Lebanon Section   Hadi Sawaya

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Industry relations is reinforced by recruiting volunteers that are engaged in the industry, and by organizing events with industry partners. The second edition of the IoT competition will be organized this year in collaboration with Ericson and the leading Lebanese mobile operator Alfa. YP affinity group is in the process of preparing an event with Nokia entitled "Nokia Saving Lives".

The section has signed a MoU with Z.R.E. Lebanon. The company is developing and managing the Beirut Digital District (BDD) that hosts more than 85 companies including incubators, accelerators and venture capital firms. IEEE and Region 8 can foster Industry relations by collaborating with leading international companies that are willing to support and engage in activities with IEEE geographical units.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The section will organize the 1st Student and Young Professionals Congress Lebanon in March. The congress aims at facilitating the transition from a student to a young professional and supports fresh graduates at different stages of their new work life.

More Professional and Industry related activities will be prepared with our partners in order to attract and support future members.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

The total number of member reached by 31 December 2017 is 1586 members. Compared to the figures of 2016, this represents a 10.8% increase in total membership. Our financial position remains strong with a current balance of about $65K. The section renewed and updated its website and improved its presence on social media. The section will continue to improve section vitality by

- creating additional Student Branches, Society chapters and affinity groups, especially at the student branches level.
- organizing joint events with the Industry and other NGOs and organizations like the order of engineers in Tripoli and in Beirut.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Support students and Young professionals

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

The section is not located in Europe.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

In 2017, the section received 3 awards from IEEE. The Lebanon section received the 2016 Region 8 Outstanding Medium Section Award. The Communications Society Chapter received the 2017 Europe, Middle East and Africa Communications Society Chapter Achievement Award. The Robotics & Automation/Instrumentation & Measurements/Control Systems Joint Chapter received the 2017 Control Society Outstanding Chapter Award.