- Bulgaria Section ExCom is organizing the preparation of the membership renewal documentation and the collection and transfer to IEEE HQs of the membership fee of more than 70 percent of our members. Without this effort we shall lose a considerable part of our members.
- Bulgaria Section is supporting every year between 5 and 10 scientific conferences. Thus, more than half of the Section funds and most of the Chapters money are spent for such support. There are also Best-Paper-Awards financed by the Section. Our section supports at least one distinguished lecturer visit annually and co-finance many other similar visits.
- Having in mind the endless problems with the financial reporting, it will be almost impossible to recruit and to train a new volunteer for the Treasurer position. As this job requires special knowledge and qualification (not usual for engineers) especially in sections with many transactions, we will have to apply for an exception from the limitation of 4 and 6 years service for the section treasurer.
- IEEE HQs and R8 should reconsider the administrative burden of the Section ExComs, very often due to the extreme over-activity of some committees and other bodies, producing an enormous correspondence, huge documentation and quite unnecessary initiatives.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The above mentioned Project Electronics day: Future innovations depend on you, organized by the student branch and IEEE chapter members at the Technical University of Varna, approved and funded by CASS was an excellent initiative.
- Last two years the section was financial and technical co-sponsor of two IEEE conferences. We do hope this will increase the interest of the industry and academia to IEEE membership.
- This year we have a 20-years-anniversary of the IEEE Bulgaria Section. All co-sponsored by us conferences will become a place for celebration and for publicizing of our activities.

Croatia Section

Mislav Grgic

Getting Closer to Industry

- Industry members were motivated to attend events with industry related content relevant for their everyday jobs or career development. These include development of practical skills (e.g. presentation, networking or project management skills) promoted in various lectures with industry experts, sharing experience and knowledge from the industry peers ("IEEE Elevate" initiative), or career development ("IEEE Step" initiative).
- Also, the Croatia Section has established annual five awards, two of which are oriented towards industry:
 - IEEE Croatia Section Outstanding Engineer Award (for individual innovative contribution)
 - Friend of IEEE Croatia Section Award (awarded to a company or institution which fosters IEEE activities of its employees, as well as the Croatia Section in general).
- The value of IEEE publications, including IEEE Xplore is not considered as particularly high for industry members, especially for those who not involved in research or scientific activities. IEEE could encourage better collaboration between industry relations activities in the EU countries, promoting common EU market for projects and jobs, as well as collaboration with other professional groups in the area of electrical engineering.
- IEEE should additionally promote industry related activities within the IEEE sections (e.g. regular IRO meetings, sharing experience from other comparable countries or regions).

Students and Young Professionals

- An annual congress bringing together all four Croatia Section student branches and members of Young Professionals Affinity Group (YP AG) has proven to be a very good practice in the Croatia Section. The congress gives an opportunity for:
 - Collaboration of student branches in the Section
 - Collaboration between YP AG and student branches
 - Transfer of knowledge to new IEEE student volunteers
 - Exchange of ideas, initiatives, and problem solutions.
- Also, some of our most active YP volunteers had been engaged in the work of YP AG, as they were still active as volunteers in the student branch but were approaching their graduation. This approach creates a network of volunteers spanning a wider age range (and very often diverse areas of expertise), who easily collaborate. It also helps students transition to YP volunteers, eventually ensuring there is a stable base of volunteers for both student branches and YP AG. While students are rather easy to attract, we expect the number of professional members would increase with ensuring the possibility of direct and short-term IEEE-only benefits and privileges.

Section Vitality

- We are trying to keep the Croatia Section Vitality on a high level. Our activities follow the Section Vitality Checklist.
- The success of the Section is the result of the continuous work of our active Section officers/coordinators as well as the vitality of our chapters, affinity groups and student branches.
- The activities/programs/initiatives that work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section include:
 - Meetings and workshops
 - Helping students and young professionals
 - Awards
 - Annual meeting/dinner.
- To improve Section vitality and sustainability the volunteers should train themselves. There is plenty of useful material at the IEEE Website. The Region should help in giving important concise guidelines to Section volunteers to help in Section operation.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The best current practices in and recommendations from the Croatia Section include:
 - Taking care of members
 - Member retention and recruitment
 - Recruiting of new volunteers
 - Celebrating the IEEE Day
 - Inviting Distinguished Lecturers
 - Organizing IEEE conferences
 - Sponsoring local conferences
 - Having Section Awards
 - Organizing Pre-University education and STEM programs
 - Publishing the Croatia Section Newsletter
 - Involving members from industry.
- Special achievements include:
 - IEEE Student Branch of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek received the "Darrel Chong Student Activity Award" for the IEEEemadC project
 - Ivana Stupar received the "Region 8 Young Professionals Exceptional Volunteer Award 2014"
 - Josip Balen received the "Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award".

Cyprus Section

Marios Antoniou

Getting Closer to Industry

- IEEE Cyprus Section and Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber are in process of agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding that will foster their relationship.
- Industry Relations can be improved through the joint organization of events and seminars that are related to areas of mutual interest.

Students and Young Professionals

- IEEE Cyprus Section has supported the creation of IEEE Cyprus Entrepreneurs Network that organizes events for Cyprus Young Professionals Affinity Group who are interested in Entrepreneurship such as creating their own startup companies.
- Cyprus Section supports the events that are organized by the Cyprus Entrepreneurs Network and Cyprus Young Professionals Affinity Group.

Section Vitality

- Section is monitoring its membership statistics and is trying to reduce churn.
- IEEE Cyprus Section has supported the creation of student branches in both Public and Private Universities.
- It is also supporting the events that are organized by student branches, chapters and affinity groups.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- IEEE Cyprus Section is organizing Melecon 2016 conference in Limassol. Melecon is a flagship conference of IEEE.
- In 2014 the president of Cyprus Young Professionals Affinity Group has been selected as one of the three recipients of the Region 8 Young Professionals Exceptional Volunteer Award 2014.

Czechoslovakia Section

Matej Pacha

Getting Closer to Industry

- We invite industry to participate on our conferences and student workshops. The best way to get closer to industry is to benefit from personal contacts and friendship.
- Our Section needs to find more contacts and to present activities using leaflets or newsletters. Another important task is to identify and contact local non-IEEE societies and groups with a cooperation proposal.
- R8 could provide a set of success stories from the whole region, where sections and chapters have a very close connection with industry. It could be a portfolio of possible types of cooperation. The companies could then select what fits their needs.

Students and Young Professionals

- Our Section continuously supports student activities organized by student branches or local chapters. We have four SBs, two of them are very active. Several formats of activities have established: workshops, thesis contests, conferences, lectures. The last two are accessible to young professionals too. Unfortunately, our Section has a low number of IEEE young professionals. It is connected with previous question. Young professionals activities have been initiated, it needs to live on its own for a while. If there is a low number of YPs, we need to keep YP activities alive to attract students = future YPs.
- Our students are very active, but in some cases, they need a financial support. The section has a budget for these activities and it is the biggest part of our overall budget. Region 8 could have a support program established, implementing a set of criteria for an approval process.

Section Vitality

- Our members are mostly from academic environment, therefore conferences and workshops are the most welcomed events. Volunteers understand well the IEEE brand and they are working hard in teams to organize events very attractive to our members. Local members (lecturers and professors) are promoting the student membership as a big improvement of students' professional involvement.
- R8 is doing well with the YPP activities, especially the last years workshop was very successful. However, having one big event a year leads to be an event for "chosen" only. If we have e.g. 100 students and young professionals in our Section, it would be very welcomed to have a section YPP event supported by R8 partially.
- We are also working with possible senior members and other types of memberships to maintain or grow the member base.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Our last section ex.board meeting was very successful and we all have agreed we need to follow new R8 initiatives. It is hard to say if it could be better. We are looking forward to the cooperation with R8.
- Our IAS/IES Joint Chapter is celebrating 50th IAS anniversary and follows the membership development challenges of this very successful society.

Denmark Section**Ole Lauridsen****Getting Closer to Industry**

- DS has started a visit to the 10 largest electronic industries including B&O, Radiometer, Cobham etc. and are discussing with the engineers and management how the knowledge in IEEE's offerings can enhance the value of the engineers work
- More than 90 percent of Danish members are working in industry and universities. Less than 10 percent are students
- We are cooperating with IDA, the Danish Engineering association on VHDL programming and are going to have some arrangements considering the electronic industry's transformation into a more application and S/W driven industry.

Students and Young Professionals

- After the recent new election of the whole board in November 2014, we are building up the student branch with Tom Hoeholdt as head of student activities
- To enhance student activities we could need a "IEEE scholarship" to support Danish Students in getting study semesters at US universities.

Section Vitality

- IEEE After 2 "annus horribles" with no access to the bank account, and therefore no possibilities to support seminars, we elected a new board in November 2014, held an annual meeting and had an Excom founding meeting the 8th of January 2015. The Bank is now receiving the papers, and look forward to accelerate activities in spring of 2015
- An important tool has been a deep study into the type of members and mapping the application areas they are doing their professional job inside.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- New initiatives, encompasses more meetings on cooperation between the Danish Technical Universities; DTU, AUC and Aarhus University, and the industry. The theme is very much that electronic universities's electro departments are working with the medical- and pharmacological industry. IEEE will address: electronic to electronic
- We will do more in radio communication technologies. In the end of 2014 we were celebrating the 100 year anniversary of Niels Bohr's atom model
- We have finally got agreement with the US embassy on an IEEE arrangement on electrical vehicles and are in the process of inviting the CEO of California based TESLA.

Egypt Section

Ahmed Darwish

Getting Closer to Industry

- Several Initiatives.
- We Continued the largest engineering event; Egyptian Engineering Day for the 13th year with major success and attendance that topped 15 thousand. It hosts graduation projects expo and competition, made in Egypt competition, Forum of high level speakers,
- We added several new initiatives with smaller events (200-300 attendees) all over Egypt sponsored by industry, telcom operators and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority. These events helped expose industry to less exposed cities in Egypt. This was a win-win situation. It helped elevate economy in these cities meanwhile gave the industry access to new pool of talent and new markets.

Students and Young Professionals

- Most of the landmark activities in Egypt are either YP or Student activities. (Membership activities are all scientific seminars that attract 15-20 persons only).
- We are experiencing healthy growth in student branches (we are now over 30). It hosts graduation projects expo and competition, made in Egypt competition, Forum of high level speakers,
- We have a very large pool of volunteers in those activities who are not IEEE members (database shows similar or even larger in count than student/YP members). They come, they share, they volunteer their time, they unfortunately dont have the right to vote because they are not members even though they are quite regular in participation. We are thinking of all possible ways to attract them to join IEEE.

Section Vitality

- Most of the YP/student activities are very vibrant.
- Some of the chapters are doing very well. We need to enhance on our attendance and participation for member activities.
- Even though I am a university professor, I am also a consultant and practitioner, I think we need to work (section, region and IEEE) on image change that IEEE is not only an academic forum for researchers.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Our Telcom Regulatory Sponsor Agreement and our New Industry sponsor agreement are the flagship of 2015.
- Egyptian Engeerieng Day on its 13th birthday is even stronger.
- In the past 2 years we got 27 awards and recognitions .. hope we can keep the momentum

Estonia Section

Kalle Tammemae

Getting Closer to Industry

We have received good participation rate and feedback of members from industry on our summer (fixed dates 19-20. August, whereas 20th of August is public holiday Day of Restoration of Independence of Estonia) seminars. The specific dates are equally suitable for members from academy and industry and during that event very different topics, interesting mutually for all participants could be discussed. Otherwise except the professional development and general interest of engineering area members of industry are quite out of IEEE community, they are not active users of IEEE services too. As some of members have expressed, the Spectrum Magazine (which everyone appreciates) is not enough to compensate the membership fee. There could be some services dedicated especially to members in industry.

Students and Young Professionals

Students notice the most activities where study, development and fun are combined. As an example IEEEExtreme is highly attractive. So far our section has covered membership fee for students interested to participate of competition. Unfortunately, most of them do not continue the membership except those dedicated more in research and pursuing of PhD. They can apply for reduced participation fee of selected conferences, membership is encouraged at department level too. Unfortunately PhD studies are intensive and it has been difficult to convince someone to take more serious (thus time consuming) responsibilities in IEEE e.g. leading of YP. It is easier with short-term, lightweight responsibilities.

