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 781 'likes', meaning that the same number of colleagues are informed with every post about new Section activity.

Students and Young Professionals

- Our Section has organized or supported several competitions and rewards for IEEE student members:
    1) Student competition RoboMak2016 with 80 participants (30 student members from the near region), Skopje, 7- 13 March 2016.
    2) Our student team IEEE Fantastic Four (Ivona Ristova, Antonio Filiposki, Mimi Prochkova and Goce Simonovski), won the National Competition EBEC Macedonia 2016. They represented Republic of Macedonia on the Regional Competition, help in Podgorica, Montenegro.
    3) ComSoc Macedonia Student Achievement Award for 2016 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 TELSIKS 2015.
    4) The Section will again promote end encourage student members to take part in the forthcoming IEEEXtreme 10.0 to be held on 22 October 2016. Last year the four teams were very successful with the overall rankings 38-th, 39-th, 79-th and 1141-st place. This competition contributed significantly in the increase of the our student members number.

Section Vitality

- Section vitality is closely connected with motivated volunteer and involvement of members in Section and chapters activities. Our Section holds regular Executive Committee meetings where past and future activities are discussed and chairs from less active chapter can copy best practices from others.
- We plan to organize a social event (barbecue party) for the IEEE Day where all members will be invited and have opportunity to meet and network with others from academia or industry.
- At the Annual General Meeting we introduced the IEEE Member Loyalty Program for members having active membership from 5 to 30 years. Instead of using the loyalty pins, for the same expanse we prepared gifts (business card holder, coffee mug, portable battery charger) with printed IEEE logo and years of active membership.
- Section Facebook page is regularly updated with information about future activities.
- The Section has appointed Mr. Slavco Pejovski as a new Educational Activities officer and he has been reported in the Section roster.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The Section is organizing one of the Region 8 flagship conferences, the IEEE EUROCON 2017, to be held 6-9 July 2017 in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia. All the Section Executive Committee members are actively involved in its organization, the conference web page is fully functional and the invited keynote lecturers and special thematic areas are approved and announced.
- The Section is also co-sponsoring the following conferences:
    1) 13-th International Conference on Informatics and Information Technologies, Bitola, 22-24 Apr 2016.
    2) 8-th Conference ICT Innovations, Ohrid, 05-07 Sep 2016;
    3) 13-the International conference for electronics, telecommunications, automation and informatics - ETAI 2016, Struga, 22-24 Sep 2016.
- The Information Society Chapter organized a Shannon Centennial Event with a financial support from its Society on 9 Apr 2016.