

Women in Engineering Coordinator

Simay Akar

Goals

R8 WIE Team is targeting more interaction between WIE Affinity Groups in R8. We are creating communication platforms and projects for the affinity group members and officers. These activities enable them to get involved actively, share their knowledge and show their activities to each other.

Status and Past Contributions

- Monthly WIE coordinator and advisors conference calls
- Teleconference with Affinity groups in every two months
- Marketing activities to increase footprint of R8 WIE projects and WIE affinity group events
- Clementina Saduwa Award 2016 preparation
- Support to formation of WIE AG and SB WIE AG
- Student Branch and Young Professional Congresses WIE activities
 - IEEE Central European Student and Young Professionals Congress in Zagreb, Croatia, May 8-10, 2015;
 - IEEE Middle East Student Branch Congress; Amman, August 4-7, 2015
- Region 8 WIE was represented at the IEEE WIE-ILC - International Leadership Conference, in San Jose, USA, April 23-25, 2015 and MGA WIE Committee Face to Face Meeting
- Region 8 WIE was represented in other regional congresses to increase cooperation, communication and interaction. Region 10 Student Young Professionals and Women in Engineering
- Congress 2015 July Colombo Sri Lanka
- WIE Coffee Talks projects launched and first events organized by WIE affinity groups
- WIE Marketing strategy was launched during affinity group teleconference and we start sharing and giving more public visibility to all the activities of R8 WIE groups

Outlook

- 1) Getting Closer to Industry: we are planning to increase number of webinars and hosting industry representatives in monthly webinars, encouraging WIE AG's to organize WIE Coffee Talks and invite industry representatives
- 2) Section Vitality: We will keep encouraging AGs to collaborate with women NGO's and organize joint activities for section's members; teleconference with WIE representatives and they will present and promote their activities during these calls. We will give them more visibility
- 3) 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
- 4) Organizing events and AG activities: We have already launched our joint projects and have the first outcomes. We will encourage and motivate more for sustainability of these events. We will define and monitor measurable 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. We have approached Society Representatives during MGA WIE Committee face to face meeting to point their R8 WIE representatives for the WIE team 2016
- 5) WIE membership development: support training for WIE Volunteers; organize round tables and training within Regional events as conferences, cross-section Student and YP congresses etc.
- 6) We have asked our Section Affinity Groups to take initiatives to organize WIE Networking events and sessions in their section. We will activate them to take role for these conferences.

Points of concern

- Need for a separate WIE activities budget in 2016
- Introducing new awards for Region 8 WIE members, to avoid unbalanced competing for the same award by Senior and Student Members