Section Vitality

Visibility of IEEE, chapters, section and student branch in different media is important, otherwise it is difficult to notice worldwide organization among other attractors. It depends of universities a lot is there local student branch and active chapter officers who are taking care of public relations in and out of university, e.g. taking care of IEEE stand or page in University web or FB. Personal contacting helps a lot, but it is more difficult to reach members in other towns and universities. Would be good to collect Skype addresses too in SAMIEEE.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Section is participating in organization of IEEE EDUCON 2015 in Tallinn (18-20 March 2015). The most important achievement in 2014 was establishment of SB at Tallinn University of Technology. IEEE Estonia Section will have own first anniversary in 2016 (Section was founded in 1996).

Finland Section

Rafal Sliz

Getting Closer to Industry

- Cooperation with Finnish Research Institute (VTT), which stands in between industry and academia in terms of research and commercialization. This cooperation helps reach many industry representatives that are not interested in academia activities.
- Close collaboration with Finnish engineering societies within FINEL association.
- Within FINEL, IEEE Finnish Section's aim is to promote and develop electrical, electronics and automation sectors contributing to national and international authorities and decision-makers. Also FINEL serves as a forum for the exchange of experience, as well as working in technical development. FINEL supports and coordinates the activities of member associations and the objectives of the organization of joint conferences and events. FINEL represents its member organizations by joint statements and participating in various expert groups.
- Changes:
 - More direct benefits for the IEEE industry members.
 - Increased support for high quality conferences instead of small events.
 - Networking programs designated for particular groups, encourage society membership.

Students and Young Professionals

- Young Professionals AG in Finland established a good practice of organizing a variety of events, both technical and social. This equilibrium allows to keep quality technical events and increase networking among young engineers.
- Section helps in revitalisation and supports events organized by the Student Branches.
- Besides financial support, section supports both groups by providing useful contact information and advertisement of their events.
- Changes:
 - IEEE could provide more programs and tools for both members and volunteers. For instance MentorCenter, ResumeLab, JobSite are a good start, however they are not enough to make members satisfied, especially when the membership fee increases from student to a full fee.
 - Increased visibility of the young professionals and students at large conferences/events.
 - Encourage separate tracks for students and young professionals.

Section Vitality

- The member retention is mostly driven by the conference discounts - a very clear benefit that members happily use.
- The section vitality dashboard helps a lot in accessing and analyzing data regarding the situation in the section.
- Changes:
 - Vtools system would need more efforts to be more user-friendly and work more flawlessly. Additional features like database of previous events would be beneficial.
 - More efforts from chapters and societies to encourage students and young professionals.
 - More programs for students and young professionals. If young people during their studies or right after graduation will not get familiar with IEEE, the chances to attract them afterwards are very low due to lack of direct member benefits.
 - Advertisement materials that can be distributed at conferences and events.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- 40 years anniversary of Student Branch Oulu
- Significant increase of the amount of technical events organized by Chapters
- Section successfully implemented a senior member grade elevation program
- Initialized process and application preparation for the first IEEE Milestone in the Finnish Section

France Section**Amara Amara****Getting Closer to Industry**

- We organized the first Metro Area Workshop in Paris in December. It was a successful workshop with almost 40 participants most of them from industry. Short workshops on emerging fields with lab activities are attractive for industry.
- We have a VP industry relations in our Section and he is in charge of forming a committee from industry to brainstorm about industry involvement in the Section activities.
- We support European projects where chapters/Societies are involved by providing our financial logistics.

Students and Young Professionals

- We award travel grants to active students that are first author and willing to present their papers in an IEEE conference.
- We support also financially some eligible activities organized by our student branches.

Section Vitality

- Conferences are the main driver of our Section Vitality. We developed a complete framework to help conference organizers.
- Recognition of our members is also a challenge. We have a specific process to help promote our members to the grade of Senior.
- We also have set up this year a Section Fellow Committee that can help members who are seeking for help in preparing their nomination to Fellow grade.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Conference of Young Researchers in Electrical and Electronic Engineering becoming quite popular
- Plans to unite efforts of all Russian Sections to develop a big nation-wide conference.

Germany Section

Jens Haubrock

Getting Closer to Industry

- The medium sized company Beckhoff (About 750 Employees) brings over 50 new engineers working for this company to IEEE by a company paid membership. The success is of good relationship between local ieee members and of our past chairman Axel Richter. Now we are organizing special meetings within this company like talks where member of the Germany section will give information and know how to the company about the work within the IEEE.
- Company or employer funded IEEE membership should be defined and facilitated with highest priority. It is one of the best ways to increase the IEEE membership base. Mainly local administrative and tax issues have to be resolved and processing must be made easy for employers to enlist their engineering staff as IEEE members.

Students and Young Professionals

- Students are always invited to take part at activities of chapter and of course on section level. For example students and young professionals take part on the Milestone event of Rheinfelden and Hertz in 2014. We already have many young volunteers working within the section.
- Together with the PES the a student conference with more than 100 participants have been organised and held at Technical University Dortmund it was the six'th conference in this way. The next for 2016 is organized at RTWTH Aachen and in English and therefore open for other sections.
- Andreas Neumeier took part on the Graduates volunteer leadership program 2014.

Section Vitality

- The German section is going to enhance the numbers of Milestones. Actual we preparing an proposal for a Otto Lehmann Milestone.
- The German Life Member Affinity Group has started activities. A internatiopnal LM Meeting is organized by Hans Hartnagel and Mr Russert in 2015, to be held in Munich.
- Several conferences are being planned.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Ghana Section

George Eduful

Getting Closer to Industry

- Make free specific technical presentation to address the need of industry
- Undertake industrial tour to keep our members abreast with modern technical trends in the industries
- Occasionally invite distinguished personalities from the industry to make presentation at IEEE fora
- Collaborate with the industries on certain research programs
- How to improve the industry: We need the support of the region to help with sample programs from other section.

Students and Young Professionals

- We organize student research contest and award prizes for best papers
- We also support and sponsor programs run by Young Professionals

Section Vitality

We have a program for the year that we actively run. The program is such that there is at least one event every month. These involve research seminars, workshops, symposium, etc.

Greece Section

Athanasios Kakarountas

Getting Closer to Industry

- There is a dedicated officer to the Industry Relations, namely Emmanuel Georgantas.
- The Section organizes and supports events towards Industry collaboration with IEEE members. Typical events include (but are not limited to):
 - MSL (Meet a Successful Leader initiative)
 - CAD (Career Advisory Desk initiative)
 - Distinguished Lecturers from industry
- Other events include more complex activities:
 - Technical excursions (run by Chapters and Student Chapters)
 - Industrial Shows (like the Game expo in collaboration with Corallia Clusters Facilitator)
 - Support of several initiatives in Greece like Athens Job Fair, Digital Week etc.
- The Consumer Electronics Chapter was established for bringing closer industry to IEEE, and there is a continuous effort to engage industry oriented members to Section's activities and initiatives.
- It would be valuable for Greece Section, and its activities regarding Industry relations, to be allowed to claim reimbursement for Distinguished Lecturers from the rest of Region 8.
- Also, the support of annual technical shows in the wider region of South-East Europe would be a great opportunity to develop and deploy initiatives for IEEE Industry Relations.

Students and Young Professionals

- Student Branches are represented at the Greece Section by Alexander Osana, and a very active Young Professionals Affiliated Chapter.
- Each Student Branch runs its own schedule, which however includes activities in collaboration with other Section's SBs and Chapters.
- In order to support this collaborative spirit, there is an annual Congress of the Greek and Cypriot Student Branches and Young Professional that take place in a different city either in Greece or Cyprus. During the Congress, all units offer training sessions in order to make Student Branches officers more effective (like reporting sessions, organize an event, SB twinning etc). The Congress is supported by the Section.
- Furthermore, the Section encourages and supports financially representatives from SBs to participate in events for SBs in Region 8, like the SBC and Young Professionals events.
- There are also active officers like Stamatis Dragoumanos (educational activities chair) and Kostas Karpouzis (student activities chair) that organize and support programmes and initiatives like TISP, IEEE Academic and i-YSC (Young Scientist's Corner initiative), and conferences like SFHMMY etc that allow networking of the student members, collaboration and creativity work.
- It would be useful that the Region ease networking with Student members from other sections in a permanent basis.

Section Vitality

- Several Student Branches' events have become an annual institution, like those organized by the University of Patras, University of Thessaly, National Technical University of Athens and the Democritus University of Thrace, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the TEI of Ionian Islands. These events attract hundreds of students, ensuring thus a good number of new members each year.
- Furthermore, considering the annual Panhellenic Student Branch and Young Professionals Congress, where SB officers are trained for Unit's operations, there is a continuous effort to nurture young officers for the Section and the Region.
- In the last 3 years there is also a pre-university series of activities that takes place in the bound of TISP programme, investing in the development of engineers and potential IEEE members from the high school.
- A new programme towards Industry relations has initiated this year, towards engagement of Industry to Section's activities.
- Publicity of the Section's (and its units) activities is achieved through its website and a news mailing list.
- It would be useful for the Section, if the Region could offer a series of benefits for the members that would make IEEE membership more appealing.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Greece Section's units are recipients of numerous awards and recognitions and its efficiency has been increased significantly the last 5 years.

Hungary Section

Peter Kadar

Getting Closer to Industry

- Hungarian-Korean HighVoltage technology seminar was held with participation of researchers in South Korea. The cooperation will conclude into a joint application for a research grant sponsored by the Korean government on the field of HVDC conductor development this year.
- Today everything goes software defined in electrical engineering from the implementations to networking. The Faculty of Information Technology and Bionics of Pazmany Peter Catholic University (PPKE) is one of the main actor worldwide in teaching the software defined approach. To speed up the dissemination of software defined solutions, the CS & C Joint Chapter of IEEE HS will offer tutorials on the SDE concept in 2015. The CS & C Joint Chapter has invited Sandor Albrecht, PhD, Director of IP and Transport, Ericsson Research, to deliver a tutorial on software defined networking in the framework of a half day event organized at PPKE on software defined solutions.
- The tasks and possibilities of Young Professionals have to be discussed. Also special events should be organized, as factory visits, conference attendance, other programs and courses.
- From the multinational companies we expect more contribution ti the direction of the local IEEE chapters.
- We got closer to the sister societies to foster the industrial co-operation.

Students and Young Professionals

- Difficulties occur in rising membership, especially student membership.
- The new geographic unit of Young Professionals was formed in Hungary. As a newly formed group we have the benefit of diversity concerning professions and ideas. Our practice is to discuss ideas, select and implement the best ideas and define goals for the future.
- Our main goal is to increase the number of YP in Hungary. Therefore we will collect the benefits of being a member and promote it to possible members.

Section Vitality

- The IEEE Hungary Section and Young Professionals Affinity Group organized an IEEE day on the 7th of October 2014 in the premises of Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME).
- Four DLP presentations were held in 2014.
- The subregional co-operation between some R8 countries can support the IEEE goals. The mutual programs and conference organisation moves us to this target. IEEE HS gave technical conference co-sponsorship to several regional conferences, as SACI, SAMI, SISY, etc.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- "IEEE HS Excellence Award" was established and it was juried in this year to the BUTE Student Branch.
- By the support of CS & C Joint Chapter to provide the laboratory background for the dissemination of software defined approach, the SDE-VI lab of Pazmany Peter Catholic University will be opened in a few occasions in 2015 in order to demonstrate the use of SDE concept in real applications. These lab events will open for every IEEE members.

Iran Section

Hadi Moradi

Getting Closer to Industry

- The following activities and initiatives worked well for us:
 - Requiring the national conferences to organize a panel session to promote academia-industry relation.
 - Evaluating the national conferences based on their industry relation.
 - Requesting the Student Branches to include industry-based activities.
 - Organizing various workshops in accordance with industry requirements.
- Changes to be made:
 - Improving industrial committee activities to getting a larger number of members from industry
 - Promoting industry support for the members.
 - Involving more industrial members in the operation of the committees.

Students and Young Professionals

- The following have worked well:
 - Organizing workshops to further introduce IEEE to the students and young professionals and help them in their professional development
 - Subsidizing membership of students
 - Increasing the number of awards for students and student organizations
- Changes:
 - Helping them to get more closer to the international IEEE community
 - Recognizing their activities and achievements through awards
 - Providing financial and technical support in their activities
 - IEEE can facilitate the interaction with IEEE Iran section and its members to help the students and young professionals.

