

South Africa Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

- Improved communication with our section members, many of whom are in industry.
- Increased registration of events for CPD points.
- Events related to standards implementation and development work well.
- Currently planning an IEEE-SA visit to 3 cities from the 7th to 9th October. The previous visit in November last year to Johannesburg and Pretoria was well received. This year Cape Town has been added to the list of cities being visited, with full schedules arranged for each city.
- IEEE PES is part of the joint academia/industry workings at UKZN in Durban related to smart grid.
- The section is still working on job and consultant networks and related resources.

Students and Young Professionals

- Two EPICS in IEEE projects have been funded in the section this year.
- The SKA is engaging with students at the UCT SB as a trial run to see how national SB engagement could work.
- Distinguished lecturer visits and STEP events work well in the section.
- There is a need to improve communication with the student branches.

Section Vitality

- Created section list-serv mailing list to facilitate email communication in the section.
- Newsletters with section information, upcoming events, job listings, etc. have received positive feedback.
- Started an ongoing series of evening talks - IEEE Community talks - to encourage and improve the sense of community within the section. Three events have been hosted to date with the last event hosted by SKA South Africa with a presentation by Prof. Justin Jonas, associate director: science and engineering for the SKA.
- The section has been working hard to make events more visible to our members, as well as sharing invites with the SAIEE - the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers.
- Increased interaction with SAIEE, e.g. IEEE PES attends monthly joint meetings with SAIEE Power and Energy Section; emphasis is on industrial visits, publications, lectures, tutorials and CPD. This effort is being extended to all the SAIEE Sections and Centers across South Africa.
- Support of local conferences and hosting international conferences are initiatives that work well.
- There is still the need to increase the number of events held across the country and improve the communication of these events.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Handed over first IEEE-SAIEE Joint Distinguished volunteer award to Prof. David Davidson at an awards event hosted at UCT. The event was well attended by IEEE, SAIEE, industry and academia.
- Hosted IEEE president and CEO, Howard Michel. This included a visit to the South African National Space Agency's (SANSA) space weather center and engaging with students and researchers.
- Continuation of the TISP program to provide schools with electronics kits. Many learners have never had the chance to see and use the electronic components that they are taught about. This program is expanding into the Gauteng province. Further funding is required.
- In year 2005, IEEE PES SA held a successful international conference with exposition and tutorial in Durban, South Africa. This was repeated in 2007 and 2012 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The intent is to make Power Africa a regular, annual event for all of Africa. An effort launched for 2015 for Tunis, Tunisia was canceled due to security concerns. New plans are being developed to host the meeting in 2016; a possible site is South Africa. Failing 2016, South Africa will plan for 2017 or 2018.