



The 110th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting

10-11 of March 2018
Athens

Agenda Book



This document contains the Agenda Book for the The 110th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting. Due to the technical constraints when compiling this document from over 111 individual reports, the layout of some reports may have been slightly modified. You will find an electronic version of this document, together with the original version of each report on <http://www.ieee.org/r8>. Feel free to contact George Michael (xeirwn@ieee.org) with related questions.

The following is from the IEEE Policies, Section 7 - Professional Activities (Part A - IEEE Policies).

7.8 IEEE Code of Ethics

We, the members of the IEEE, in recognition of the importance of our technologies in affecting the quality of life throughout the world, and in accepting a personal obligation to our profession, its members and the communities we serve, do hereby commit ourselves to the highest ethical and professional conduct and agree:

- 1) to accept responsibility in making decisions consistent with the safety, health, and welfare of the public, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment;
- 2) to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible, and to disclose them to affected parties when they do exist;
- 3) to be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data;
- 4) to reject bribery in all its forms;
- 5) to improve the understanding of technology; its appropriate application, and potential consequences;
- 6) to maintain and improve our technical competence and to undertake technological tasks for others only if qualified by training or experience, or after full disclosure of pertinent limitations;
- 7) to seek, accept, and offer honest criticism of technical work, to acknowledge and correct errors, and to credit properly the contributions of others;
- 8) to treat fairly all persons and to not engage in acts of discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;
- 9) to avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious action;
- 10) to assist colleagues and co-workers in their professional development and to support them in following this code of ethics.

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I. General Information

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Agenda

Friday, 9 March 2018					
Time	Duration	#	Type	Item	Presenter
8:00	0:30:00			Directors Address	Margaretha Eriksson
8:30	3:30:00			Meetings of several sub-committees	
12:00	0:30:00			Lunch group 1	Terpsichore D
12:30	0:30:00			Lunch group 2	Terpsichore D
13:00	5:00:00			Meetings of several sub-committees	Terpsichore, Erato
18:00	1:00:00			Greece Section presentation	Greece Section Chair
19:00	1:00:00			Cocktail Reception + Awards Ceremony	
20:00	2:00:00			Welcome Dinner Dress Code: Business Casual	
22:00	0:00:00			Dinner Ends	
Saturday, 10 March 2018					
Time	Duration	#	Type	Item	Presenter
6:30	1:30:00			Breakfast	
8:00	0:05:00	100	Procedural	Call to Order	Margaretha Eriksson
8:05	0:15:00	101	Procedural	Roll Call and Introduction of New Officers	Jan Verveckken
8:20	0:05:00	102	Procedural	Welcome by Greece Section	Greece Section Chair
8:25	0:05:00	103	Procedural	Introductory Remarks	Margaretha Eriksson
8:30	0:05:00	104	Action	Approval of the Agenda	Margaretha Eriksson
8:35	0:05:00	105	Action	Approval of the Consent Agenda	Margaretha Eriksson
8:40	0:40:00	106	Discussion	IEEE Region 8 Director's Address	Margaretha Eriksson
9:20	0:20:00	107	Discussion	IEEE President's Answers to the most burning questions	Jim Jefferies
9:40	0:20:00	108	Discussion	IEEE President's Elect Introduction	Jose Moura
10:00	0:15:00	109	Discussion	IEEE AHC Action Africa: Africa Council	Vincent Kaabunga
10:15	0:05:00	110	Procedural	Introduction to Poster Session	Jan Verveckken
10:20	0:45:00	111	Poster session	Committees Poster session+RSYP poster+coffee break	All subcommittees
11:05	0:20:00	112	Discussion	Questions to SAC VC	Efthymia Arvaniti
11:25	0:20:00	113	Discussion	Questions to MA VC	Antonio Luque
11:45	0:20:00	114	Discussion	Questions to TA VC	Christopher James
12:05	1:00:00			Lunch	Lunch in Terpsichore
13:05	0:30:00	201	Discussion	IEEE MGA New Issues(GDPR)+ questions	Francis Grosz + Vera Sharoff
13:35	0:10:00	202	Discussion	Presentation of IEEE Region 8 Director Elect Candidates	Rafal Sliz & Antonio Luque
13:45	0:45:00	203	Poster session	Poster Session 1/3 Sections + IEEE R8 Director Elect Candidates poster+coffee break	1/3 Sections
14:30	0:20:00	204	Discussion	Humanitarian Activities	Paul Cunningham
14:50	0:45:00	205	Poster session	Poster Session 2/3 Sections + Humanitarian Activities Workshop(Room:Erato A)	2/3 Sections

