

Lebanon Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

- We had a retreat in the section to discuss this issue among others. We got the following recommendations which we are following up on:
 - Establish an MoU with Order of Engineers and Architects and the Association of Lebanese Industrialists
 - Organize a committee to visit industries and explain the benefits of IEEE standards
 - Student competition based on industry-driven ideas
 - Build a link between industry and IEEE to promote jobs
 - Field trips of IEEE members to industries
 - Advertise certification from IEEE
- We had an initial meeting with the Order of Engineers and Architects in Lebanon and there is interest in working on a common MoU.

Students and Young Professionals

Recommendations we are working on:

- Promote IEEE at universities at the beginning of every academic year
- Bring members from Industry to promote IEEE
- IEEE student branches should help students find jobs or internships, for example keep a list of companies that hire
- Find sponsors which give discounts to IEEE members, which can be listed in a special branch card.
- Make events, like a Gala dinner for IEEE members in Lebanon.
- We are working on securing local discounts for members
- 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

- What helps drive membership is local student branches. They are the main source of new members in Lebanon. The main challenge we face is that most graduates leave Lebanon and thus our retention suffers and those that remain do not see the value of maintaining membership.
- We have worked on establishing several new student branches and are in the process of establishing a new joint society chapter.
- What works for professional /academic members is conferences. We are planning a regional conference for 2016.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

We are approaching our 10 year anniversary.