

# **IEEE Africa Area Activities**

**presented by  
Chair, Africa Area  
Prof. Gloria Chukwudebe  
At Region 8 Meeting, Portugal**

# Outline

- Background
- What we have done so far
  - ✓ Inaugural Meeting using Skype
  - ✓ Digital Africa conference in Nigeria (Non IEEE)
  - ✓ Meetings at PES Conference in Zambia
  - ✓ Meetings in South Africa
  - ✓ Other Activities
- Challenges
- Increasing IEEE Activities in Africa
- Q & A

# Background

- Over the last 8 years, there has been a consistent internal discussion to increase IEEE activities in Africa.
- IEEE Ad Hoc Committees on Activities in Africa (AHCAA) appointed by IEEE Presidents.
- In 2013, IEEE conducted two Presidential delegations to Africa to develop a better understanding.
- The 2015 IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Africa was most fruitful.
  - develop a roadmap of programs, initiatives, etc
  - suggested Africa Area and Chair to bring the African Sections closer for better networking and cooperation.
- IEEE Region 8 approved Africa Area Chair in March 2016

# Expectations of the Africa Area:

- **Support** and provide guidance to the members on how to use IEEE's tools, products and network to enhance the engineering in Africa.
- Work to further **engage IEEE's members**.
- **Coordinate IEEE partnerships** with regional ministries, industry, and NGOs to enhance the engineering capacity on the ground.
- **Provide a common voice** for IEEE on the continent and provide an initial point of contact to IEEE.
- Provide support for the African volunteers to unite, talk about and **coordinate future activities**, as well as share knowledge.
- **Provide volunteer development training** to grow IEEE's presence in Africa to benefit all volunteers.

# Africa Area

## Primary purpose

- To provide a centralized coordinating unit for IEEE activities in Africa.

## Finances

- Work in Progress ? Budget?

## Committee members

- Gloria Chukwudebe- Nigeria
- Ahmed Darwish - Egypt
- Shaun Kaplan- South Africa
- Habib M. Kammoun -Tunisia  
Section
- Bellington C Kabwe – Zambia

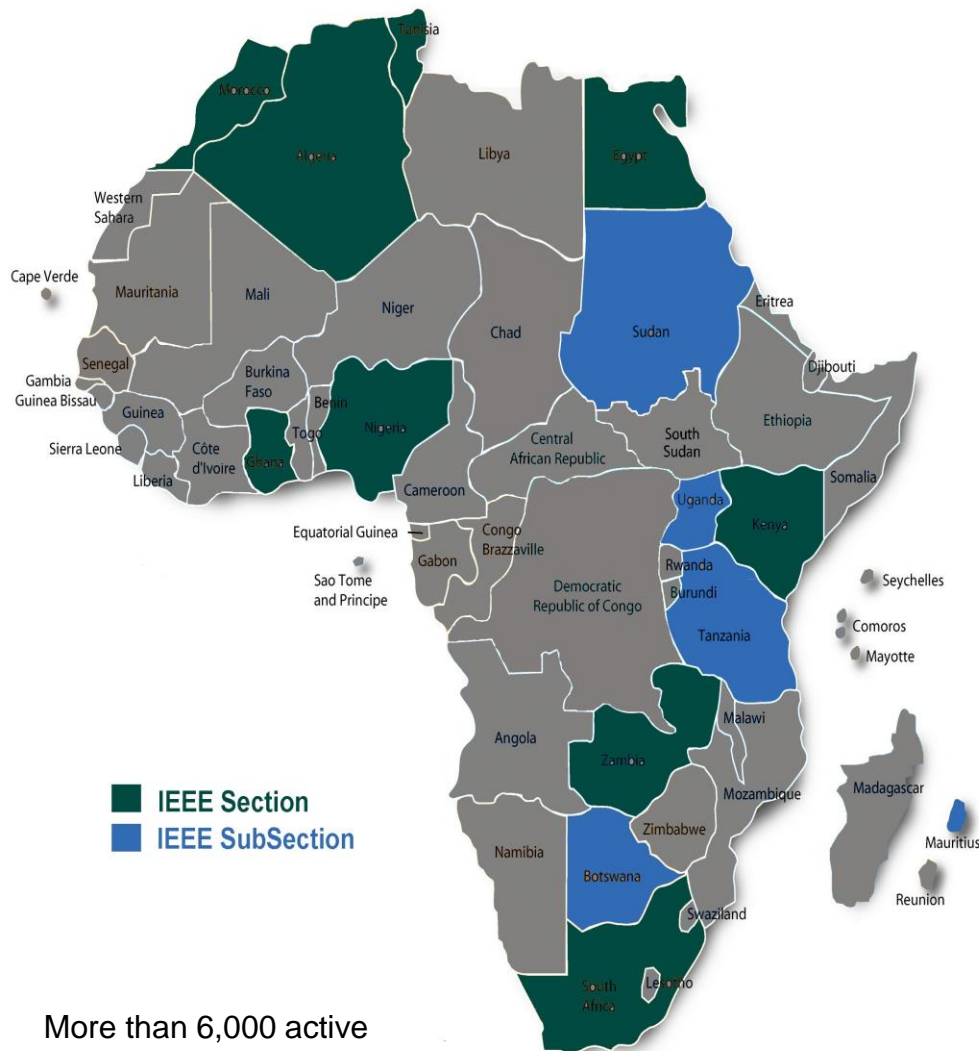
## Sections

1. Algeria
2. Egypt
3. Morocco
4. South Africa
5. Ghana
6. Kenya
7. Nigeria
8. Tunisia
9. Zambia

## Subsections

1. Alexandria
2. Botswana
3. Sudan
4. Tanzania
5. Uganda
6. Mauritius

## Countries in Green- Sections In blue- IEEE SubSections



More than 6,000 active members across the continent's 54 countries.