15:35	0:05:00	206	Social	Group photo	Jan Verveckken
15:40	0:25:00	207	Discussion	IEEE Vienna Office Answer to the most burning questions	Clara Neppel
16:05	0:45:00	208	Poster Session	Poster Session 3/3 Sections+ IEEE President Elect Candidates poster	3/3 Sections
16:50	0:05:00	209	Discussion	Voting system of Posters to be presented on stage + reflection question	Jan Verveckken
16:55	0:05:00	210	Discussion	Closing of day one	Margaretha Eriksson
17:00				Recess	
17:10	0:10:00		Social	Meeting Point for Bus: Outside Hotel	
17:20	2:40:00		Social	Bus Drive through Athens, Visit of Akropolis museum	
20:00	2:00:00		Social	Dinner at Dionysus Zonar, with view of Akropolis	
22:00	0:00:30		Social	Bus Drive to Hotel	
Sunday, 11 March 2018					
Time	Duration	#	Type	Item	Presenter
6:30	1:30:00		Breakfast	Breakfast in the breakfast room	
8:00	0:05:00	300	Procedural	Call to Order and Roll Call	Margaretha Eriksson
8:05	0:15:00	301	Discussion	Presentation of Section poster voted best Industry Activity+discussion	
8:20	0:15:00	302	Discussion	Presentation of Section poster voted best Membership Activity+discussion	
8:35	0:15:00	303	Discussion	Presentation of Section poster voted best Young Prof. Activity+discussion	
8:50	0:15:00	304	Discussion	Presentation of Section poster voted best Action for Africa+discussion	
9:05	0:35:00	305	Discussion	Treasurer's Report	Ralph Kennel + Brian Harrington
9:40	0:20:00		Social	Coffee Break	
10:00	0:40:00	306	Action	Motions, presentation, discussion, voting	Costas Stasopoulos
10:40	0:15:00	307	Discussion	IEEE Region 8 SYP	SYP Chair
10:40	0:25:00	308	Discussion	New Business	all
10:55	0:20:00	309	Discussion	Presentation of President-Elect Candidates	Piuri, Zurada, Fukuda
11:15	0:20:00	310	Discussion	Next Region 8 Meeting	Vera Markovic
11:35	0:10:00	311	Discussion	Closing Remarks IEEE Vienna Office	Clara Neppel
11:45	0:10:00	312	Discussion	Closing Remarks President-Elect	Jose Moura
11:55	0:10:00	313	Discussion	Closing Remarks President	Jim Jefferies
12:05	0:10:00	314	Discussion	Closing Remarks R6 Director	Kathleen Cramer
12:15	0:10:00	315	Discussion	Closing Remarks R10 Director	Kukjin Chun
12:25	0:10:00	316	Discussion	Closing Remarks R8 Director	Margaretha Eriksson

12:35	0:20:00	317	Info	Adjournment	All
12:55	1:00:00		Social	Lunch in Terpsichore D	
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		501	Action	Approval of the minutes of the 106th Region 8 Committee meeting	
		502	Report	Reports	