Section Vitality

- The activities that worked well for us:
 - Conference sponsorship which resulted into sponsoring a large number of national conferences
 - Improving the quality of conferences by providing support for conducting the conferences and examining the paper authenticities
 - Promoting the IEEE grades of our members
 - Approving new Student Branches
 - Formation of groups of high-rank professionals to initiate Chapters
 - Supporting the involvement of women in various professional activities
- The needed changes are to involve the Section in:
 - Improving the overall quality of education and research in Engineering (within the scope of IEEE)
 - Designing and developing policies for engineering education (within the scope of IEEE)
 - Improving the sections website to become one of the major portals helping members.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Initiating a good number of awards including Women-In-Engineering (WIE) award
- Initiating three new national awards were designated in the memory of distinguished Iranian scientists and professors, namely: Prof. Hakkak Award, Prof. Jabbedar Award, and Prof. Lucas Award. item Initiating the formation of chapters based on high-rank professionals (through initiating groups)
- Improvement of industrial activities by conducting workshops and panels.

Iraq Section

Ahmed Burhan

Getting Closer to Industry

- Since one and half year, we have success in establishing a good relationship with the: "Council of Industrial Research and Development". Prof. Sattar (Section Vice Chair) is one the advisers to the Dean of this council, and we have many meetings with them, and a good schedule to support them.
- We realized:
 - Monthly Meeting in the Council
 - Two workshops in June and July at University of Babylon and Invite many Industrial people from more than 6 factories surrounding Babylon city.
 - Arrange a training course for Robot Design inside Council.
- Put A schedule to hold monthly a workshop in the Council for three participants; (Industrial Members, IEEE members, and Customer Members).
- Such workshops will help to discuss the different problems existing in both the customer needs and in the Industrial factories, and show the capabilities of IEEE - academic to support in solving such problems.
- We as IEEE Iraq Section understand the big problems existing in our industrial fields, and really we will appreciate any ideas, advice, support we can obtain from IEEE R8.

Students and Young Professionals

- We did many activities for students and young professionals from January 2015 till now as below:
 - 10-Jan IEEE workshop in Islamic University College in Babylon city.
 - 14-Jan IEEE workshop in Wasit University - Education College in Deyqar city.
 - 15-Jan IEEE workshop in Al-Musaib Engineering College University of Babylon in Babylon city.
 - 5 Feb. in Wasit University , workshop in Science College.
 - 14-16-Feb IEEE Iraq Section Introduction to Robotic Training course in Babylon city.
 - 18-Feb IEEE workshop in Qalam University College in Kirkuk city.
 - 19-Feb IEEE workshop in Kirkuk Oil Technical Institute in Kirkuk city.
- Also for second question we need the advice and support of R8 to increase our knowledge, and our activities within this field.

Section Vitality

- We as IEEE Iraq Section members understand the big problems existing inside Iraq due to the occupation of ISIS forces to many Iraqi Cities, and for that reason Iraq Safety status is very difficult in the last 9 months (till now), and really we will appreciate any ideas, advice, support we can obtain from IEEE R8.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- We visited many times some primary schools in Babylon, Wasit, Kerbala and Najaf cities including many displaced children needed many things.
- This year our anniversaries was with them because they are important to us as they are Iraq future, and hope from the institute take care about this very sad status, and we hope any financial support from the R8, or IEEE main Institute in order to distribute it among the families which leave their houses in occupied cities...
- Any financial Support from R8, and other Section will be very important as human support.

Israel Section

Jacob Baal-Schem

Getting Closer to Industry

- COMCAS Conferences are held in conjunction with local Industries. A large part of the 100 booths are presenting Industrial activities and therefore we have a large participation of attendees from Israel Industry.
- LMAG Technical Fridays include presentations by Industry representatives and attendees from Israel Industry.
- Industry relations could possibly be improved if we could make membership agreements with companies (having a special deal to cover all their engineers).

Students and Young Professionals

- Since IEEE agreement with Universities it is difficult to get Student members (as they get all reference facilities through Xplore from the University).
- Possible centrally organized Student exchange could bring interest in membership (e.g. Internship to US/EU Institutions).

Section Vitality

Technical meetings - both Academic and providing technological information, drive the vitality of our Section.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- IEEE Israel Section held recently its 60th Anniversary (October 2014).
- A special session of "Homage to Israel Hi-Tec Founders" will be held during HISTELCON 2015 including presentation of Certificates to the "Fathers of Israel Hi-Tec".

Italy Section

Ermanno Cardelli

Getting Closer to Industry

- We organize periodically forum with industry members. In particular an IEEE Italy Section FORUM with industry and academia is scheduled starting from this year.
- We are searching for new Industry members Dedicated founding programs to help this activity will be more than welcome.

Students and Young Professionals

- We have several very active student branches.
- We are searching to attract more young professionals.
- We are regularly organizing Schools for boosting careers, and graduated student schools.
- We are also monitoring the formative courses after technical degrees in Italy.

Section Vitality

- We are organizing several technical conferences with financial sponsorship of the section.
- A more rigid policy in IEEE Italy section sponsorship to conferences held in Italy is now applied.
- We are planning to organize an annual conference for student branches.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

We are working hard in the organization of the 1st International Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry Leveraging a better tomorrow that will be held in Torino from 16 to 18 September 2015.

Jordan Section

Mohamed K Abdelazeez

Getting Closer to Industry

We are at the IEEE Jordan section, since the establishment of the section, trying to build solid relation with the available industry in Jordan. We are trying to benefit from the experience of other countries in this regard. At the moment the Section does not have an IRO and I recently initiated the second trial to attract a volunteer person to serve as the Section IRO. However through our four technical chapters we are in constant touch with the different local industrial establishments in the area of electric power companies, computer and information technology companies and others. People from industry are participating in the Section activities, lecturers or attending our activities. At the moment we are working with our local entity Jordan Engineers' Association and the different power, computer and communication companies to hold METRO workshop in which the people from industry will be lecturing or/and managing and attending this METRO workshop.

Students and Young Professionals

- To promote awareness of the YP AG the YP created a social networking page for Jordan YPs (<https://www.facebook.com/IEEEJordanYP>) and decided to collaborate closely with the student branches to get volunteers to stay after graduation by motivating them with their programs.
- The Section supported three students, YP AG chair and our student activities coordinator to attend the Krakow congress 2014.
- Two events were held:
 - Jordan YPs Networking: The main aim of this Networking Events is to bring Jordan YPs together to socialize and to discuss issues related to their needs in future events. Also we aimed to bring researchers and developers from the Mediterranean countries and Europe together in order to create new partnership for subsequent proposals of the Horizon 2020 ICT-related calls. The event activities include a number of keynote lectures by experts from Europe and the region
 - Entrepreneurship and intellectual property (IP): This event was a professional event focused on entrepreneurship and intellectual property (IP). The event brings Jordan YPs together with two keynote speakers from the industry to help them understand how to identify a unique idea and how to protect it. Intellectual property is reviewed and the steps needed to patent inventions are thoroughly described.

Section Vitality

The work done by both YP and WIE AGs and the other four technical chapters are helping our section sustainability. In fact the total number of the IEEE Jordan section exceeds 1000 member by the end of 2014.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

The incoming METRO workshop which will be launched hopefully in few months. The Section is working toward holding its 3rd conference (AEECT 2015). The Section targeted attracting the IEEE GLOBECOM 2018 Communication conference.

Kuwait Section

Abdul Rahman Al-Ghunaim

Getting Closer to Industry

- Joining efforts between IEEE Kuwait Section and all Private and Governmental Education Entities, Engineering Colleges and Universities in Kuwait.
- Kuwait Student Project Contest in a yearly Bases started from year 2014, also the Winner shall contest with the GCC Countries (Bahrain, UAE, Qatar, Oman , Saudi Arabia and Kuwait) in the GCC Graduation Project Contest.
- Participating with the industrial Companies in Kuwait to promot the Engineering Profession among the Students in the Universities and High Schools.

Students and Young Professionals

Social Programs and Technical Events , Knowledg Workshops shall be continued in 2015 simillar to what we have done in 2014 with different Themes

Section Vitality

Project Contest between the students in each University and College , then a a combined contest between the different Universities in Kuwait , after that the winners shall compete with other Arabic Country Students. The target is to let Students from Different Universities join Each other and start a Technical Efforts and relationship for the benefit of the Engineering Fields, and work as volunteers for IEEE Objectives

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Prizes and Recognition Plaques are presented to the Volunteers and the Students to let them feel the Important of their work with IEEE.
- Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Kuwait Section in Kuwait 12 Feb. 2015 and In Muscat , Oman during the 8th IEEE GCC Conference held on 1- 4 of February 2015 in Sultan Qaboos University.

Latvia Section**Leonids Ribickis****Getting Closer to Industry**

- Working with industry through industrial associations, like Latvian Information Technology and Telecommunications Association (for 2015-2017 we have re-signed LIKTA-IEEE National Society Agreement (NSA)); The Association of Latvian Electrical Engineering and Electronics Enterprises, etc.
- Would be practical to collect advantages of IEEE Membership for SMEs

Students and Young Professionals

- Different events for chosen groups of students (like Technical Co-Sponsorship of the Sociotechnical Systems Modelling summer school, organized by Rezeknes University, Riga Technical University, University of Latvia and Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, 2014 August 11-13; Co-Organizing of the 2nd IEEE workshop on Advances in Information, Electronic and Electrical Engineering, organized by Lithuania and Latvia Sections, November 28-29, 2014; Section-level professional lecture for all IEEE members and guests)
- Support (incl. financial) of cross-sectional events for students undoubtedly will give positive results

Section Vitality

- Fostering of different special events (like Technical Co-Sponsorship of the EBEC 2014 - European BEST Engineering Competition 2014 Final, 2014 August 2-8; Technical Co-Sponsor of the 55th International Scientific Conference on Power and Electrical Engineering of Riga Technical University (RTUCON), 14-17 of October 2014) with special IEEE prizes for winners
- Cooperation with the local professional societies

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Points of concern: Difficult recruitment of new volunteers from academia (both regular and student members) with IEEEExplore freely available for Riga TU personal

Lebanon Section

Imad Elhadj

Getting Closer to Industry

- Conducting events that help industry to showcase their products or to facilitate recruitment. These include seminars and networking events
- At the section level, we must have more active reach out to local industry. At IEEE level there must be more incentives for industry in the developing part of the world to join IEEE. Maybe recognition to most IEEE members in a certain company per country.

Students and Young Professionals

- Networking events that allow them to transition to the workforce and career development workshops
- At the section level, we must maintain close connections with recent graduates that stay within the country to encourage them to maintain membership. This must be done by having targeted events for graduates and by involving them more in the leadership of the section/chapters/affinity groups.

Section Vitality

- Any activity that allows members to have sense of ownership and belonging to the section. We have noticed that inviting members to be part of executive committees works very well in this regard
- At the section level and IEEE overall, there must be more direct involvement of members in the running of the organization through expanded committees, advisory boards, etc.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- IEEE Lebanon section overall membership passed the 1,000 member mark and we will be celebrating this growth in a special event. We plan to increase our per capita membership to be one of the highest in the region
- 2015 marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Lebanon section and we plan to celebrate this. (Nov, 2014 approval, Jan 2015 election of first executive committee).

Lithuania Section

Vytautas Urbanavicius

Getting Closer to Industry

- Our activities:
 - Tradition to select from the industry the Section ExCom officer for Industrial Relations
 - Tradition of information exchange and involvement of industry partners in all organized by the Section regular joint international workshops with China, Taiwan, Morocco, Belarus, Russia, Poland and Latvia as also as all technical meetings
 - Series of lectures and working equipment demonstrations for university students delivered by representatives from industry
- Changes: IEEE Lithuania Section will seek to sign a legal agreements with major domestic business associations.

Students and Young Professionals

- Our activities:
 - Co-sponsorship of annual Conference for Lithuania Junior Researchers
 - Annual awards for the best MSc thesis and the winners of "Battle of Robots"
 - Series of technical meetings presenting frontiers of research in recently defended Doctoral Dissertations
 - Series of seminars with hands-on experience for children and juniors
 - Organization of local and participation in IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest. Engagement of new and existing members by participation in IEEEExtreme competition
 - Hosting Distinguished Lectures
- Changes:
 - Section will be co-sponsor of the Summer School for students and other activities of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University Student Branch
 - Section will offer a special grant to support student members of the Section in participating at conferences, workshops and other educational and research activities.

