

Action For Industry (AfI)

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Goals

During 2017 Region 8 Action for Industry (AfI) subcommittee will aim to expand the internship program of the Action for Industry initiative in more countries and to include more companies. Mentoring program can be expanded as well. In order to do so, support and involvement of Section leadership is needed. A primary indicator of success is the number of Sections that have appointed an Industry Ambassador team. Another success indicator is the number of internship positions secured in each country. At the end of the year AfI subcommittee will be successful:

- 1) if more than 40% of the countries in Region 8 have assigned an Industry ambassador and have organized one event for industry
- 2) more than 150 internship positions have been secured in Region 8.

Status

Certificates of Appreciation were issued to all companies that participated in Action for Industry initiative during 2016. Certificates were issued also to their respective company champions. STMicroelectronics in Italy and U-TX in Cyprus while receiving their Certificates of Appreciation have offered internship positions for 2017. Each Section will organize the delivery of the Certificates of Appreciation to companies and their respective champions. A list of the Industry ambassadors already appointed by the Sections was delivered to the AfI subcommittee members. A letter addressed to Region 8 Section Chairs asking for their contribution in AfI initiative will be sent by Region 8 Technical Activities Vice Chair. Region 8 AfI subcommittee members will contact Sections and ask them to contribute in the AfI initiative. Region 8 Young Professional subcommittee chair and Region 8 Student Representative were invited to participate and contribute in AfI initiative.

Outlook

Our next steps are:

- 1) Consolidate and continue the Internships and Mentoring. Gain kudos from successful internships with bright IEEE students proving to be highly capable.
- 2) Bring willing companies into R8 initiatives.
- 3) Expand AfI initiative in new countries. Appointment of new Section Industry Ambassadors.
- 4) Hold IEEE forums for entrepreneurs and small and medium sized companies. Encouragement of Local IEEE Section to participate in Entrepreneurship events such as Startup Weekend,. Local IEEE Sections can sponsor these events or have their members participate as mentors.
- 5) Provide industry tracks allowing more (non advertising) industry oriented presentations. Support in the organization of Industry Events by local IEEE Sections

Points of Concern

Support: We need the continuing commitment of R8 OpCom to support the team and its objectives. R8 Director has agreement from MGA that:

- 1) the Membership Renewal form will have tick boxes for all members to show whether they are in Industry, Academia, Government, Other.
- 2) vTools to be adjusted to change the Section role from IRO to Section Industry Ambassador (SIA)

Sections in R8 should put as a priority to get closer with industry and organize events with industry. Region 8 committee should ask Sections to participate and contribute in AfI initiative. Section Chairs should not only appoint at least an Industry Ambassador but also set budget for events during which industry people and companies can discuss their plans and their thoughts for the future. Section Industry Ambassador team should have at least one Young Professional.

The biggest challenge so far for AfI initiative is to create a critical mass of members who are involved in this initiative. In order to do so at least 2 people should be involved and contribute in small Sections and at least 5 people in big Sections.. IEEE should recognize members as well as Sections that are participating and contributing in the Action for Industry initiative. Region 8 can also organize during a future Region 8 meeting a workshop during which Section Industry Ambassadors can share their experiences and best practices.