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

401 Action Approval of the minutes of the 109th Region 8 Committee meeting
402 Report Reports

List of Participants

Function	Name	Email	Additional information
Benelux Section	Robert Bierwolf	robert.bierwolf@xs4all.nl	Chapter chair
Bosnia and Herzegovina Section	Meliha Selak	melihass@shaw.ca	Section chair
Egypt Section	Samir Shaheen	sshahen@eng.cu.edu.eg	Section Chair
Oman Section	Amer Al-Hinai	hinai@ieee.org	Section chair
France Section	Frdrique Valle	sarl.fandco@free.fr	Section chair
Estonia Section	Peeter Ellervee	lrv@ati.ttu.ee	Section chair
Switzerland Section	Maria-Alexandra PAUN	maria_paun2003@yahoo.com	Section chair
Malta Section	Conrad Attard	conattard@gmail.com	Section chair
Israel Section	will not attend		
Latvia Section	Andrejs Rom2novs	a.romanovs@ieee.org	Section chair
Italy Section	Tiziana Tambosso	tiziana.tambosso@ieee.org	Section chair
Ghana Section	Eric Kuada	erickuada@yahoo.com	Section chair
Norway Section	Runar Srsen	runar.soeraasen@ieee.org	Section chair
Tunisia Section	Habib Kammoun	habib.kammoun@ieee.org	Section chair
United Kingdom and Ireland Section	Ali Hessami	Hessami@vegaglobalsystems.com	Section chair
Iraq Section	TBD		
Germany Section	Ingo Hahn	ingo.hahn@fau.de	Section chair
Zambia Section	Simon Muwowo	SMuwowo@zesco.co.zm	Section chair
Sweden Section	Mats Edvinsson	mje@ieee.org	Section chair
Algeria Section	Noureddine CHAIB	n.c.chaib@ieee.org	Section treasurer
Spain Section	Manuel Ballesteros Carballo	m.ballesteros.carballo@ieee.org	Section YP chair
Denmark Section	Knud Erik Skouby	skouby@cmi.aau.dk	Section vice chair
Iran Section	Ahmad Reza SHARAFAT	sharafat@ieee.org	Section chair
Greece Section	Thanos Kakarountas	kakarountas@ieee.org	Section vice chair
Poland Section	Mariusz Malinowski	malin@isep.pw.edu.pl	Section chair
Finland Section	Toni Mattila	toni.mattila@aalto.fi	Section chair
Austria Section	Michael Heiss	michael.heiss@siemens.com	Section chair
Nigeria Section	Raphael Onoshakpor	maejow007@yahoo.com	Section chair
South Africa Section	Albert Lysko	albert.lysko@gmail.com	Section chair
Saudi Arabia Section	Jaafar Ibrahim	ibrahijm2001@yahoo.com	Section Secretary
Portugal Section	Pedro Simeao	pesimeao@ieee-pt.org	Section secretary
Kenya Section	Martin Nzomo	mmnzomo@yahoo.com	Section chair
United Arab Emirates Section	Hussain Al Ahmad	halahmad@ud.ac.ae	Chapter chair
Hungary Section	Anik Szakl	szakal@uni-obuda.hu	Section treasurer
Western Saudi Arabia Section	Bander Allaf	banderallaf@hotmail.com	Chapter chair
Turkey Section	Tuncer Baykas	tbaykas@ieee.org	Section secretary/treasurer
Kuwait Section	Fadhel Abdulhasan	fadhel.h.kw@ieee.org	MD chair
Russia Section	Sergey, Alekseev Georgievich	alekseev@cplire.ru	Section treasurer
Romania Section	Mircea EREMIA	eremia1@yahoo.com	Section chair
Ukraine Section	Feliks IANOVSKYI	felix.yanovsky@ieee.org	Section chair
Croatia Section	Maja Matijasevi?	maja.matijasevic@fer.hr	Section chair
Slovenia Section	Urban Burnik	urban.burnik@ieee.org	Section chair
Serbia And Montenegro Section	Vera Markovi?	vera5556@gmail.com	Section chair
Czechoslovakia Section	Matej Pacha	matej.pacha@ieee.org	Section chair
Cyprus Section	Nicos Michaelides	nicos.michaelides@cyta.com.cy	Section chair
Bulgaria Section	Kiril Alexiev	kiril.m.alexiev@ieee.org	Section chair
Republic Of Macedonia Section	Ljupco Karadzinov	l.karadzinov@feit.ukim.edu.mk	Section chair
Jordan Section	Gheith Abandah	abandah@ju.edu.jo	Section Chair
Iceland Section	Thomas Philip Runarsson	tpr@hi.is	Section chair
Bahrain Section	Adel Ahmed Hamed	dr.adel@ieee.org	Section chair
Belarus Section	Alexandar Gusinsky	avggus@mail.ru	Section Chair
Russia (Northwest) Section	Dmitry Kholodnyak	dmitry.kholodnyak@mwlab.spb.ru	Section vice chair
Russia (Siberia) Section	Alexey Rodionov	alrod@sscc.ru	Section chair
Lebanon Section	Hadi SAWAYA	hadi.sawaya@usj.edu.lb	Section chair
Morocco Section	Nasser Assem	n.assem@aui.ma	Section vice chair
Qatar Section	Amith Khandakar	amitk@qu.edu.qa	Section secretary

