

## 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.

### Highlight of Activities Since Last Region 8 Meeting

- 1) IEEE Virtual Events Program in Africa: Big Data 2017 held in May, was a great success, with almost 500 attendees across in 6 countries. (Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia).
- 2) IEEE President, Karen Bartleson visited Kenya in May 2017.
- 3) Tunisia section received the 2017 IEEE MGA Outstanding large section award
- 4) IEEE President, Karen Bartleson, and Magdalena Salazar Palma, IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect participated in IEEE Middle East Student and Young Professional CME-SYP Congress in Tunisia in August.
- 5) 2017 IEEE PES Power Africa Conference held in Ghana, 27 – 30 June, 2017.
- 6) IEEE Nigeria Section organized a Maker Event 2017, June 2017.

### Upcoming Conferences/Congresses

- 1) IEEE African Student Young Professionals Congress (ASPYC) 8th -10th Sept. 2017
- 2) IEEE AFRICON 2017, Cape Town, South Africa, 18 - 20 Sept 2017.
- 3) IEEE East Africa Students and Young Professionals Congress (EASYP), Kenya, 5-8 October 2017.
- 4) IEEE Virtual Events Program in Africa - Smart Grid 2017 planned for October, 2017.
- 5) IEEE NIGERCON 2017 Conference, 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. IEEE President has visited more countries in Africa and is rolling out the planned strategy. IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect, Magdalena Salazar Palma, has successfully visited South Africa, Botswana, Kenya and Tunisia.

### Grants/Financial Support

IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Africa (AHCAA) has established Travel scholarship grant for the following African countries for student and members : Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia.

### Challenges

- No finances to support Africa Area Committee activities.
- 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.
- Access to Internet and Power are still issues for sub-Saharan Africa.

### Future Plans

- Introduce Competitions to improve Section vitality.
- Paper Contest for African students is on-going, winners will be declared at SYP Congress in Abuja.
- Introduce innovative activities to retain members and recruit new ones.
- Improve on TISP Participation.
- Organize 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.
- Help subsections to organize IEEE activities in their countries.
- Have more discussions on Africa Council.