Section Vitality

- Our activities:
 - Regular face-to-face ExCom meetings preparing for and organizing all major section events
 - Empowering and financial support of local Chapters in their major initiatives
 - Awarding or co-sponsoring visits to workshops/congresses to the best volunteers
 - Promotion of IEEE by organization of IEEE Day
 - Excellent relations and close collaboration with geographically near OU: Latvia, Estonia, Poland and Belarus Sections
- Changes:
 - A new Computer Society/Power and Energy Society Chapters formation and outreach to major domestic universities
 - Organization of the workshop to promote IEEE Members in Lithuania to become IEEE Senior Members
 - Expand the activities of the Education Chapter and though it promote IEEE membership
 - Encourage companies and universities to subsidize IEEE membership of their employees and students.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Outstanding new initiatives:
 - Joint IEEE Lithuania and Latvia Sections workshop Advances in Information, Electronic and Electrical Engineering
 - 1st Public Conference of Electronics and Computer Sciences eStream 2014
- Special achievements:
 - IEEE Signal Processing Society Certification awarded to Lithuania Joint SP/CIS/COM Chapter (valid for four years from 1 January 2015 through 31 December 2018)
 - Section more than twice increased the number of senior members
- Anniversaries
 - 20-year anniversary of Lithuania Section MTT/ED/AP Chapter. The Chapter was founded February 25, 1995. IEEE MTT Society recognized this Chapter in 2012 as outstanding
 - Section will designate year 2015 as the 20th year anniversary of the 1-st IEEE OU in Lithuania establishment.

Malta Section

Owen Casha

Getting Closer to Industry

- Organisation of Industrial Visits (Local/Overseas)
- Changes:
 - Organising more frequently seminars, workshops and continuous professional development courses for IEEE members working in industry
 - Involving more IEEE members coming from industry in the executive committee ... the majority are academics.

Students and Young Professionals

- SPAC 2015 - Student Professional Awareness Conference
- Organisation of Industrial Visits (Local/Overseas)
- Student paper Contest
- Awards Night
- Robot Wars 2015: <https://www.facebook.com/events/601469669996987/>

Section Vitality

- Re-design of the IEEE Malta Section Website and constantly updating the facebook page of the section: <http://www.ieemalta.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/ieemalta>
- Lectures/Presentations by Distinguished IEEE Lecturers
- Close collaboration with the Malta Chamber of Engineers with whom we have established a Memorandum of Understanding back in 2011
- Changes: Continuous Professional Development Courses

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The IEEE Malta Section is proud to announce that Professor Dr Ing. Carl Debono has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award by IEEE
- Conferences held in Malta and supported by the IEEE Malta Section:
 - IWBF 2014, 2nd International Workshop on Biometrics and Forensics, March 27th - 28th, University of Malta Aula Magna, Valletta, Malta
 - VS-GAMES 2014, 6th International Conference on Games and Virtual Worlds for Serious Applications, September 9th - 12th, University of Malta, Valletta
 - VCIP 2014, IEEE Visual Communications and Image Processing Conference, December 7th - 10th, University of Malta, Valletta, Malta
 - Energy & Transport: Challenges & Opportunities, Chamber of Engineers Annual Conference, 2015

Morocco Section

Mohamed Essaaidi

Getting Closer to Industry

- At the section's level, we work closely on a nation wide Innovation Week involving academia, industry and government.
- IEEE Morocco Section is also involving all these entities in different events organized throughout the last year.
- At the Morocco Section, it is deemed that more efforts should be implemented at the Region and IEEE to improve industry relations.

Students and Young Professionals

- There are several activities and initiatives organized by the section to support Students and Young Professionals such as :
 - Professional development workshops
 - Technical workshops, seminars and conferences
 - Competitions and contests.
- There is a tendency to think that IEEE and R8 should invest more on professional development activities of students and young professionals.

Section Vitality

- The activities/programs/initiatives which work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in Morocco Section are basically the technical and professional activities it offers to its membership within Morocco and also the different technical and professional activities offered to students and professionals from academia, industry and government.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- IEEE R8 Innovation Week would be a real opportunity for IEEE to achieve several objectives which are fully contained within its missions. This will also help develop networking opportunities for its members and even its visibility worldwide.

Nigeria Section

Gloria Chukwudebe

Getting Closer to Industry

Industry Relation is still a challenge because already the national associations have established relationship with the industries in Nigeria. However, some industries in Power and Telecoms get involved when we organize conferences or technical seminars.

- Improvement required by Section: The Section is trying to recruit more volunteers from the Industry and also recommend some for senior membership.
- Improvement required by IEEE: IEEE can help link us to Dell, IBM, Chevron, etc in Nigeria. Nigeria needs to host IEEE event/conference, it will improve public visibility of IEEE as an International organization.

Students and Young Professionals

Activities/initiatives that work well to support Students and Young Professionals are:

- Training Workshops
- Industrial visits
- Competitions and Quarterly Webinar series that give YP opportunity to interact with peers and expert in the industry and academia.
- Others include: Helping students get positions in the industry for work experience. Changes that would be required by IEEE: some free access to Xplore, student exchange programmes.
- Changes that would be required by Section: getting a more active Students Coordinator.

Section Vitality

Activities/programs/initiatives that work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in our Section are Seminars, Workshops and Conferences. Changes required by Section: Recruit more volunteers and formulate strategy for retention. Increase member engagement using Social media.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- New Initiative: Collaboration with a job recruiting Agency, New look website and training of Chapter Chairs on how to update the Website
- Special achievements: collaboration with two private universities for conferences.

Norway Section

Yuming Jiang

Getting Closer to Industry

Our Power Electronics Chapter organized two seminars with topics of great industry interest, which attracted many participants from industry.

Students and Young Professionals

- We encouraged, supported and revitalized our NTNU Student Branch in 2014.
- In addition, we established our section's Young Professionals Affinity Group in 2014.
- To our section, self-motivation was the key. Except for encouragement and section chair's close interactions with these two groups, the Section did not have special programs to support them.
- Some effort may be done at the IEEE level or the Region level to better support Students and Young Professionals such as financially supporting volunteers to attend IEEE / Regional meeting of such groups, which can hardly be afforded at the Section level.

Section Vitality

- In our Section, we revitalized our NTNU Student Branch and established Young Professionals Affinity Group in 2014, which greatly contributed to our Section's vitality.
- At the IEEE level, the tools may be simplified for easier learning and use. In addition, the IEEE and the Region may encourage and assist the Sections to organize events where the IEEE brand is attractive, for instance, conferences (technically) sponsored by IEEE.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Activities:

- IFIP Networking Conference, June 2014
- Seminar on Silicon Carbide in Power Electronics, June 2014
- IEEEExtreme 24-Hour Programming Competition, Oct 2014
- Subsea Power Electronics Seminar at Siemens, Dec 2014 Supports to IEEE Technical Sponsorship Applications
- 2015 International Workshop on Biometrics and Forensics (IWBF), Gjovik, March 2015
- 2015 Colour and Visual Computing Symposium (CVCS) Gjovik, Norway, Aug 2015
- 2015 European Conference on Circuit Theory and Design (ECCTD), Trondheim, Aug 2015
- AGM: The Section organized its 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Dec 2014, which attracted around 40 participants, a record number in recent years for the Section.

Oman Section

Amer Al-Hinai

Getting Closer to Industry

- The main activities in Oman section to foster industry relations are:
 - Technical seminar with focus in industry related topics
 - Field trip organized by the section for IEEE students branches to industry
- We need more support to host some of IEEE or R8 activities to be held in Oman, that would help present IEEE Oman section further more to industry.

Students and Young Professionals

- The main activities in Oman section to support Students and Young Professionals:
 - Seminars & workshop to improve students soft skills
 - Students membership drive and getting sponsorship for students' membership
- We hope to see some of the region students activities taking place in Oman, this would help getting more engagements of students and young professionals.

Section Vitality

- The main activities that helps member to see the value of keeping IEEE membership are:
 - Seminars & workshops either technical or nontechnical
 - Conferences which either directly organized or co-sponsored by the section
 - Social gatherings and networking events
- Again we wish to see some of IEEE or R8 activities taking place in Oman, this will encourage members keeping the loyalty to IEEE.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

IEEE Oman section along with the rest of GCC IEEE section successfully organized the 8th IEEE GCC Conference & Exhibition in Muscat during 1-4 February 2015.

Poland Section

Ryszard Jachowicz

Getting Closer to Industry

An technical meeting of IEEE Poland Section and Association of Polish Electrical Engineers (SEP) officers has been organized in January 2015 in the aim to establish vital collaboration between both organizations. Association of Polish Electrical Engineers (SEP) is the largest industrial and technical organization in Poland with over 25 000 members, operating in 50 regional Divisions. Central units and branches of SEP annually organize more than 1,000 technical events, exhibitions, lectures, involving more than 130 thousand people.

Students and Young Professionals

- IEEE Region 8 Student and Young Professional Congress (SYP) was organized in August of 6-10, 2014 at Krakow. The Congress took place in one of the most beautiful Polish cities Krakow, The purpose of this event was to help engineering students, PhD. students and young professionals to gain further insight, enabling exchange of knowledge and skills. The plenary sessions and workshops in this congress will not only put their focus on research and technological developments, but also career issues and the importance of developing the so-called soft skills. By offering an interesting mix of speeches given by academical and industrial speakers, the Congress wanted to give our participants a broad pallet in which both academical and industrial input is implemented in the debates. In this way, the event offered a unique opportunity to represent the vision of industrial speakers. SYP was an international event organized by IEEE where more than 370 young engineering students and young professionals from more than 350 universities of Europe, Middle East and Africa meet together to discuss present and future engineering challenges, network and learned more about the IEEE
- The Student Branch at Warsaw University of Technology has been reactivated in 2014.

Section Vitality

- A number of scientific workshops and technical meetings were organized by 20 Chapters of Poland Section. Most of Chapters are very active with technical meetings and some of them with invitation of Distinguish Lecturers.
- Senior Members and Fellow Members nominations programs are continuously realized.
- During last period we established the Rules for technical sponsoring of conferences by PS of IEEE. The delegates of Poland Section talk about of IEEE organization and about benefits of being a member of IEEE in the Opening Session of every co-sponsored by IEEE conference.
- New Student Branch at Warsaw University of Technology has been reactivated. This is 6th Student Branch in Poland Section .
- IEEE SB training is organized in March.
- Prof. M.Malinowski, Vice Chair of Poland Section has been nominated for Fellow Member in 2014.
- All together Poland Section has 16 FM and 3LFM. Prof. M.Ogorzalek , FM, Past Chair of PS, has been elected for Div. I Director (the cadency starting in 2016). Prof. J.Modelski, FM, Past R8 Director, Past Div.IV Director, received Doctor Honoris Causa title of Lodz University of Technology, Poland

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

The Ceremony of IEEE Milestone Plaque Unveiling with the presence of Prof.J.Roberto de Marca, IEEE President, Prof.J.Zurada IEEE Vice-President, Prof.M.Bastians, R8 Director took place in Warsaw, Poland, August 5, 2014. The IEEE Milestone in Electrical Engineering and Computing was granted for the First Breaking of Enigma Code by the Team of the Polish Cipher Bureau, 1931-1939. "Polish Cipher Bureau mathematicians Marek Rejewski, Jerzy Rozycki and Henryk Zygalski broke the German Enigma cipher machine codes. Working with engineers from AVA Radio Manufacturing Company, they build the bomba - the first cryptoanalytic machine to break Enigma codes. Their work was a foundation of British code Breaking efforts which, with latter American assistance, helped to end World War II" The ceremony consists of two events: - International Seminar dedicated three Polish mathematicians who broke the German Enigma cipher machine codes, The Senate Hall of Warsaw University of Technology - Unveiling of the Monument with IEEE Milestone Plaques (in English and Polish version) located in front of the Institute of Mathematics, Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw, Poland Extended report please see at R8 Newsletter, Nov. 2014.

Portugal Section

Ana Madureira

Getting Closer to Industry

- Unfortunately, our relation with Industry has been very limited in the past years. Nevertheless, we have identified this problem and have been working in the following initiatives:
 - Young Professionals Internship Program (<http://yp.ieee-pt.org/ypi/>) is an undergoing project, led by IEEE Portugal Young Professionals Affinity Group, that aims to create bounds between universities and industry, fostering internships
 - We have nominated an Industry Relations Coordinator that will try to fill the existent gap, promoting different protocols and activities with industry partners
 - We have identified key local industries on which we plan to create strong technical relations
- We believe that the following changes would be helpful to improve Industry Relations:
 - IEEE's image and visibility is somehow limited inside Europe. We believe that new programs developed with the goal to improve IEEE's image would definitely help sections to approach the industry in the future
 - IEEE must be more proactive in order to promote the Engineer Profession and its impact in real economy
 - Create an IEEE membership for industry companies, and establish benefits for them to partner with IEEE. e.g: help with patent development, special access for articles, participation in RFC working groups, etc.