Function	Name	Email	Additional information
Lithuania Section	Dalius Navakauskas	dalius.navakauskas@ieee.org	Section vice chair
Director	Margaretha Eriksson	margaretha.eriksson@ieee.org	
Director-Elect	Magdalena Salazar Palma	salazar@tsc.uc3m.es	
Past Director	Costas Stasopoulos	costas@ieee.org	
Secretary	Jan Verveckken	jan.verveckken@ieee.org	
Treasurer	Ralph Kennel	ralph.kennel@tum.de	
VC Member Activities	Antonio Luque	aluque@ieee.org	
VC Student Activities	Efthymia Arvaniti	earvaniti@ieee.org	
VC Technical Activities	Christopher James	c.james@warwick.ac.uk	
Chapters Coordinator	Amara Amara	amara.amara@isep.fr	
Conference Coordinator	Pter Nagy	nagy.peter@hte.hu	
Educational Activities Coordinator	Sohaib Qamar Sheikh	sohaibqamer@ieee.org	
Action for Industry Coordinator	Marios Antoniou	m.s.antoniou@cytanet.com.cy	
Membership Development Coordinator	Andrejs Romanovs	a.romanovs@ieee.org	
Professional Activities Coordinator	Jan Haase	janhaase@ieee.org	
Region 8 News Editor	Bojan Nikolic	bnikolic@ieee.org	
Sections Congress Coordinator	Marko Delimar	m.delimar@ieee.org	
Standards Coordinator	David Law	david_law@ieee.org	
Student Representative	Ines Inacio	inesinacio@ieee.org	
YP Coordinator	Sara Barros	barros.s@ieee.org	
Past Secretary	Christian Schmid	c.schmid@ieee.org	
Electronic Communications Coordinator	George Michael	xeirwn@ieee.org	
Assistant Secretary	Dora Fourou	dfourour@gmail.com	
History Activities Coordinator	Tony Davies	tonydavies@ieee.org	
Humanitarian Activities Coordinator	John Funso	funso@ieee.org	
Life Members Coordinator	Charles Turner	c.turner@ieee.org	
Women in Engineering Coordinator	Younna El-Bitar	younna.elbitar@ieee8.org	
Region Vitality Coordinator	Aleksandar Szabo	a.szabo@ieee.org	
Voluntary Contribution Fund Coordinator	Andreas Koltes	koltes@ieee.org	
Africa Area Chair	Gloria Chukwudebe	gloria_chukwudebe@ieee.org	
R8 SAC member	Yara Melki	yaramelki@ieee.org	
R8 SAC member	Jos Miguel A. Sepulcre	josemi@ieee.org	
R8 SAC member	Sarra Ben Rabii	sarra.benrabii.1993@ieee.org	
R8 SAC member	Paul Micallef	paul.micallef@ieee8.org	
R8 SAC member	George Papadimitriou	kelixek@gmail.com	
R8 SAC member	Mona Ghassemian	mona.ghassemian@kcl.ac.uk	
R8 YPC member	Mohamed El-Dallal	ms10792@gmail.com	
R8 YPC member	Skander Mansouri	skander.mansouri@ieee.org	
R8 YPC member	Vinko Lesic	vinko.lesic@fer.hr	
R8 YPC member	Rui Costa	ruicosta@ieee.org	
R8 YPC member	Flavia Dinca	f.m.d@ieee.org	
R8 WiE delegate	TBD		
IEEE VP-Elect MGA	Martin Bastiaans	m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org	IEEE VP- ELECT MGA
R8 Member	Bakr Hassan	bakrhassan@icloud.com	self funded
United Kingdom and Ireland Section	Mike Hinchey	mike.hinchey@lero.ie	Section vice chair
Sweden Section	Samarth Deo	samarthdeo@ieee.org	Section vice chair
Iran Section	Amin NOBAKHTI	a.nobakhti@ieee.org	Iran Secondary Delegate
Kuwait Section	Abdulla Alqallaf	a.lqallaf@ku.edu.kw	Industrial Activities
Serbia And Montenegro Section	Boris Dumni?	dumnic@uns.ac.rs	Section Vice Chair
Egypt Section	Mohamed Khairy	mkhairy@ieee.org	Section vice chair
Bahrain Section	Isa Qamber	i.s.qamber@gmail.com	Section honorary chair
Bahrain Section	Hanan Hasan Ali Saleh Hanjafah	hanan.saleh.bh@ieee.org	Industrial Activities
Bahrain Section	Ali Hussein Zolait	azolait@uob.edu.bh	Section Secretary
Bahrain Section	Mohab Mangoud	mmangoud@ieee.org	Section vice chair
South Africa Section	Lindokuhle Shongwe	SHNLIN008@myuct.ac.za	N&A chair

Unapproved Minutes of the 109th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting held on 10-11 of August 2017 in Sydney, Australia

100 Call to Order

Secretary confirms that a quorum is present.

101 Roll Call

Every present Committee member as well as the guests introduce themselves. The excused members are mentioned.

102 Introductory Remarks

The director Margaretha Eriksson welcomes all attendees, and recognizes the big effort of making it to Sydney. Secretary Jan Verveckken mentions the issues regarding hotel reservations, breakfast and room charges, the current status and further actions regarding them. Also the lunch and dinner details are explained. Marko Delimar emphasizes room not yet charged, it is only a reservation. "Normally you will only be charged in the end, and only if the matter is not resolved beforehand."

103 Approval of the Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda stands.

104 Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda stands.

105 IEEE Region 8 Director's Address

Director Margaretha Eriksson asks the committee to question themselves, "What plans were made in beginning of the year?, What did you decide to do? To what extent have you finished them?" The Director emphasizes that "This meeting is the place to make the connections with other sections." and mentions the meeting in Kenya to have been very successful. "President Karen Bartleson was also in Africa, Africa is a priority in R8 and IEEE" On the topic of progress, the director reminded the committee to be proud of the small progresses we have achieved.

With regards to the Sections Congress meeting, the Sparks Event is mentioned, and attendance is requested by the director. After a short moment of reflection, each Section representative is given the opportunity to voice their main question.

A non exhaustive sample of the questions.

