

South Africa Section

Albert Lysko

Getting Closer to Industry

- 1) We ran events interesting to industry (e.g. IEEE 5G Summit in Pretoria). The events were very well attended by industry and government, besides academia.
- 2) We have strong relationships with South African local professional engineering association SAIEE with about 6,000 members in South Africa and other local technical societies. This pays off through co-hosted events, co-sponsorship etc.
- 3) We are planning getting industry leaders into Senior Membership positions.
- 4) We co-hosted a talk about Engineering Council of South Africa (which every professional engineer in South Africa is required to be registered with) and its relation with IEEE (mutual recognition, professional development points, membership discounts etc.)
- 5) We need IEEE to consider corporate IEEE membership as this could increase membership in industry bodies and significantly increase overall IEEE membership (by a factor of 2-3).
- 6) We learned of the successful approaches used by the leaders of IEEE R8 Industry team and intend to implement them locally

Attracting and Supporting Future Members

- 1) We are re-organizing the support for conferences held in locally to ensure higher visibility and attractiveness of IEEE for conference attendees.
- 2) We are working with universities to ensure inflow of student members.
- 3) We are promoting and supporting various programmes for communities.
- 4) We would like Region and Societies to inform the Section and local Chapters when hosting the conferences in the Section's domain, as to enable maximum support for membership development.
- 5) We plan to make IEEE services a part of the keynote talk and to host an IEEE session in the flagship African IEEE conference Africon 2017 and hope it will help
- 6) We are promoting and supporting the IEEE VCF applications for active members.
- 7) We are considering showing the benefits of IEEE including demonstrating examples of members who took advantages of funds for self-development, projects, for travel, participating in IEEE international competitions, networking, etc. and hope that "lead by example of a friend" will assist in getting more members in. We are also considering organizing local IEEE competitions and networking, including linking with other African countries. Another option in consideration is organizing training sessions for popular software such as Labview, Matlab, etc. There is also an excellent example from Tunisia section we would like to understand and replicate, where: a) IEEE Tunisia trying to add some local benefits in order to improve the retention rate and succeed recently to sign with the telecom operator to offer free call between IEEE members in Tunisia who will join the offer; b) focusing on students and trying to get IEEE members in each school studying IEEE related fields (especial motivation is in learning English, and to network, and improve their skills for possible international jobs).
- 8) Possibility of collaboration with some high-tech companies and research labs in SA that could either make their labs available for few students and early career researcher.
- 9) We are considering reviving the program linking IEEE South Africa with the Heads of Departments in Electrical and Electronic Engineering Schools.
- 10) An important consideration is how to maximize effectiveness of engagement with and assistance from IEEE to the previously disadvantaged universities. Addressing this requirement will also place a bridge to open up the market for assisting less developed African countries.

Section Vitality

- 1) Section promotes and supports various events highlighting the IEEE and Section, such as conferences, DL visits etc. For the conferences, we try to enforce sufficient discounts for IEEE members, visibility of "Join IEEE" and cost of membership (as compared to the conference fees).
- 2) We are sending 3 representatives to IEEE POCO 2017 and IEEE Sections Congress 2017 in order to maximize the skills and knowledge available in the Section.
- 3) We plan to host the IEEE President and Region8 President-Elect during African flagship IEEE conference Africon 2017 to be held in Cape Town in September 2017.
- 4) We have sent out MD officer Seyi Olokede to MD workshop in Slovakia and he is planning to run MD membership workshops in South Africa and neighbouring countries to promote the MD development
- 5) We are planning an IEEE session with various presentations about IEEE and its resources and activities, to be held in the flagship African IEEE conference IEEE Africon 2017 (to be held in Cape Town in 18-20 September 2017), as a way to upskill the local volunteers and attract new volunteers.
- 6) 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).
- 7) We would like to institute student awards for travel and registration at IEEE event.

IEEE in Africa

- 1) Promoting establishing of and supporting African conferences through providing various assistance (although quality control is a challenge).

- 2) Support for IEEE Africa region initiatives.
- 3) Section shall provide support to subsections and countries wanting to start subsections as is possible.
- 4) It would be great for Africa Area to increase the number of initiatives, linking IEEE units in African countries, setting up and coordinating events and programmes.

Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria

- 1) It would be great to establish a new programme where IEEE mentors are funded to come and provide training in African countries (e.g. a Professor would have week-long stay in an African university, and give classes in advanced subjects every day, and finish with an exam). This could also highlight the value and contribution of IEEE and attract more membership, or could be bluntly linked to a requirement of the university first raising a certain minimum number of IEEE members.
- 2) Would be good to have the templates for the Section reports provided together with the requests for reports.
- 3) We need a contact point for collaboratively accessing EU funding.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- 1) Need reduced IEEE Xplore fees as many African universities struggle to get subscription.
- 2) Need IEEE to consider corporate IEEE membership as this could increase membership in industry bodies.
- 3) May need fixing membership fees to the local currency.
- 4) Continuing developments in providing electronics kits and support to schools as part of our TISP pre-university programme.