

Republic of Macedonia Section

Ljupco Karadzinov

Getting Closer to Industry

- The problem with low number of members from industry has not been changed. Unlike the case with other Sections, vast majority of our members are from the academia. Our industry does not have much research and development centers, and membership from industry is constantly low.
- To promote Section activities and attract members from industry to the technical and social activities, the Section Facebook page (www.facebook.com/IEEE-Republic-of-Macedonia-Section-672394746168057) is constantly updated with the forthcoming activities and all interested colleagues are invited to join regardless they are members or not yet. The page now has 720 'likes', meaning that the same number of colleagues are informed with every post about new Section activity.

Students and Young Professionals

- Four teams with 10 student members participated in the IEEEExtreme 9.0 programming competition on 24 October 2015. They have been very successful with the overall rankings 38-th, 39-th, 79-th and 1141-st place out of 2,317 teams worldwide. Photos from the competition have been posted to the Section Facebook page which contributed to the higher student membership recruitment in November and December (41 student members).
- Special Section committee selected a paper for the IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2016.
- ComSoc Macedonia Student Achievement Award has been awarded for the fourth consecutive year, this time to Miss Ivana Nikoloska, M.Sc. student at the Saints Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje for her research work and published papers in IEEE Signal Processing Letters and conferences ETAI 2015, EAI Faboulos 2015 and IEEE TELSIS 2015.
- Elections for new student branch officers have been carried in December 2015 following the nomination and petition periods. The new Chair is Mr. Georgi Kosotv and the new Vice-Chair is Miss Elena Drakulevska.
- Miss Maja Celeska, the past Student Branch Chair, is appointed as a new coordinator for the Young Professional Affinity Group and took the task to finalize its formation process and approval from the IEEE.

Section Vitality

- The Section has organized new Section and Chapters Chairs elections in December, following the nomination and petition periods in October and November. All chairs who have been serving on the same position for 4 years have been succeeded with new colleagues who have not been holding an office so far. New elected officers have been reported in vTools.
- The Section Annual Gathering has been held on 11 Feb 2016 in Skopje. The Section and Chapter Chairs reported about past year activities and theirs plans for 2016. New elected officers have been announced. Members present at the gathering were invited to self nominate for appointed voluntary officers/coordinator positions for the next two year mandate: membership development, awards and recognition, professional activities, industry relations, education activities and women in engineering.
- After the meeting a social event - Annual Dinner has been held where a more informal discussion took place with lot of ideas about future activities.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The Section has succeeded in its bid to organize one of the Region 8 flagship conferences, the IEEE EUROCON 2017. After consultations with colleagues from academia and industry it was decided that the best date for the conference is 6-9 July 2017, and the venue hotel to be Hotel Complex Metropol, Ohrid, Macedonia. The conference web page is under construction and the first call for paper is to be published by the end of Feb 2016.
- The Section co-sponsored the following conferences:
 - 12-th International conference for electronics, telecommunications, automation and informatics - ETAI 2015, Ohrid, 24-26 Sep 2015;
 - 7-th Conference ICT Innovations, Ohrid, 01-04 Oct 2015;
 - 3-rd Student Conference "Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development", Skopje 19-21 Nov 2015.
- Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Simon Deleonibus, IEEE Fellow, gave the lecture "More Moore and More than Moore Working on 3D" on 23 Sep 2015 in Skopje in organization of the ED15/IM09/SSC37 joint chapter.