UK&I: One challenge: What is it that the changing circumstances have created for our members, what is the need profile? What benefits are they still seeking? how have these changed? What is the key driver for membership?

UAE: What benefits do we have in R8 than in US? Can we do something about this?

Ukraine: nothing in particular now.

Turkey: most members are students and professors, what can we do to attract more members from industry?

Sweden: Industry initiatives in the early stages, is IEEE even on the map? How to keep momentum once you have left the student stage?

Spain: How can we keep the old student branch members active?

Slovenia: we work on retention, but not growth. What can we offer new members?

Serbia and Montenegro: Most questions related to membership, similar to turkey, we have issues with retention of students.

Saudi Arabia West: if we provide general benefits to local members, sometimes they have other needs, local needs. We need more local information to provide local solutions

Saudi Arabia: Industry, how to attract more members from industry.

Lebanon: Vienna office, what kind of support can we expect from that?

Greece: Many different countries, different laws to be registered.

Egypt: contract to have free access with IEEE, everybody leaves, even academia? Money is leaving Egypt section, are there membership possibilities in such countries?

Bulgaria: how to preserve interest of people, when there is free open source solutions?

Algeria: What is the right way to spend the money in order to get a bigger section?

To summarize, most questions are related to benefits, attracting students and industry, humanitarian activities, IEEE in Africa, as well as section specific legal situations.

106 IEEE Foundation

Marko Delimar thanks Director Margaretha Eriksson for inviting the IEEE Foundation. "We have not had IEEE Foundation at R8 meeting, since 2004. We have the opportunity to discuss it with the most senior person, Karen Galuchie." Marko demonstrates where the IEEE Region 8 Voluntary Contribution fund can be found online. IEEE Foundation is established by IEEE in 1973 - Philanthropic Arm of IEEE. Net Assets managed on behalf of IEEE (EoY 2016) \$40 Million.

- 50% Educational Purpose
- 25% IEEE Awards & Recognitions
- 25% Unrestricted*

*Assets against which the IEEE Foundation has discretion. Majority of all assets invested in IEEE LTIF

2012? Began the transformation of the IEEE Foundation into a major philanthropy on behalf of IEEE

Karen Galuchie mentions explains the Foundations, it's funding through IEEE Region 8 Voluntary Contribution Fund. The Philanthropic efficiency is very high at 78%. She goes on to introduce the Signature programs:

- Smart Village: sustainable education and electricity program: Sub Saharan Africa and East Asia are focus regions of that program. Within Smart Village, opportunity for local entrepreneurs to cooperate
- EPICS: Engineering projects in community service, encouraging students in service-learning
- Transformational Scholar Program
- IEEE Awards program gets funding
- HKN: fully funded by the Foundation
- Italy PEs S+ Pilot in Italy, institute a program that is meaningful in your community.

Karen Galuchie finishes by inviting the committee to the booth of Sections Congress.

Questions:

Tunisia: How can we get more approved? What is acceptance rate? Also Deadline dates, only one, is a bit difficult. KG: we had different deadlines the last years, we evaluate it every 5 years. It depends also on our lean team. MD: very competitive, only 20% success rate. Improve it, reapply.

Greece: how about donating to a purpose, instead only to the full foundation? MD: we do partner with a number of sections, most are US based. KG: We indeed inspire and manage donations, we actively fundraise. We fund for instance the Chicago Section, sometimes a memorial program? We have a process to establish a particular fund. More explanations in the booth.

MD: most difficult part is how to do it correctly legally, but once that is done, there is no restriction. Sweden: Recommend that we use the Vienna Office, looking out of the jurisdiction of US. KG: India, Canada, ? they have their own foundations.

Only US can get income tax back, but we can give money everywhere.

Christopher James: Is there a program to not donate money but rather time? KG: all of the programs need volunteers from all around the world. Please come to the booth to pledge time treasure and talent. MD: I was puzzled about how to give volunteering time + money. What is the best commitment/donation? You become part of something bigger. Our major programs

that bring water and electricity,... Let's send a strong message.

Italy: let's have a reference person to advice how to make foundations

MD: i volunteer Marko Delimar and Aleksandar Szabo for that position. And extra person for next year.

Margaretha Eriksson thanks both Marko Delimar and Karen Galuchie, and encourages the committee to use the foundation, as well as fund it.

107 Student Activities Report

The full presentation referred to in these minutes are available on the event website.

Due to absence of the Student Activities Vice Chair Efthymia Arvanitie, Student Representative Ines Inácio leads the SAC team in the presentation. The team is introduced. The presentation is setup as "IEEEIONAIRE" competition, we have some questions, answer with the colored papers in front of you" (similar to the TV show, "who wants to be a millionaire?" Participation of all section chairs by raising colored papers to answer.

Josemi: Simple example: what is my name? Colored paper to win.

