

Egypt Section

Ahmed Darwish

Getting Closer to Industry

- 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, ...
- This year we started a daughter event in southern of Egypt which attracted over a 1000 attendees. The industry found it an excellent opportunity to explore a region that is under represented in their coverage.
- The 14th annual event is scheduled first week of September. It is labeled challenges = Opportunities. Last year almost 170 representatives from Industry joined. This year even more concentration is dedicated to active participation not just visiting and head hunting good graduates. We are slowly rolling out an image change campaign that IEEE is not only for academia. IEEE is bringing academia and industry closer to each other.
- We added several new initiatives with smaller events (200-300 attendees) all over Egypt sponsored by industry, telecom 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 and 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). So in our section (may be) we suffer the opposite effect of other sections. We are not in short of Students or YP activities. We now have a frame agreement with several sponsors to support these events.
- We are experiencing healthy growth in student branches (we are now over 30). Most student branches have an annual student day that is composed of local competitions, invited 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, but they unfortunately don't 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.
- Most of the YP/student activities are very vibrant. Some of the chapters are doing very well. We need to enhance our attendance and participation for member activities.

Section Vitality

- We successfully reached several frame agreements with industry to sponsor IEEE activities in Egypt. Now we have a flexible model that we are trying to expand. This is not only securing funding for the events and activities but is bringing the industry closer to IEEE. If they are willing to fund, then they can
 - see the benefit and
 - are actively involved in the preparation.
- I think a good idea that is worth investigation is enterprise membership. IEEE databases offer special flat rates to university libraries. We should be able to do the same for company membership that includes an umbrella membership for all employees. We could probably think of a company fee (depending on its size) plus small membership fee for each member who wants extra features.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Egypt section is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2015 (the second oldest in Region 8). We have a line of activities and events coming up in September.