Students and Young Professionals

We believe that national and regional events generate a motivation among students and keep a constant flow of new volunteers. We support the participation of as many students as possible in the regional and Iberian student congress. In addition, we developed an activity called Leadership Camp, once per year, usually in the beginning of the academic year, where we gather students from all SB, and provide them with training in IEEE knowledge, leadership and organization skills. Borrow a Workshop is an IEEE Portugal Section initiative that has as main goals to promote collaboration between SB and increase the number of technical activities in each Branch. With this Portuguese SB can propose technical and professional activities to be outsourced for other SB. Young Professionals (YP) Internship Program is a program that is being developed by the YP AG with the support of the Portugal Section. Changes to better support Students/YP:

- It should be possible to have YP Affinity Groups inside SB (similar to WIE SB AG). We have observed an increase of WIE activities SB that have a student AG. Why YP are not able to have the same structure?
- Increase STEP Programs funding: sections are limited to one STEP event per year, which severely constraints the development of YP activities

Section Vitality

- Our sections financial sustainability is mainly supported by the organization of technical conferences. As such we believe that:
 - It is imperative that IEEE promotes the inclusion of the Portugal Section in all conferences held in Portugal, which is not happening at all. Currently we have conferences where some IEEE Societies refusing to share conferences organization with our section
 - There should be a clarification and standardization of the procedures related to the participation and role of local sections in technical conferences
- Societies should try to include more Distinguished Lecturers in their programs, as it is often very hard to find Lecturers available to come to our Section (because their agenda is already full). Some increase of funding for these programs would also be helpful

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Create more effective and tangible IEEE membership benefits
- Promote IEEE's image in the general society by using a more dynamic and clever marketing
- Create clear, effective and standard rules for IEEE conferences sponsorship to ensure the scientific quality of IEEE participation

Republic of Macedonia Section

Ljupco Karadinov

Getting Closer to Industry

- Vast majority of our members are from the academia who regularly use IEEE Transactions and IEEE Xplore Digital Library in their work. Our industry does not have much research and development centers, and members from industry do not see enough benefits from IEEE membership for its cost
- Engineers from industry appreciate more the IEEE Magazines and professional and career events
- Improvements in magazines content and more professional and career lectures/workshops (some with regional experts) will improve membership from industry, and consequently industry relations.

Students and Young Professionals

- Our Section has organized several competitions and rewards for IEEE student members:
 - Student competition RoboMak2014 (with participation of 30 student members from the near region), Skopje, 0408 Mar 2014
 - Three best student paper awards at the 11-th International Conference on Informatics and Information Technologies, Bitola, 1113 Apr 2014
 - ComSoc Macedonia Student Achievement Award for 2014.
- The Section financially supported two delegates at the IEEE REGION 8 Student and Young Professional Congress, 69 Aug 2014, Krakow, Poland
- we also motivated students to take part in IEEE Xtreme 2014 (unfortunately only one team)
- We participate in the IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2015
- Two new student branch chapters were approved in 2014
 - Solid State Circuits and
 - Computer
- Mr. Branislav Gerazov was appointed as Young Professional officer and started collecting signatures for new affinity group formation
- Student competitions and reward are most appreciated by students and make IEEE more respected and visible among students and in the society. The Region 8 can financially support regional student competitions where winning teams from local competitions can take part.
- Gradual increase in membership fees for Young Professionals during next three years after graduation can significantly increase student membership retention.

Section Vitality

- Section vitality is closely connected with motivated volunteer and involvement of members in Section and chapters activities. Our Section has held 9 regular Executive Committee meetings in 2014. There is always discussion about past and future activities and chairs from less active chapter can copy best practices from others.
- We organized two social events where all members were invited: Barbecue party for IEEE Day (7 Oct 2014) and Luncheon after the Annual General Meeting (19 Feb 2015). Members highly appreciate social events since there they have opportunity to meet and network with others from academia or industry.
- At the Annual General Meeting we introduced the IEEE Member Loyalty Program, this year for 26 members having active membership from 5 to 30 years. Instead of using the loyalty pins, for the same expense we prepared gifts (business card holder, coffee mug, portable battery charger) with printed IEEE logo and years of active membership.
- Section Facebook page is regularly updated with information about future activities.
- Section Newsletter is delivered by e-mail to all members.
- Region 8 officers' visits to Sections are very useful and motivational, as was the case with the visit of Director Martin Bastiaans to our Section in May 2014.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The 18-years anniversary of Section formation (14 Feb 1997) was celebrated at the Annual General Meeting (so called Annual Assembly and required by local law for NGOs) held on 19 Feb 2015 with social event and group photo. At this occasion a Recognition Plaque was given to the Past Chair Goce Arsov for his continuous contribution and leadership of the Section since its formation.
- Three Chapters got financial support from their Societies for activities. The Communication Chapter received the EMEA Region 2014 Chapter Achievement Award. item Three Distinguished Lectures were organized in 2014.
- The Section Chair and Vice-Chair have met with the IEEE legal department staff during SC2014 and agreed about the necessary text changes considering local situation and legislation, and signed the Cooperation Agreement with the IEEE Worldwide Limited on 15 Oct 2014.

Romania Section

Lucian Toma

Getting Closer to Industry

- The IEEE Romania Section is very active in organizing conferences. This a very good way for helping people get in touch, create a networking, set business.
- The IEEE PES Romania Chapter proposes, on yearly basis, engineers from industry for awarding the Outstanding Engineer Award. The section has agreed to expand this incentive/recognition for all chapters.
- The number of IEEE members from industry is increasing.
- The Section helps engineers from industry to elevate to Senior Member.
- Engineers from industry are nominated for being elected as a Section officer.
- Engineers from industry are invited in universities to share their professional experience.

Students and Young Professionals

- Several chapters are organizing student competitions:
 - Interconnection Techniques in Electronics TIE
 - Symposium for Students in Electronics and Telecommunications SSET 2014
 - NCIT IEEE Summer School 2014 for computers students
 - Embedded Systems and Mobile Programming Prof. Marcel Rocule Mathematics for Electrical Engineering high school students, etc
- The Romania Young Professional Group was created in 2014
- The IEEE Romania Chapter created the link between Power&Energy students with the Youth Branch of the local World Energy Council called VLER (Future Energy Leaders in Romania)
- Presentation of PhD theses are sometimes transformed into a more special events, in which students and young professional are encouraged to participate for creating scientific networking Unfortunately, the larger number of IEEE student members are enrolled in the University Politehnica of Bucharest; increasing the number of students in other universities from Romania is a priority for the Section.

Section Vitality

- The IEEE Romania section pays the membership fee for the first year membership for students proposed by chapters
- The section encourages members to apply for Senior Member and Fellow
- Conferences and technical events are the best action to keep the members activating within the IEEE
- The Young Professional Group was created in 2014
- The membership fee is still an issue for students and young engineers.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The Grainger Foundation and the IEEE Power & Energy Society has presented to Professor Ion Gheorghe Boldea (LFIEEE), University Politehnica of Timisoara, the IEEE NIKOLA TESLA AWARD 2015 for contributions to the design and control of rotating and linear electric machines for industry applications.
- This year the IEEE Romania Section is planning to organize an anniversary event to celebrate 25 years since foundation. On this occasion badges with the membership year will be offered to its members The IEEE PES Romania Chapter was again awarded in 2014 a High Performing Chapter Award.

Russia Section

Sergey Bankov

Getting Closer to Industry

Various conferences, seminars, schools supported by Russia section and Russian IEEE chapters

Students and Young Professionals

Various conferences, seminars, schools for students and young professionals supported by Russia section and IEEE Chapters in Russia in particular: Annual International Student and Young Professionals Conference "Radio-engineering, Electronics and Power Engineering"

Section Vitality

- Celebration of IEEE Day
- Elections of new section officers: chair, vice chair, secretary
- Cooperation with national Popov's Radio Science society
- Cooperation with Russian branch of URSI
- Regular administrative meetings and common meetings with Popov's society and URSI branch
- Cooperation and common meetings with Russian Academy of Electrical Science

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Activity of MTT-S Chapter (Chair V. Kaloshin): Outstanding chapter award
- Outstanding activity of Saratov IEEE Chapter (chair M. Prohorov) arranged three conferences, workshop, three technical meetings.

Russia (North West) Section

Sergey Shaposhnikov

Getting Closer to Industry

- Conference on Strategic Partnership with Industry in October, 2014 jointly with St.Petersburg Electrotechnical University "LETI"
- Consulting service on preparing scientific papers for publishing in international journals

Students and Young Professionals

- Technical English Program (started about 6 years ago)
- Conference of Young Researchers in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (February, 2014, 2015)

Section Vitality

- IEEE Day
- Student papers and projects competition
- Conferences and seminars with English as working language organized at both the Section and Chapters level

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Conference of Young Researchers in Electrical and Electronic Engineering becoming quite popular
- Plans to unite efforts of all Russian Sections to develop a big nation-wide conference.

Russia (Siberia) Section**Alexander Markhasin****Getting Closer to Industry**

- Industrial applications that are closely connected with tasks of development North, Far East and Asia-Pacific regions are of the prime interest for the Section.
- Special sessions devoted to industrial applications are planned in all conferences and scientific schools supported and organized by the section, wireless networking and medicine devices including.
- Exhibitions of industrial achievements during these meetings are welcomed also. Such exhibition with participation of companies that produces medical equipment is included in the program of the SIBIRCON/SIBMEDINFO-2015.
- Involving of the biomedical engineers in IEEE through development of relationship with the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Novosibirsk Technopark is planned.

Students and Young Professionals

- Student Paper Contest and Conference on the Information Security (SIBINFO) at Tusur University, Tomsk, Russia on April 15-16, 2015 http://chapters.comsoc.org/tomsk/files/sibinfo_cfpe.html
- 16th International Conference of Young Specialists on Micro/Nanotechnologies and Electron Devices (EDM-2015)
- Young Scientists Seminar on Biomedical Engineering planned to be held at Technopark of Novosibirsk Academgorodok, Russia on May, 2015
- Involving new student members is planned through agitation and presenting IEEE activities in Siberian universities that are not basic for the Section now, in the Novosibirsk State University, for example.

Section Vitality

- Organizing the IEEE R8 International Conference on Computational Technologies in Electrical, Electronics and Biomedical Engineering SIBIRCON/SIBMEDINFO-2015 planned to be held at Technopark of Novosibirsk Academgorodok, Russia on October, 2015
- Support of scientific activity and involving of the Students, Masters and Postgraduates in the IEEE Members through the Weekly IEEE SibSUTIS Scientific Seminar on the 4G/5G & Next Generations of Information (IT), Communications (ICT) and Computer (CT) Technologies.
- Support of professional activity of the IEEE Members through the Monthly IEEE Seminar on Radio Engineering organized by Siberian Federal University and Krasnoyarsk Joint IEEE Chapter.
- Better cooperation with Novosibirsk Technopark is needed in organizing and carrying out seminars and scientific schools.
- Structural changes in the section are needed that corresponds to demands of the geographical and society requirements.
- Closer cooperation with other sections of the Asia-Pacific Region is needed, in organizing the IEEE R8-R10 EastCon 2016 East Russia and Asia-Pacific Joint Conference on Advanced Information, Communication, Computer, Control and HiTech Technologies planned to be held at Vladivostok (Island Russian, FEFU), Irkutsk (Baykal) on 2016, in particular.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Organization of the Joint EMB/COM/C/IT Chapter (Novosibirsk, Health ICT topics). This Chapter will coordinate health informatics, medical telecommunications and medical devices design.

Saudi Arabia (East) Section

Muhammad Ibrahim Al Dhamen

Getting Closer to Industry

- Visits to Industrial Organizations
- Promoting IEEE Membership with Industry Professionals

Students and Young Professionals

- Continuous visit and interaction with the Students encourage and attract them to IEEE Activities.
- A new Team has taken up the leadership of the the Saudi Arabia Young Professionals Group recently.

Section Vitality

- Helping members to process payments using an Officers credit card increases customer satisfaction and the membership retention rate
- Implement programs that would highlight membership benefits.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- New Initiative: The 9th IEEE GCC Conference & Exhibition is being planned for November 2016 in Bahrain.
- Concern: IEEE name used by non-IEEE entities. Saudi Arabia Section has found that two of its original domain names have been hijacked by unscrupulous entities (1. www.ieee-energycon.org 2. www.ieeegcc.org). Can IEEE help to reclaim back these web domains?