II: Region 8 on the map: A visual tool, an online google based map made. Each dot represents a Student Branch, and has all relevant information for it

How many student branches registered?: 588 student branches registered in SamIEEEE. However, several do not have chairs, counselors, or reports. Probation is presented

How many Cross Sectional Congresses exist?: 8 student &YP Cross sectional Congresses.

- Gulf Cooperation Council Bahrain, Manama, 7-8th May
- Central European Ukraine, Lviv, 30- 2nd July
- Middle Eastern Gammarth, Tunisia, 1- 4th of August
- Western European Valencia, Spain, 20- 23rd September
- Africa-Abuja, Nigeria, 8-10th September
- Nordic- Vilnius, Lithuania, 20- 22nd October
- Hellenic- Athens, Greece, 3rd-5th November
- East Africa - Kenya, November

Electronic communications: 8000 followers on FB, 600 more than in Stockholm. We added an initiative: Sunday Branches. Every Sunday, we publish a student branch on our site.

Student paper contest: students should participate in, great results at Eurocon Macedonia.

Questions: Turkey Section Representative: can GSM join ? Paul Micallef: yes, GSM that have finished they MSC thesis, can write the paper and join.

Jordan Section Representative: there used to be higher submissions? Paul Micallef: we don't know, we are unsure what is happening. There used to be much more. It is clear that certain branches that regularly participate. In total only 60 branches participate, out of the total about 30 are regular. There should be many many more. Deadline to submit is December 1st

Sara Ben Rabii: Exemplary awards, 46% of all submissions are R8. We have increased in the number of awards submission, as well as receiving most of them. Unfortunately no LKWilson awards, we hope that with more submissions next year, this will return to be an award we win.

George Papadimitriou: Mind the Gap Contest: 3x10000\$ prize, very interesting contest. 7 Very good submissions were made, three were selected, which will be presented at the Award presentation.

Questions: UK&I: map of universities, check why they don't have a student branch? Is there anything that the region can do? Identify the list of universities that should have the student branches. Ines: it would be a good idea, but big issue is sustainability. Please help us finding these situations in your sections. Mona: how to identify the universities that can, but don't? Asking section chair, they do not always have that information.

Habib Kamoun: Can we expand the rules of the SPC, that they can present their paper during their PhD? Paul Micallef: update the rules in order to allow students in their first phd year.

Habib Kamoun: What is the strategy for Africa concerning SYPs? The two events do not fully cover Africa in a good way.

Margaretha Eriksson: We are starting up our activities in Africa, we don't have all answers yet. But we will get there, together.

108 Technical Activities Report

The full presentation referred to in these minutes are available on the event website.

Christopher James, Technical Activities Vice chair presents his team, as well as the 6 major goals of Technical Activities:

- 1) Support the SC chairs & members through continuing dialog
- 2) Empower the SCs to challenge the status quo
- 3) Learn best practice within this role from wider IEEE regions
- 4) Create a preliminary initiative linking Technical Society expertise to that of the Region
- 5) Ensure a stable, long-term view on the Region's conference programme
- 6) Place particular emphasis on Standards & Industry progs.

Chapter Coordination:

Amara Amara, Chapter coordination sub committee chair presents:

A Working group formed March 2017

- To clarify the discrepancies in the MGA Operations Manual
- To include the formation possibility of the Student Technical Chapter in the MGA Operations Manual
- To adapt the MGA Operational Manuals accordingly

- To contact other Regions to inform about this activity and to establish future co-operation in this issues.
- A meeting of the Committee will take place in fall, preliminary discussion during the Section Congress

?Follow up of the Workshop on Humanitarian Activities and Chapter Activities

- Discussions with the HAC initiated by ChCSC Chair in June-July,
- First conference call on July 2017 between ChCSC Chair and the HAC Chair Laura,
- Second conference call between ChCSC Chair and Fernando, the Chair of the HAC Partnership Sub-Committee,
- Discussion are on-going regarding an MoU between IEEE HAC and Terre Des Hommes Foundation (International NGO),
- The approach is to be extended to other NGOs.

Questions: Turkey: chapters, we can not always find enough members for the chapters.

Tunisia: talking about Student branches, not chapters. Amara: this is more a question for SAC.

Conference Coordination

Peter Nagy, conference Coordination subcommittee chair presents:

- Committee website (under Technical Activities)
- eNotice service (form, approval, TCS, R8 members)
- Technical Co-Sponsored conferences (see committee website for guidance)
- IEEE R8 Flagship conferences
- POCO 2017 in Australia, POCO 2018 in Germany
- Recent Webinars, Center for Leadership Excellence, IEEE Conference Organizers? Newsletter
- Request for conference organizer?s contact in Section

Upcoming Flagship Conferences:

- IEEE Africon 2017 (Cape Town, South Africa) 18-20 Sept, 2017 <http://africon2017.org>
- IEEE Melecon 2018 (Marrakesh, Morocco) 2-7 May, 2018 <http://www.ieee.ma/melecon18>
- IEEE Energycon 2018 (Limassol, Cyprus) 3-7 June, 2018 <http://www.energycon2018.org>

Please refer to their presentation for the links to the Committee website, the IEEE Conferences website, IEEE Center for Leadership Excellence, the IEEE Conference Organizers' Newsletter, as well as Webinars, and POCO.

