

## Electronic Communications Coordinator (ECC)

**George Michael**

The Region 8 Electronic Communication Coordinator's job is to facilitate communication, both between members of the Region 8 Committee, and between this committee and present or future IEEE members.

### Mobile applications for Committee Meeting

Two mobile applications were developed for our next committee meeting (one for Android and one for iOS devices). These applications hold all available reports and basic information of the 109th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting to be held in Sydney on 10-11 of August 2017. Specifically they contains:

- The Agenda Book
- All available OpCom reports
- All available Committee reports
- All available Section reports
- Meeting schedule
- Order of the day
- Travel information
- Photos and contact information of the OpCom so that new participants can identify them more easily

The biggest advantage of the application is that all content is available to the user without any internet connection, so it can be used by anyone while abroad.

The link to the applications for the Sydney committee meeting are available through the meeting website <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2017-august-sydney/>.

### New Gallery

As part of our continuous development on the site, amongst other changes and updates, we removed the gallery that we used in the past as it was too heavy for our server. A new gallery was implemented instead that uses Google Apps to take the load. An example of the new gallery can be found at the bottom of the Stockholm meeting page <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2017-march-stockholm/>.

### Website Theme Changes

Updates that were required, were performed on the source code of the theme template to adapt to the new base API. These changes were needed to better improve the performance of the website and be more compatible with newer devices and browsers.

### Presentation Tools

- The on screen clock / counter we use at the Region 8 meetings is available for download here <http://link.ieeer8.org/timer2>
- The Android and Windows applications that allow users to control PowerPoint presentations via their smartphones and tablets are available for download here <http://link.ieeer8.org/clicker>.

### Articles cross posting

Our website offers the service to automatically post articles to multiple services. We can post to social network services like Facebook groups and pages, Twitter accounts, Google+ accounts and to other Wordpress or Blogger websites. If you are interested to receive our articles automatically, please contact me for details. I would like to thank the Sections that are participating in this service with their Facebook groups.

### Redirects

To make it easier for our volunteers to promote the content they post on the website, we created redirects for their pages to shorten the URLs and make them more user friendly. For example our news feed can be accessed from this URL <http://news.ieeer8.org>, Student activities from <http://student.ieeer8.org> and <http://students.ieeer8.org>. The same functionality is being applied to sections, for example <http://cyprus.ieeer8.org> translates to <http://iee.org.cy> Sections and groups that want to use this functionality, please contact me.

### IEEE Region 8 website (<http://www.ieee.org/r8>)

The IEEE Region 8 website serves as a common reference point for all information regarding our Region. It supports besides hosting of articles, the hosting of photo galleries and document repositories. From the website you can get information about: latest news regarding R8, offers and services from IEEE, jobs, the full section roster and links to the sections' websites, links to important conferences, IEEE related important links and many more. We are always accepting new articles so feel free to let us know of what your Section is doing so that we can let the whole Region know. We updated our theme to be mobile friendly and modified the structure of the menus as requested to provide easier access to certain categories.

### Categories under own subdomains

To enhance the user experience of our online users, we added the functionality of enabling the conversion of any category of our website into its own subdomain. This way we can minimize the length of the urls and make them more user friendly. For example <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/educational-activities/easc-info/> became <http://easc.ieeer8.org/easc-info/>.

## Statistics

According to the monitoring tool that has been installed on our websites these are the statistics that were obtained over the period from the 8th of March 2017 to the 28th of June 2017. Over this period, near 46,000 people visited the website and over 52,600 pages were viewed with our homepage receiving more than 40,53% of the traffic with more than 21,300 page views. On an average visit, a user stays nearly two minutes. Our visitors come from 150 countries/territories all around the world, many of whom are outside Region 8. Our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2490621134/> has more than 7,300 members! A new Facebook page was created for our Region <https://www.facebook.com/ieeer8/>, it already has almost 700 followers and it is linked to our group. Thanks to the efforts of Dora Fourou our page is receiving regularly updates with interesting content for IEEE members. Our Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/ieeer8>) receives the posts from our website. Right now we have 315 followers and counting.

## Mailing Lists (<http://listserv.ieee.org/>)

It is the responsibility of the ECC to maintain the Region's mailing lists - depending on the type of group or list - this means adding/deleting members if subscribing is not permitted or reviewing/editing messages if moderating is required. Important lists for volunteers can always be found at the homepage of our site.

## vTools (<http://vtools.ieee.org/>)

vTools abbreviation stands for "Volunteer Tools". vTools simplify the administrative tasks to our volunteers via use of online tools, reduce time spent managing activities, and assist in member development. vTools are developed and made possible by IEEE volunteers. The toolbox simplifies administration by offering web based software, reduces time spent managing activities, and assists in member development.

## Reports

During this period we are still testing various methods to receive the reports of the committee. For this reason a survey is being used to collect section reports at <http://surveys.vtools.ieee.org> and a word document with limited formatting capabilities is used by the rest of the members of the committee. The final version of the Agenda Book and the individual reports were converted to Latex to improve their quality of typesetting. As the incoming reports are not in Latex, this process takes significant amount of time to complete. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Christian M. Schmid for his invaluable help and the many hours dedicated for the completion of this task!

Please contact with me at [xeirwn@ieee.org](mailto:xeirwn@ieee.org) for more information or assistance.