

South Africa Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

- Running events interesting to industry (e.g. on the topic of 5G).
- Strong relationships with South African local professional engineering association SAIEE with about 6,000 members in South Africa and other local technical societies.
- Planning getting industry leaders into Senior Membership positions.
- We hosted IEEE Standardization Association representatives, organized a series of talks, and plan to repeat this initiative.
- Need IEEE to consider corporate IEEE membership as this could increase membership in industry bodies.
- Initiating a work offer platform.

Attracting and Supporting Future Members

- Working with universities to ensure inflow of student members.
- Promoting and supporting various programmes for communities.
- WIE events.
- Mentorship - building a list of mentors accessible to IEEE members.
- Pushing for a reduced student fees as the exchange rate makes it untenable for many students.

Section Vitality

- Organized Section face-to-face meetings, obtained views from the leaders of Chapters, Student Branches etc.
- Section promotes and supports various events highlighting the IEEE and Section, such as conferences, DL visits etc. For the conferences, we try to enforce discounts for IEEE members.
- We hosted the IEEE President Dr. Barry Shoop in 2016, planning to host the new president in African flagship IEEE conference Africon 2017 to be held in Cape Town in September 2017.
- We are seeking active volunteers to work at Section level. Would like to promote their activities by offering them participation in key IEEE events, such as Section meeting and Section Congress but travelling expenses are too high for South African (about 900 EUR from Johannesburg versus 80-100 from Paris for flight to Stockholm).
- We are planning to organize a local Section conference.
- We would like to institute student awards for travel and registration at IEEE event.

IEEE in Africa

- Supporting African conferences through providing various assistance (although quality control is a challenge).
- Support for IEEE Africa region initiative.
- Section shall provide support to subsections and countries wanting to start subsections as is possible.
- Instituting a reduced student price as exchange rate suppresses student registration.

Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria

- Would be good to have the templates for the Section reports provided together with the requests for reports.
- Contact point for collaboratively accessing EU funding.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Need reduced IEEE Xplore fees as many African universities struggle to get subscription.
- Need IEEE to consider corporate IEEE membership as this could increase membership in industry bodies.
- Need lowering fees for IEEE eXplore.
- May need fixing membership fees to the local currency.
- We plan to be collaborating with new local robotics research group.
- Continuing developments in providing electronics kits and support to schools as part of our TISP pre-university programme.
- Even if this requires a reduced benefits offering as many engineering students have higher level access to IEEE Xplore through their institution than the membership.