Educational Activities

- Section EA Chair online meeting: Being held on September 13, 2017.
- TISP Week 2017: Call open till September 15th
- Region 8 Early Career Faculty development Workshop: Working with EAB, Being held in September 2017
- Accreditation Activities: Accreditation workshops in Portugal in November 2017. Morocco workshop planning in progress.
- Competition to promote innovative Section Education Activities programs: New educational programs contest, To be announced on September ,First phase: Suggest New Ideas. Deadline 15/12/2017, Second phase: Implement top 5 ideas. Deadline 06/2018
- Continuing Education webinar series: Webinar on 'Personal Branding' in October 2017. Working with Industry in Action team.
- Online campaign to promote Engineers and Scientists: Legendary Engineers? educational turning point Campaign, One engineer per 2 weeks linked with tryengineering.org lesson plans

Action for Industry

Marios Antoniou, AFI subcommittee chair presents:

- Industry Seniors and Fellows have been recruited as Mentors
- Briefings about Mentoring are now on the R8 website <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/action-for-industry/mentoring/>.
- Industry Mentors are now listed on the R8 website <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/action-for-industry/mentors/>. Young IEEE engineers can reach out to them for guidance.
- Briefings about Internship are now on the R8 website: <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/action-for-industry/internships/>.
- Internship offers obtained are listed on the R8 Website: <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/action-for-industry/internships-offered/>.
- Companies seek high ability IEEE Students. They will be very selective and those who show commitment, communicate well and have good interpersonal skills. These are most likely to be offered places.

Standards

David Law, Standard activities subcommittee chair present:

Some events have passed, tutorials etc on the importance of standards, He encourages us to use the available content. There are 500\$ grants for students that do some project related to technical content. + 250\$ for the facilitator.

Recent highlights

- Oct 16: IEEE-SA outreach in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda
- Sep 16: IEEE Standards University (ISU) launch
- www.standardsuniversity.org : eLearning courses, IEEE Standards education e-Magazine, Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), Standard Simulation Game (available for licensing)

Outlook

- May 17: IEEE-SA BoG meeting in Dublin, Ireland
- Jun 17: IEEE-SA Standards Board meeting in Milan, Italy

- Jul 17: IEEE 802 plenary in Berlin, Germany

Opportunities

- Outreach based on above events or separately
- IEEE Standards Education Student Grants
 - \$500 for student, \$300 for faculty mentors
 - <https://www.standardsuniversity.org/grants/>

Questions Sweden: Contact the section chair when such events are held. DL: absolutely and thank you for the question.

200 Call to Order

201 Member Activities Report

Antonio Luque, Vice Chair Member Activities hopes to provide answers to the questions and comments of today. Especially the question "How to provide value to our member in the sections?" . He presents his committee, who each present their separate report.

Professional Activities

Jan Haase: PA: JH presents the goals of PA, the speakers program. He invites two speakers, Margaretha Eriksson and Jan Verveckken for a short word, raising the mutual benefits, for both attendees as well as speakers, of the PA program.

Humanitarian Activities

Alexandros Osana, chair of the Humanitarian Committee, could not attend and is excused. John Funso Abedayo, standing in for the chair, could not attend, due to visa issues.

Amith Khandakar presents SIGHT, Special interest group in Humanitarian Technology. He present the goals and achievements of the team, and invites the committee to attend the team in the Sections Congress activities. For details, please refer to the presentation, found on the website.

Questions: UK: localities challenge, the humanitarian project sometimes far away from volunteer that would like to help. Mona: In SIGHT, do not focus on what we call underdeveloped world, because there are also humanitarian goals in the developed world. How do we help the elderly? How has technology made our society less social? How is lifestyle too much affected ? AL: raising the importance of having activities for SIGHT in your local section: "about 40 % of the young members is because of the humanitarian activities, very significant. How satisfied are you ? most say they are not at all satisfied, huge opportunity for us to improve here! How many of the sections have a sight group ? 6-7 out of 57? Why do we not have it, when it is a priority of your members?"

ME: Also, think about refugees coming into our countries, how to help those ? There are pockets of needs that we may not see at first sight? Questions: Tunisia: can we have a more advanced status for these groups, that they could become a affinity group, AL: indeed good idea to have them upgraded, let's talk to the Vtools people about this.