Saudi Arabia (West) Section

Mohamed Turki

Getting Closer to Industry

- The section is currently attracting industrial relations (IR) representative from our members.
- New officer will be requested to reflect this sector.

Students and Young Professionals

- In terms of supporting students, the Student Activities Chair at the section, (Ms. Eman Alashwali) had:
 - Informed and updating the student branches about IEEE competitions and activities.
 - Organized Banking & Security lecture at King Abdulaziz University. The speaker was Ms. Rasha Abu Al-Saud, the Vice President and the Head of Business Continuity & Information Security at the National Commercial Bank, Jeddah.
 - Organized and proctored 9 female teams in the IEEEExtreme programming competition which was hosted by the section with support from the sections chair, Dr. Muhammad Alturki for providing space for the students.
 - Conducted meetings/presentations/university visits with academics and student to raise awareness about IEEE and its benefits for students.
- Changes:
 - Conduct annual dinner for all IEEE volunteers.
 - Conduct local student congress.

Section Vitality

- We believe in the importance to establish programs to encourage members to increase interest to participate. Section officers have agreed to increase the number of meetings to achieve this objective. It is important to note that professional members are busy with their respective professions. Therefore, any program where members are invited to participate should be beneficial to their career growth.
- The section will be sponsoring several programs in the near future, as follows:
 - Learning & Technology Program with the Effat University
 - Cloud Computing with the Princess Noura University.
 - International Strategic Planning for Disaster Management forum with Saudi Council of Engineers.
- In addition, the section is currently in negotiation to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Saudi Council of Engineers (SCE).

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

The Western Arabia Section will strive to continuously achieve the level of standard as set-forth by the organization.

Serbia & Montenegro Section

Vera Markovic

Getting Closer to Industry

- The main problem related to this issue is the low level of industry development in Serbia and Montenegro. Nevertheless, IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section carries out some activities in order to make better connections between academia and industry. For instance, we assist in organizing a number of IEEE co-sponsored conferences and workshops which include various meetings and presentations as an opportunity for researchers and engineers from industry, institutes and academia to meet, exchange information and results on their work and share their ideas and experience. Examples: TELFOR conference, TELSIS conference, International IEEE Workshop on Consumer Electronics, etc. There are also a number of common research projects connecting engineers from companies with IEEE members from universities.
- For further improvement of Industry Relations, efforts could be made in following directions:
 - Organization of workshops focused on industry people in order to be informed about global technology trends
 - Fostering academia
 - Commercial industry cooperation through common projects
 - Increase industrial content and presence of industry people at conferences
 - To support student practice/internships in companies
 - To organize events that promote engineering to young people in schools, etc.

Students and Young Professionals

- An excellent example of cooperation of IEEE with student organizations is a joint International Students Projects Conference called IEEEESTEC. This traditional conference is organized every year by IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Student Branch Nis and student organization EESTEC, with the cooperation of IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section, IEEE Electron Devices/Solid-State Circuits Chapter and IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Chapter. The conference is aimed at presenting projects done by students of technical universities.
- As another example, it can be mentioned that this year International IEEE Workshop on Consumer Electronics will have a special focus on talented young professionals, who often have no opportunity to visit big conferences, but the society expects them to grow into leaders of the field.
- In addition, there are awards for best papers submitted by young authors at several other conferences, supported by IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section. Student paper competition for best papers in Student Branches is organized every year. The Section will continue to promote and support both students and young professionals' activities.

Section Vitality

- IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section is visible on all our local and regional events, conferences, meetings of European projects that involve our members, through the work of youth, etc.
- Section website is regularly updated.
- Section, Chapter, Affinity group and Student branch activities are regularly planned, monitored and reported.
- The section and its chapters regularly take part in organization of conferences and other events in corresponding fields.
- The section has established close relation with most of the national organizations (ETRAN, CIGRE and CIRED, YURIT), and student associations (EESTEC).
- In order to improve Section vitality and sustainability, membership recruitment should be a permanent task.
- In addition to conferences, organizing events and meetings of different kind (education, promotion, career issues, partnership with industry, social events, etc) could certainly contribute to Section success.
- The Distinguished Lecturers program should be used to greater extent in the next period as well.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Considering that at our universities/institutes there are still no financial possibilities to provide IEEEEXPLORE service for teachers and researchers, finding solutions to this problem could significantly bring benefits to engineering community and contribute to IEEE membership.
- In the next period IEEE S&M Executive Committee will try to form new chapters: Instrumentation and Measurement, Engineering in Medicine and Biology and Information Theory. The idea is to increase interest for the particular scientific areas and organize activities for members.
- In the forthcoming period, the preparation of Section Jubilee celebration will start. Namely, the IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section celebrates next year the 45th anniversary of its founding (1971).

Slovenia Section

Urban Burnik

Getting Closer to Industry

- For the past years, we have practiced personal contact with outstanding engineers from successful companies. As a result, we've been able to promote the success stories of Slovenian electrical and computer engineers at our annual conference ERK, thus achieving 2 goals: demonstrating the benefits of IEEE community to established professionals and promoting the potentials of engineering career to students and younger professionals. The pool was carefully created from established industry players to propulsive start-up businesses.
- Our membership consists of ca. 30 textpercent members from the industry, which is relatively a good number, however, there is a potential to increase membership by promoting IEEE benefits at a larger scale. So far, we've experienced low response from the industry to local IEEE events.
- To continue with mainstream and enlarge the possible industry cooperation we may target chamber of commerce and be present as IEEE on chambers' special events.
- A communication channel targeting specifically IEEE members from the industry should also be created (LinkedIn, mailing list).

Students and Young Professionals

- Young Professionals have always had good support from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Ljubljana, which also hosts the Slovenian Section headquarters. This year, a successful event has been organised for, a lecture by Tim Baxter on Leadership development for engineers, following by workshop opened exclusively to YP members. Student Branch Ljubljana is extremely active organising social events for members and a broader reach out by professional tutorials, student competitions, lectures and excursions.
- 4 delegates of active volunteer student members have been present at the IEEE R8 Student and Young Professional Congress SYP2014.
- Promotional events are being organised in conjunction with important student days at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering.
- SB Maribor is however less active, which is to be improved by inviting them to joint events.
- Students and Young Professionals should be offered a clearer incentive for joining IEEE, which is also one of our duties as local IEEE representatives.
- For the young professionals support from IEEE like STEP and similar mechanisms is crucial. More awareness of these programs should be made at regional level, as YP officers have only learned about some of the mechanisms by personal discussion with IEEE representatives and colleagues from various sections and chapters.

Section Vitality

- IEEE Slovenia Section maintains a relatively constant number of members throughout recent years. Most members take membership as a commitment to international engineering community, but their presence at IEEE events is low and it seems even the existing members could benefit more from their membership.
- In modern information era, many communication channels are available to foster engineering knowledge and exchange of information, many of them free of charge. IEEE's membership fee for regular members is high compared to an average engineering salary in Slovenia, and there is little visible benefit from being a member on a first sight. There are naturally social and other local events organised by volunteers, which doubtfully justify the membership fee.
- There is a lot of ongoing projects like Collabratech; for the 60 textpercent of academic members in Slovenia such actions are a benefit to them. Members from the Industry can hardly see any benefit of these bonuses and they need strongest support of the engineering community to enhance their presence in local society at a national level. Here, membership in IEEE should become more influential. An additional challenge outside USA is that, despite good formal cooperation, IEEE somehow competes with national engineering societies for members.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- With more than 30 events organised by IEEE Slovenia Section and its chapters in 2014, the presence of IEEE is getting broader recognition in public. IEEE members are being present and actively participate in organisation of technical meetings, symposia and conferences in Slovenia.
- We've been active in organisation of 2 large multi-day events (ERK conference and Seminar) with more than 100 participants each.
- Especially, I would like to emphasise on a successful row of student events; a series of lectures given by IBM fellows. This year, a lecture was given by Aleksandra Mojsilović, who talked about Big Data, Watson Computer and the Trends of the future computers. These events are always extremely well attended.
- The later could be a challenge for IEEE itself, to prepare a series of "distinguished lectures" oriented towards popular science, and to be used to promote engineering among younger population.

South Africa Section

Shaun Kaplan

Getting Closer to Industry

- Initiatives that work well: The section is now able to register events to carry Continuous Professional Development points (CPD). This process was unavailable for some time.
- Representatives from the IEEE-SA visited South Africa in late November 2014. Discussions with Power Energy providers were arranged. Also, there were presentations to businesses from the IT sector. They met with members of academia, industry and government.
- Future trips and webinars are planned.
- Improvements:
 - Aiming to start job and consultant networks to assist our members and provide more value.
 - Build list of contacts in industry.

Students and Young Professionals

- Initiatives that work well: STEP events and the Distinguished Lecturers Programme. The University of Witwatersrand hosted a highly successful, well marketed STEP event.
- Improvements:
 - Distinguished lecturers whose presentations are less specialized and accessible to a wider audience.
 - The section needs foster a stronger connection to its student members and YP and provide more support to the volunteers.

Section Vitality

- Initiative that work well: Support of local conferences.
- Having active OUs.
- Improvements:
 - Increase activity and engagement with members.
 - Increase the visibility of events.
 - There was a marked increase in e-membership fees and this is likely to cause a decline in membership. Reducing the fees or a gradual increase would assist in mitigating the problem.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The section organized a joint distinguished volunteer award with the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE). The first award is to be handed out on the 26 March.
- Elon Musk was selected to receive 2015 IEEE Honorary Membership.
- TISP has been developing and distributing kits for schools to support the electricity component of the curriculum.
- The Western Cape Education Department is now rolling this out further with their own funding.
- Nominated Mark Shuttleworth for Computer Entrepreneur Award.
- Managed World Design Capital Software Design program - focused on some key areas such as Education.

Spain Section

Oscar Bonastre

Getting Closer to Industry

- About industry relations, we have promoted them through awards, special tracks at IEEE conferences, seminars and workshops among others. Every year we recognize those companies that supported IEEE activities with a significant support. More to the point, professionals from industry are represented at our Board of Governors (IEEE Spain Section).
- Other initiatives deal with promoting professional agreements and inviting speakers from industry that they participate at IEEE Conferences. we contacted with researchers (PhD) from industry to attract them as valuable reviewers for papers presented to IEEE conferences.
- Some speakers from the industry and institutions were:Andrès Saborido-CEO Wayra Espaa, Gustavo Vinacua-director BBVA Innovation Centers & Open innovation activities globally;Ana Barreda-Marketing Manager of SociosInversores; Marta Diaz Barrera-Fundadora Talentoscopio; Jorge Gómez-Country Manager, Mind the Bridge Foundation and Startup Europe Partnership; JuanManuel Corchado- Director Parque Científico/Universidad Salamanca and IEEE SMC Spain President; Karel Escobar- Assistant Manager at Tetuan Valley; Verónica Respaldiza López-IBM Ecosystem Development Manager, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Israel; Oscar Cantalejo- Iberdrola Ventures - PERSEO Investment Manager; José Carlos Temprado Morales-CEO of OverXeT and IEEE Spain member; Rodrigo Fdez. Garcia-Co-founder and CEO of Diableco Solutions and IEEE Spain member.
- We have also developed a new program to promote tech-entrepreneurship and a new award devoted to it.

Students and Young Professionals

- As depicted before, we have promoted them through awards also. Every year we recognize the best student branch that performs an active work with a significant impact to the community.
- More to the point, selected students from different branches are represented at our Board of Governors (IEEE Spain Section).
- Other initiatives deal with supporting those activities organized by students and promoting networking among young professionals and well recognized companies at industry.
- As work in progress, we are promoting a set of successful activities in order to be replicated at other universities, i.e., near to the students from different parts of our country.
- We have also developed a new program to promote tech-entrepreneurship and continuing the support of promotion of science and engineering.