## Countries **without** IEEE Sections- Member statistics

	Countries	Number of Members
1	Angola	10
2	Benin	7
3	Burkina Faso	3
4	Cameroon	10
5	Cape Verde	1
6	Congo	6
7	COTE D IVOIRE	7
8	ETHIOPIA	11
9	GABON	0
10	GAMBIA	6
11	LESOTHO	5
12	LIBERIA	1
13	LIBYA	14
14	MADAGASCAR	9
15	MALAWI	9
16	MALI	3
17	MAURITANIA	0
18	MOZAMBIQUE	5
19	NAMIBIA	21
20	NIGER	1
21	RWANDA	13
22	SENEGAL	43
23	SIERRA LEONE	3
24	Togo	2
25	ZIMBABWE	35
	<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>

# Inaugural Meeting using Skype

## Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Terms of Reference.
- Suggestions on Feasible Activities
- South Africa Trip and Meeting with IEEE President.

## Discussions

### Where we want to be?

- Education
- Poverty level
- Membership drive
- More African Countries

## Activities- Low hanging Fruits?

- Introduce Section Competition
- Encourage Paper Contest for students
- Activities help to retain members and recruit new ones.
- TISP.
- Section Vitality List.
- Training Workshops.
- Use of Vtools.
- Collaboration with national associations, institutions and industry, and to establish partnerships in the focus areas of the Committee.

# Digital Africa Conference in Abuja, Nigeria

- Organised by one of Bank CEOs under his NGO to motivate innovation and sponsor young entrepreneurs.
- I was contacted because he invited two **IEEE persons from Canada, Andy Chen** and **Stephen Ibaraki**.
- **Informal partnership with Digital Africa organizer**
- secured free attendance for IEEE students and YPs who had products to exhibit.
- Organised a IEEE **Section Strategy Meeting** and **Volunteer Training Workshop** for Exco and then a **Section Meeting** where Andy and Chen made presentations and networked with members.





# Meetings at PES Conference in Zambia

- Attended PES Conference in Zambia, made a presentation
- Also participated in Women in Power mentoring session.
- Meeting with Zambian Section Volunteers present at Livingstone.
  - Section vitality check list and Student resources list were sent to Zambia Secretary.
- Africa Area Committee meeting (Habib Kammoun).
  - Decision was taken to request African Sections to send slides of their activities and challenges.
- Informal Meeting with other Africans and visited Victoria Falls.



## AFRICA AREA MEETING IN CAPE TOWN- 21- 22 JULY 2016

### ■ Meeting with the President

### ■ Meeting Attendance

- IEEE President- Barry Shoop, Gloria Chukwudebe- Nigeria, Shaun Kaplan- South Africa, Habib M. Kammoun -Tunisia Section, Bellington C Kabwe – Zambia.
- Prof Nico Beute- south Africa Section Education Society Chapter. Lebogang Madise (South Africa) – Student Branch Coordinator and member of Humanitarian Activities Subcommittee.

### ■ SKA Tours and Project CodeX Office.

■ After presentations and brainstorming, the President said he will work on funding of the Africa Area Activities.

■ He advised that Africa Area Committee should **align with the AHCAA** Strategy to avoid duplication of activities.





# Other activities

- Skype meeting Region 8 Director.
- **On Industry connect.**
  - Organisation of a Symposium on **Special Topics from Industry** at EEE Dept, FUTO, Nigeria.



# Issues & Challenges

- There are several challenges and opportunities in Africa.
- Africa is diverse there may not be a one-model solution that may fit all countries.
- **Common Challenges**
  - Cost of membership and fluctuating exchange rate.
  - Youth unemployment.
  - Growing volunteers.
  - Industry Academia Disconnect.
  - Engineering education is theoretical.
  - Poor fundamental science background from high school.
  - Management Skills are required because of differences in cultures.
  - Participation from professional Engineers after they leave University.
  - Internet cost for ordinary Members.

# Increasing IEEE Activities in Africa Area

## Low hanging Fruits?

- Introduce Section Competitions.
- Encourage Paper Contest for students.
- Activities help to retain members and recruit new ones.
- TISP.
- Training Workshops.
- Distinguished Lecture Programme.
- Regional cooperation (West Africa, East Africa, South Africa).
- **Africa YP Congress, Etc.**

## Success story- IEEE President Change the World competition of 2009 - Entrepreneurship and innovative solutions

- **Ifeanyi Orajaka** one of the winners, his idea was sponsored to provide off- grid solar power to a community in Niger Delta.
- Today we have **GVE- Green village Electricity Projects Limited**.
- Some Nigeria state Governments have adopted **Off Grid Renewal Energy solution**.



# Thank you for Listening

