

Turkey Section

Murat Uysal

Getting Closer to Industry

After the newly elected officials took over in April 2016, we assigned several coordinators for various tasks. One of these is Industry Relations Coordinator. This coordinator mainly acts as a liaison between industry and the Section. Her responsibilities include leading fundraising activities for the Section, helping the Membership Development Coordinator increase the number of IEEE members from industry and helping the Professional Development and Educational Activities Coordinator identify speakers/instructors from the industry. We expect that such a coordinator will have a significant role in fostering industry relations.

Students and Young Professionals

IEEE Turkey Student branches are in general very active. Students eagerly participate in IEEE activities and meetings to expand their perspectives in their careers. Most Turkish universities have IEEE student branches. We plan to encourage the other universities with relevant programs to open student branches this year. One of the complaints that we received from the students in previous years was the lack of guidance from the Section. This year, we assigned a Student Activities Coordinator and two Associate Coordinators. They mainly act as an interface between the executive committee and student branches. They serve as a consultant/guide to student branches, attend student branch meetings, congresses, and other related activities as well as help the establishment of new student branches. We believe that such a professional guidance will further increase the number and quality of student activities.

Our Section considers the Young Professionals Affinity Group as a key to continue the commitments of IEEE student volunteers after their graduation. To re-activate this Affinity Group, we plan to hold a new election soon. After the election, we expect to see more activities from their side under the new management.

Section Vitality

After a long transition period (due to local regulations), the newly elected officials took over the management in April 2016. One of our main objectives is to revamp IEEE Turkey and position it as one of the most active chapters within Region 8. Within the IEEE Turkey Section, we have 14 active Chapters. These are AES, AP, C, CAS, CIS, COM, EMB, GRS, PE, PHO, SP, and TEM Chapters, along with the AP/ED/MTT/EMC Joint Chapter and Young Professionals Affinity Group. Only three of these chapters had carried out their elections in the last 24 months. The first action taken by our section was to invite chairpersons of the remaining 11 chapters to call for nominations for new elections. The nomination process has been successfully started in a number of them, with one chapter already administering an election via VTools. Once the new chapter chairs are determined, the next goal is to make sure the reporting is timely and properly done throughout chapters. One other goal is to encourage forming of new chapters, since, based on our membership data, we seem to have enough members for 8 more chapters to be formed.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

We launched a new website that serves as the front face of IEEE Turkey Section (<http://sites.ieee.org/turkey>). This includes information on elected officials, executive committee and chapters. We also use the website to make announcements and share recent news about our activities.