Section Vitality

- We can confirm a high value of our section vitality. Each year we celebrate IEEE Day at different venues. As an evidence of elevated success, last edition we attracted more than one hundred participants that come from different places at our country.
- About potential changes in progress, we are preparing continuously high quality videos with open access through internet, i.e., to spread all activities of our section.
- In addition, we promote uninterrupted and active use of social networks, e.g., Facebook, twitter, among others.
- The section has been supporting the organization of conferences and special flag conferences as EUROCON 2015-Salamanca Sept-2015. More details are available online at <http://eurocon2015.usal.es/>

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- We have evidence of special achievements and outstanding activities. That is, we have attracted events that are highly recognized at IEEE community. Next year our section will organize IEEE EUROCON 2015, one of the major IEEE international events.
- As new initiatives, we are evaluating preparation of activities to recognize anniversary of inventions made by IEEE members.
- Supporting the organization of Tech-Entrepreneurial events such as: STARTUP OLÈ (<http://startupole.eu/>), also supported by Region 8 the European Commission-STARTUP EUROPE initiative and several H2020 EU Projects, such as WELCOME, SEP, Startup Scaleup, DIGISTART, EPLUS and MY-WAY, WeHubs.

Sweden Section

Mats Edvinsson

Getting Closer to Industry

- Industry relations works well in active chapters with both academia & industry members, also on the board. Section board Chair and Treasurer from industry
- Repeating annual events and workshops, on hot topics and professional content. Workshops with industry, incl students present papers for awards = institutionalize the event, chapter(s) and IEEE
- cooperation with other industry organizations, outside IEEE
- Jointly arrange activities & meetings with other chapters. Topics & members often cut across chapter borders.
- Events at industry sites - opportunity for company, members, students
- Simplify participation by web-meetings Proactive measures, starting up new Chapters in hot areas - Robotics, Photonics. External visibility, proactively recruit members across industries.
- YP, SB WIE event pipeline aimed at getting closer to industry;
 - Tech CV preparation
 - Tech interview for Software Positions
 - Industry visits
 - Talks with leading professionals.
- However, some chapters/SBs lose steam, struggle to vitalize & re-gain momentum. Similar when enthusiastic individuals leaves. Hence, we welcome support also along the following lines;
 - Experiences and successful initiatives measures from other Sections in R8; what works, what to avoid
 - Regional and parent Chapter support to Chapters in the process of re-vitalizing/restarting, as well as new-starts.
 - Measures increasing relations & linkages between Chapters and Students YP WIE

Students and Young Professionals

- Successful initiatives, including joint workshop with Chapters, YP, WIE, SBs in the vitalization process (below), plan next 3 years.
- KTH one of first European SBs, very international. Conducting Xtreme Competition several years. SB-PES chapter.
- SB Blekinge TH, received Region8 Exemplary Student Branch 2014
- Participation in SB/YP congresses, also Krakow YP Chair, Amir Zahoor won outstanding YP award 2012, R8 SAC committee, the most active YP AG in R8. New Chair - Alberto Lorente Leal brings experience from Spain Section.
- Samarth Deo graduated from MGA VLT program.
- IEEE day celebration, with speaker Margaretha Eriksson, R8Director-Elect, on R8, WiE and professional perspectives.
- Nominated volunteers to Region8 positions: 2 got Region8 YP Exceptional Volunteer Recognition
- Need more IEEE/R8 role in students scientific daily life;
 - Organizing (non)-technical courses, like summer schools/camps.
 - Online blogs for (crazy) ideas discuss, brain storm - students & seniors
 - Online technical free courses
- From IEEE and region: Instead of giving one person several roles, give several people different roles. This avoids over-burdening and gives more recognition
- A good example - the new madC competition; students to address problems with business perspective and product development Sections to more motivate/involve students in IEEE activities like organizing committee for conferences

Section Vitality

Sweden Section re-vitalization process started April 2014, continues 2015:

- Increase IEEE visibility & bring some uniqueness to members, incl attracting new ones: Quarterly hot topics newsletter started 2014q2.
- Improve website updating.
- Direct mailing special events, like Nobel Prize lectures
- Joint workshop - Chapters, YP, WIE, SBs: Future IEEE Sweden development, initiatives and directions next 3 years, increased interaction and sharing
- New Budget & 3-yr-Plan process was implemented to increase focus on long term development; inflow of young members, industry participants to Chapters and Section.
- Measures to improve activity & financial reporting procedures; the closing FY2014 was significantly improved
- SB's YP WIE share a strong eco-system - activities, industry visits in collaboration with Section. Regular activities keep the groups alive.
- Vitalize the Section Board (like co-Treasurer), strengthen ties with YP, SB WiE IEEE/R8 support
- haring good examples what? how? stimulates Sections, Chapters, AGs. Ways to cooperate x-border
- Help volunteers. Many have significant workloads and tight agendas. (industrial in particular?)
- It helps if IEEE requests are functional, tuned and timely. Urgent requests with tight deadlines should be used carefully, and mutually coordinated. If documents are requested, then feedback should rather be within a month, than quarters.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

In 2014 the Sweden Section successfully started to cooperating with universities and the Swedish Nobel Committee, which led to successful IEEE events:

- Prof Michael Levitt (Chemistry 2013) in June: IEEE members invited to university lectures across Sweden. IEEE members invited to a separate tailored session arranged by IEEE with KTH. Then followed by social events, much appreciated.
- Prof Hiroshi Amano (Physics 2014) in December. IEEE members invited to university lectures. Selected IEEE officers participated in Nobel Luncheon
- Pictures and reporting in the new Sweden Newsletter
- Sweden Section has its 50 yr Anniversary in 2015.

Switzerland Section

Andreas Koschak

Getting Closer to Industry

- In contrast to the national societies, the IEEE has no substantial backing from the industry. Most of the companies don't pay for the IEEE memberships of their employees, whereas a much higher participation fee at industry events of national societies such as Electrosuisse are not a problem.
- We have again renewed the contracts with the most important national societies in order to increase our visibility.

Students and Young Professionals

- The Switzerland section actively coaches and financially supports the active student branches at Universities in Switzerland.
- Many of the events held throughout the year are organized or supported by student branches.
- As to the young professionals, we try to find areas where they can be supported. By now, we support some young PhD events.
- It is important that the IEEE shows off its benefits for young professionals and really builds on the good basis of i.e. IEEE TV, which could greatly help young professionals who don't have time to visit many events throughout the year.
- In addition, especially young professionals seem to be upset about the vast number of "broadcast" eMails they're getting from IEEE. Please investigate into reducing that number a bit, otherwise the mails end up in SPAM filters.

Section Vitality

- The Swiss Section is quite active. Last year we founded three new chapters (AES, EDU, IES), each of them had 2 events and we are now using the momentum to generate more activity also in these fields.
- The Section has supported more events than in the years before.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Tunisia Section

Ben Hadj Slama

Getting Closer to Industry

- Realization of seminars, which brings together the future engineers and industrialists
- Present the opportunities that offer IEEE to industrials
- Associate industrialists in the sections activities
- Show the profits of the industrial subscription to the IEEE.
- Invite the engineers of the industrial environment to participate in the activities of the Student Branches.
- IEEE can launch a program (such as the one of the ads at readings) to encourage industrial IEEE members to visit the section and animate seminars and talk about the benefits of IEEE.

Students and Young Professionals

- Activities in our section to support students and young professionals are the following:
 - Proposal of competition and distribution of price.
 - Congress student branches
- To better support students and young professionals: Encourage and support the exchange of students between Sections

Section Vitality

- The Tunisia section must have a legal entity in Tunisia
- The Tunisian currency is not convertible so we must find a solution to facilitate the payment of membership in Tunisia
- The Tunisia Section should organize a Region 8 Conference

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- New Tunisian Chapters
- New student branches
- Organization of the IEEE Tunisia Section Volunteers Congress

Ukraine Section

Ievgen Pichkalov

Getting Closer to Industry

Cooperation between IEEE Ukraine Section and IT company "SoftElegance" on the organization of the IEEEExtreme 2014 in NTUU "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute". The sponsor has provided funding to pay for memberships of students and local events.

Students and Young Professionals

Support activities that stimulate interest in the IEEE:

- International Young Scientists Forum on Applied Physics: <http://www.ysc.org.ua>
- Grants & Foundations Workshop for Students and Young Professionals
- The first IEEE student and YP congress in Ukraine Section

Section Vitality

Fewer people renews membership in connection with the difficult situation with the currency exchange rate (down 3 times the UAH against the USD). In connection with this IEEE Ukraine Section focuses more on the development of membership among undergraduate and graduate students. As well as searching for sponsorship from the IEEE Technical Societies.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Collaboration with National Academy of Sciences: Institute of Electrodynamics, Institute of Gas, Institute of Renewable Energy Sources, Institute of Radio-Physics and Electronics.

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 that 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.

United Kingdom and Ireland Section

Steve Nightingale

Getting Closer to Industry

- Industry Outreach talks to students have been arranged jointly with the Institute of Physics. Industry practitioners have come along to give early evening lectures to young students hosted at a senior college and attended by students from a number of schools.
- Research to Industry (R2I) has become an annual event. Researchers (including many IEEE Students) are given the opportunity to present successful research outcomes to potential industrial routes to market. Following a keynote address in each of four sessions, researchers are given strict templates in which to present the essential aspects of their research project. In addition to the researchers and other academics, the audience includes industry participants who listen to the presentations with a critical ear. R2i usually has an audience of some 100 attendees from various disciplines.

Students and Young Professionals

- There are 27 active Student Branches in the Section including 4 in Northern Ireland and Ireland.
- Plans are underway to establish new branches together with providing mentoring and support from existing established branches.
- A collaboration program is being developed with Young Professionals working towards finding experienced mentors from industry and academia to provide a wider range of contacts to potentially further industrial/research experience opportunities.
- The 4th Student and young Professionals Conference will be held at Manchester University in September 2015.

Section Vitality

- A total of 174 L31s were submitted by the UK & Ireland Section to report activities organized in 2014. This confirms a very healthy level of technical activity.
- Many of the smaller more specialized conferences and colloquia supported by the Section, e.g. ARMMS conference (a conference held twice a year attracting 90-100 registrants) work well when promoted and cosponsored by some of the national engineering and related organizations. This more cooperative approach gives increased mailshot coverage and helps avoid similar competing events between the different organizations.
- It is disappointing how few members appear to be interested in voting for Section Officer positions. A typical response despite repeated email reminders is around 5 percent. Suggestions to improve engagement from the Section membership would be appreciated.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The name of the Section was changed from the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland to the United Kingdom and Ireland in June 2014.
- The Section contributed to a publication in the New Statesman encouraging engineering in the UK entitled: Engineering our Future, which was published in February, 2015. See: <http://www.newstatesman.com/sites/default/files/files/NS\textpercent20Engineering\textpercent20Our\textpercent20Future\textpercent20Supplement\textpercent20Feb\textpercent202015.pdf>
- Several initiatives have been undertaken to improve the Sections relations with National Institutions and Institutes in the UK. Agreement has been reached with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) on cross-advertising and cross-sponsorship by mapping the IEEE Chapters/Societies with the IET Technical Communities. Similar arrangements are being concluded with the Institute of Physics and Engineers Ireland.
- The Section is investigating a process whereby Engineers in the UK can be professionally registered through the IEEE UK and Ireland Section. The Section Chair and Vice Chair have a meeting with the UK Engineering Council on March 5th to discuss the legal, political and administrative issues.
- The UK and Ireland LMAG committee has obtained endorsement from the IEEE Board of Directors for the Blumlein Historic Milestone to commemorate the work of Alan Blumlein on stereo sound. A plaque will be erected in Abbey Road recording studios on April 1st, 2015.

Zambia Section

Bellington Kabwe

Getting Closer to Industry

- The signing of the memorandum of understanding with the Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ) has provided the latitudes in which the IEEE Zambia Section can efficiently and effectively host technical presentation and jointly co-host conferences for their mutual benefit
- The IEEE Zambia Section is actively engaging quasi government institutions and other government ministries that are directly deals in science, Education and technology with the sole purpose of promoting science and engineering.
- Hosting section events has proved to be one of the most effective ways of renewing general membership impetus with the view to encourage them to take active roles in the running of the section
- The section recommends that the region adopt the method of sending volunteers who are experts in various fields to make presentations to upcoming sections like ours than waiting for conferences. This can help in keeping Sections active and up to speed with other sections in the region.

Students and Young Professionals

- The Zambia Section has formally started the process of launching student chapters and affinity groups at the two public Universities
- Sustained and continuous engaging the students and the academia has proved to be more useful and manageable in organizing meetings with the student populous
- GOLD Members are being encouraged to spearhead the spirit of volunteerism at their work places as a way of keeping our members active in achieving IEEE mission and goals
- Region 8 should adopt a deliberate policy of sponsoring one outreach every two years with a fixed number as a way of encouraging local networking among members of a particular section. During this period general membership can be subjected to various procedures like how to get rewards, forming of affinity groups, engaging corporate world and emphasizing the role of students in a section.

