

Africa Area

Gloria Chukwudebe

Goals of IEEE Africa Area

- To provide a centralized coordinating unit for IEEE activities in Africa.
- To support and provide guidance to the members on how to use IEEE's tools, products and network to enhance the engineer in Africa.
- To grow IEEE's presence in Africa to benefit all volunteers.
- To address the specific opportunities and challenges in Africa.

Status

IEEE Africa Area Chair is appointed by the IEEE Region 8 Director and supported by a small committee

- 1) Gloria Chukwudebe – Nigeria - Chair
- 2) Shaun Kaplan – South Africa
- 3) Habib M. Kammoun - Tunisia
- 4) Kabwe Bellington - Zambia

Africa Area Now

- Africa has eight Sections: Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Tunisia, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa, Zambia
- Six Sub-Sections- Alexandria, Botswana, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Algeria.
- About 6,000 active members across the continent's 54 countries.

Major Activities

- 1) IEEE Virtual Conferences on Cybersecurity- October 2016 and on Green ICT – December 2016 (Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia).
- 2) African Sections participated in IEEE Region 8 TISP week in October 2016.
- 3) Egypt and Tunisia Engineering Day.
- 4) 2016 IEEE Computer Society Chapter Conference in Nigeria.
- 5) Africa Area Committee meeting at Porto with African Section Chairs Outcome of Meeting at Porto- Establishment of WhatsApp group for ease of communication and networking. Many issues have been discussed and clarified using the WhatsApp group
- 6) Kenya 2017 Symposium and First distinguished lecture series.
- 7) Workshops in Algeria, Uganda, Nigeria, etc
- 8) Africa Area Committee meeting with Skype in January 2017.
 - Outcome of Skype meeting in January 2017:
 - Request for Africa Area website granted and established.
 - Shared preliminary assessment of Africa Section Websites and agreed to organize a Website competition to motivate Sections to update their websites.
 - Agreed on modalities for paper contest and finalists to present at Africon 2017.

Growing IEEE Presence in Africa

- There are efforts by South Africa Section to help Botswana's Subsection to grow.
- South Africa is also helping Ethiopia to form a subsection, to start soon with funds realized from a Conference in Ethiopia.
- Tunisia Section Chair, Habib M. Kammoun facilitated IEEE participation at Corte de Voire's Cybersecurity Conference in 2016.
- Eric Kuada, current Ghana Chair volunteered and attended Corte de Voire's Cybersecurity Conference to showcase IEEE and recruit new members, discussions are ongoing.
- There has been exchange of emails to form Libya subsection

Upcoming Conferences

- 1) 2017 IEEE PES PowerAfrica Conference, Ghana, 27 – 30 June, 2017.
- 2) IEEE AFRICON 2017, Cape Town, South Africa, 18 - 20 Sept 2017.
- 3) IEEE NIGERCON 2017, Nigeria, November 7-19, 2017.

What are primary indicators of success?

There are much more activities and networking amongst IEEE members in Africa since 2016.

Challenges

- There are few active volunteers who are willing to work at Section level. Some others who are willing to work have not been able to renew due to issues with foreign currency.
- Some Sections cannot use the money of the IEEE credit card due to the need of local authorization.
- Access to Internet and Power are still issues for sub-Saharan Africa.
- Payment of membership fees in dollar currency, many cannot afford the dues.

Outlook

- Introduce Section Competition to improve Section vitality.
- Encourage Paper Contest for African students.
- Introduce innovative activities to retain members and recruit new ones.
- Improve on TISP.
- More Training Workshops on soft-skills and professional development.
- Collaboration with national associations, institutions and industry, and to establish partnerships in the focus areas of the Committee.

Points of Concern

- No finances to support Africa Area activities.
- Africa Chair requires access to vtools to meet some of the stated goals above.