Section Vitality

- The general membership of Zambia Section is encouraged to renew and introduce new members to the section especially from the Local institution EIZ. This institution has a well established structures and have worked well with IEEE Zambia on a number of conferences
- The section has adopted the method of inviting senior Volunteers from outside the section to come and make presentations in conjunction with the local executive
- "MEET THE VOLUNTEER". With this approach the section normally invite any expert from industry and academia as long as there are members of IEEE to share their experience with the general membership /student body
- The section shall intensify the award giving and certificate of appreciation to individual and institution that have supported the activities of the section in Zambia.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Hosting of Section activities by Standard Association of IEEE in Zambia
- Hosting of Africon 2011 in Livingstone City
- Hosting of Pan African Conference on Telecommunications PACT 2013 in Lusaka
- Hosting of Education Partnership in Africa EPA.

V. Sub-Sections

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Algeria Sub-Section

Amar Tilmatine

Getting Closer to Industry

- As the industrial activities in our country are not very developed, there is a significant lack with Industry Relations. However, we are looking forward to improve these relations.
- The changes that would be required by IEEE Sub-Section is to improve Industry Relations by organizing meeting with Industry. However, the problem is that our sub-section does not have budget for this.

Students and Young Professionals

- Several conferences in electrical engineering occur in our subsection, which are sponsored by the sub-section.
- It will be better if the IEEE can reduce the membership fee for our students. We have many young researchers, which want to join the IEEE but their only one problem is that they haven't credit card/foreign currency account and they can not pay in their local currency. Opening a bank account for our subsection in the USA as sub-account of the IEEE may be a good solution.

Section Vitality

The activities that work well is the number of conferences organized in electrical engineering. The IEEE committee has proposed to the organizers to offer membership for the best PhD papers. This procedure has allowed to increase the number of IEEE members.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Subsection committee is doing its best to improve the number of members. It's not easy to convince new members to join IEEE. The number of sub-section members since its creation varies always between 150 and 250 members, and this encourages us to file a petition for elevation to a section. We believe that the transition to a section will help further the development of IEEE activities in Algeria, and I would like the R8 takes this into consideration and will help us become a section.

Mauritius Sub-Section

Vinaye Armoogum

Getting Closer to Industry

Organize forums via Workshops and Seminar in areas such ICT, Entrepreneurship

Students and Young Professionals

Organize some students competition across universities

Section Vitality

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

In year 2014, we did not have any activities. Our main aim instead was to get the subsection registered legally by the Mauritian laws. We eventually succeeded to do so.

Palestine Sub-Section

Sameer Khader

Getting Closer to Industry

- Palestinian Sub-Section will conduct several activities and events related to local industry aiming at establishing and strengthening the existed links which in turn leads to more and integration and scientific development.
- These activities are generally should focus on the majority of factories' owners and companies in general. The integration of students with the industry enhances the communications and collaboration between all parties throughout the following activities following activities:
 - Encouraging students to visit factories and industrial companies.
 - Hold specialized scientific days in collaboration with industrial communities and student Branches ,so all companies and factories that operate in a particular specific area to come and give students brief description about the nature of their work; and to propose ideas that can be served as graduate project.
 - Working to increase the number of IEEE members involved in the industrial field and attach them to the Palestinian subsection committee.
 - Establishing memorandum of understanding with the local industry aiming at increase the technical and financial support for subsection activities and students branches and their activities.

Students and Young Professionals

- Palestinian Sub-Section has many activities, events and plans for the support of students and Young Professionals, where several activities should be conducted during the coming period as follow:
 - Hold a training workshops for student branches.
 - Looking for funding of for activities and events for each branches related to the sub-section.
 - Follow-up student branches in the implementation of their plans in cooperation with supervisors and universities and to provide all necessary.
 - Encourage and support the graduates and members of the Young Professionals to former their body (structure).
- The following our requirements from R8:
 - Receiving annual financial support which is allocated for the subsections and students s barnacles.
 - Find a mechanism to work for support the central events of the student branches, especially student congress.
 - Support organizing national and international conferences in the field related to IEEE in Palestine.
 - Allocate prizes and awards for young engineers and researchers in hot to the local community fields.
 - Support funding staff and students visits to anther regions.

Section Vitality

Assuring long term continuity of the sub sections requires the following action and plans:

- Keeping in touch with all student branches on subsection to make sure that their activities and services are conducted on time.
- keeping in touch with all subsection members to make sure that our activities fulfill their needs and satisfaction.
- Signing MOUs and mutual agreements with purpose help support the support the subsection sustainability.
- Increasing the number of subsection active members and to help them in integration process with our subsection objectives.
- Furthermore encourage them to implement their ideas and suggestions as well as to work for holding annual meetings and elections.

Implementing that requires significant support from R8 as follows: Find a solution for funding of our subsection and our students branches.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

The following are some for achievements:

- Raising the number of members and students over a short period of time.
- Establishing stable network with a number of institutions, companies and associations, and trade unions.
- Increasing the number of IEEE Senior Members from one to five members, and efforts are underway to increase the number.
- Conducting awareness and propaganda about the importance of IEEE at overall Palestinian universities and local community .

Tanzania Sub-Section

Zaipuna Yonah

Getting Closer to Industry

- On Fostering Industrial Relations:
 - Seminars, Workshops, Conferences and Industrial Site Visits (by members IEEE leadership);
 - Out of School continuing/professional Training - for engineers, Teachers, Soft skills for young graduate engineers and technologists;
 - Research activities focused on solving industrial problems
 - Introduce IEEE Certifications - e.g. for Engineers and Teachers on specialised STEM training.
 - Joint participation on CSR projects in Community - as policy implementer or/and provider of technical knowledge.
 - Industrial Lectures by Industry to the (IEEE) Engineering Community;
- On Aligning IEEE to improve Industry Relations:
 - IEEE To consider supporting Awareness campaigns - in print and other electronic means; Need to find a way to finance such a Campaign (even if it is volunteering by actors).
 - Mandate Volunteerism as a necessary qualification to enjoy benefits from joining IEEE Tanzania. (Tricky!) Industry to participate in delivering such benefits going publicity in return. We have started an Initiative: Pioneer Sponsors of IEEE Tanzania Training. A marketing package is needed to publicise such industry relations.
 - Launch IEEE Awards targeting industry and individual professionals.

Students and Young Professionals

- On Supporting Students and Young Professionals:
 - Out of School continuing/professional Training - for engineers, Teachers, Soft skills for young graduate engineers and technologists;
 - Certification to young professionals after acquiring special skills/training;
 - Sponsorship of IEEE student members in their studies; to attend Seminars, Workshops, Conferences and Industrial Site Visits;
 - Participation in technical competitions: by paper writing, community projects, etc.
 - Form Student Chapters and aggressively introduce the Mentorship program;
- On Aligning IEEE to support students and Young Professionals:
 - Encourage more Volunteers to come forward to act as Mentors to the young professionals;
 - Encourage STEM students to join the IEEE through Visits and Industry lectures.

Section Vitality

- Sustainability of Sub-Section:
 - IEEE Tanzania Training Initiative to the Engineering Community. This will also be a revenue generator
 - Launch the IEEE Tanzania Teacher In Service Program (TISP). This will bring in members from the Teaching profession to join the IEEE.
- On improving Section Vitality and Sustainability:
 - Better Upgrade Subsection to Full Section; Exercise of completing the petition in Progress;
 - Permanent Office needed - require guaranteed income to support the office;
 - Recruit more volunteers - Awareness needed for professionals to see value in joining the IEEE.
 - Organize more events: Seminars, workshops, Conferences, Industrial Lectures, etc.
 - IEEE Region 8 to issue letters to Pioneer Sponsors of IEEE Tanzania - as a way to cement the Industry relationships so far established.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Commenced an IEEE Tanzania Training Initiative to the Engineering Community. This will be a revenue generator - recognized/accredited by the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) of Tanzania; Course Development Partner: Applied Engineering & ByteWorks (T) Limited. So far 8 courses developed and accredited by ERB.
- Finalising to Launch the IEEE Tanzania Teacher In Service Program (TISP) - This will bring in members from the Teaching profession to join the IEEE.
- Career Guidance program launched for students and young professionals.
- Number of Members has increased to over 150. The challenge is to make sure they are active members. Our plan is to reach 800 members by the end of 2016.

VI. Appendix

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Revision to IEEE Region 8 Operations Manual

Marko Delimar

ACTION

R8-01

TO: IEEE Region 8 Committee August 2014
FROM: Marko Delimar, Past Director
SUBJECT: Revision to IEEE Region 8 Operations Manual

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Region 8 Operations Manual is a "living document" which describes the traditions, customs, practices and policies of the Region 8 Committee, and supplements the information in the MGA Operations Manual and the R8 Bylaws. Revisions to this document must be approved by the Region 8 Committee, by the procedure described in the R8 Bylaws (R8-2.3.1 operations manual revisions). Two changes are proposed in this revision. One updates the name "Graduates Of the Last Decade" program to "Young Professionals" program. The other removes a member grade requirement from the position of the IEEE Region 8 Awards and Recognition Subcommittee Chair. Member grade constraints should be noted in the IEEE Bylaws (I-105. Privileges). These revisions were discussed and supported by IEEE Region 8 Operating Committee and IEEE Region 8 Nominations and Appointments Subcommittee.

PROPOSED ACTION

Resolved that revisions IEEE Region 8 Operations Manual, in the form presented in attachment, shall be, and are hereby, approved.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

PROS and CONS

Pros:

- name update of the Young Professionals program
- removal of the members grade requirement inconsistent with IEEE Bylaws (I-105. Privileges)
- fewer constrains in selecting the IEEE Region 8 Awards and Recognition Subcommittee Chair

Cons:

- None

IMPLEMENTATION

Effective immediately

HISTELCON HISTORY of ELECTROTECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE**Invitation**

HISTELCON HISTORY of ELECTROTECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE is a flagship Conference of IEEE Region 8 and IEEE History Center, and is planned to be shared in the future by IEEE Tokyo Section and more IEEE Regions.

HISTELCON 2015 is the 4th in the series (after HISTELCON 2008 in Paris, HISTELCON 2010 in Madrid and HISTELCON 2012 in Pavia). It is held in conjunction with ICOHTEC (International Committee on History of Technology) 42th Symposium, and with the 10th Historical Conference of IEEE History Committee and Center.

Conference Theme

HISTELCON 2015 is designed to explore the phenomenon of "High Technologies" at various historical epochs from multiple historical and contemporary perspectives. Recognized as a major force in the modern world, Hi-Tech attracts the attention of experts from many fields. This joint Conference will allow interaction of historians and sociologists of technology and science, with practicing engineers, scientists and technical experts, reflecting their experience and discipline. It aims to create a network between researchers and practitioners from Academia and Industry that encourage interdisciplinary activities.

The main theme of "History of High-Technologies and their Socio-Cultural contexts" will include, but not be restricted, to the following subjects:

- Origins and early developments of High-Technologies
- The Cultural/Social/Economical Drivers for the development of High-Technologies.
- The impact of High-Technologies on Culture/Society/Economics.
- Governmental Policies to foster High-Technologies in different cultures/societies.

Program

The Technical program will include over 100 papers as well as Invited lectures and presentations.

The Social program will include a Reception, a Tour to a High-Tech site, a Jazz Concert and Gala Dinner.

A special session will be devoted to a Homage to Israel High-Tech Founders in presence of Past IEEE President, IEEE Region 8 Director, IEEE History Committee and Center Chairs, and IEEE Israel Chair.

Travel and Accommodation

Ben-Gurion (TLV) airport, 20 minutes from Tel-Aviv, is served by many regular and low-cost companies. Cost from main European cities is from \$350 and lower, due to the new "open skies" policies.

Tel-Aviv University (TAU) will host the conference. The university is situated in northern Tel-Aviv and is easily reached by public transportation from all parts of the city, 20-30 minutes ride on the average.

Registration fees are as low as 190 Euro for Members and 100 Euro for Students and Life Members. Accommodation will be provided at various Tel-Aviv Hotels as well as at Tel-Aviv University dormitories.

All information is available at the Conference web-site: <http://icohtec-histelcon.tau.ac.il>

Important Dates

- Preliminary program - 15 March 2015
- Advance registration deadline - 15 June 2015
- Final program - 30 June 2015

All Invited!

ΤΕΛΟΣ