Women in Engineering

Youmna El Bitar, joined by Maria Alexandra Paun: YLB Presents the team, and presented the new affinity groups are created MAP: on Vitality: We try to increase the number os affinity groups created, and we try to revitalize the dormant sections. Special thanks to the Chairs and volunteers of Morocco, Latvia, Malta, Austria, Poland, and Lithuania Sections.

Help is welcome to establish more contact with industry, to indicate companies having programs for women in STEM. Strong leads exist at Google, Intel and IBM.

To further encourage WiE in Region 8, several new awards are introduced:

- Region 8 Women in Engineering Affinity Group of the Year Award
- Region 8 Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Group of the Year Award
- Region 8 Outstanding Women in Engineering Volunteer Award
- Region 8 Outstanding Women in Engineering Student Volunteer Award

Questions: France:how to manage the relationships with older women in societies? YLB: MGA is working on that, not to duplicate the work, we are waiting for results form them.

Marko: Clementina Saduwa is most prestigious award. YLB: yes, talking about other awards, for students and branches

Mats Edvinsson: do not wait on the MGA stuff, because it might be too high level, not local enough, not useful enough. MAP: good idea at sectional level, we are gathering all details at that level?

Bosnia: Why is Clementina Saduwa not only for IEEE members? YLB: because that is not the goal of this award? Egypt: WiE Egypt. started because there were not many women, now 40% are women, we no longer have the original cause for starting WiE present anymore in our section.

Life member

Aleksander Szabo, Region Vitality coordinator presents.

Members qualify for Life membership if they are at least 65 and have been members long enough that the sum total of age and years of membership is at least 100 years. Life members do not pay dues, The number of Life members in the Region is growing steadily (not only in our region.) Only 13 life member groups for 57 sections.

- Benelux (159)
- Croatia (22)
- France (99)
- Germany (212)
- Greece (31)
- Hungary (18)
- Israel (126)

- Italy (153)
- Slovenia (16)
- Spain (68) Switzerland (194) UK and Ireland (304)
- Lebanon (7) formed in June 2017

Events can be organized, and 1000\$ funds can be received from the foundation. The following Sections should ask their Life members to form an LMAG now

- Austria (30)
- Denmark (42)
- Egypt (41)
- Finland (30)
- Norway (44)
- Poland (23)
- Portugal (18)
- Sweden (102)

Charles Turner is the next Chair.

Questions:

Italy section Representative: question related to history activities. AL defers the questions to the History Activities subcommittee.
Egypt Section Representative: how many life members should a section have to create such a life members group? AS: no restrictions, suggest that chair is a life member.

Region 8 News

Bojan Nikolic presents. Focus on delivering 3 issues to the members this year focusing on key region meetings, conferences and events as well as important mile stones and key initiatives by different committees

- We will have new volunteers joining the team that will dramatically increase the capacity to gather stories, review articles and produce high quality member newsletter Region 8 News is produced by volunteers only with contribution from all our members over the region
- Need more frequent contributions
 - We would like to hear more about Section news, milestones, organised events, industrial events, future plans
 - English proficiency is NOT a problem!
 - Tips for contributors:
 - <http://www.ieeer8.org/member-activities/r8news-newsletter/tips-for-contributors/tips-for-contributors/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/ieeer8news>
 - Hard copy + website + Facebook page
 - Still continue to focus on the goals set earlier this year
 - More digital formats that are targeting mobile, tablet and ebook reader users who have only digital membership
 - More online and social media presence

Questions: Serbia: when will there be issues this year ? Bojan: first online, almost ready.

Macedonia: what are the deadlines ? Bojan: about 2 months before you can receive hard copies.

Saudi Arabia: can we reevaluate the hard copy ? Bojan: still a need for it. Many ask for it.

History Activities

Presented by Antonio Luque, as chair Tony Davies is excused: Examples to imitate:

- 1) 11-page document issued at Spring 2017 R8 Committee Meeting in Stockholm, about the 50 year history of the Sweden Section, prepared by Mats Edvinsson. This is available on ETHW.
- 2) For a simpler example, see the Hungary Section History, posted on ETHW.
- 3) Many, but not all, Societies have their history on ETHW, see for example those of the Circuits and Systems Society and of the Microwave Theory and Techniques Society. Some Chapters also have their histories on ETHW.
- 4) Two problems: A. updating these entries. B. finding them in ETHW if you are not sure that they exist.

Purposes:

- 1) Encourage students and young professionals to take interest in the historical development of science and engineering: enables better preparation for ?inventing the future?, a central aspect of IEEE?s humanitarian mission..
- 2) Documenting the historical record of things relevant to IEEE R8.

Remember: Not knowing anything of the past means having no perspective of the future ? Theodore Roosevelt said the same! Absorption of IEEE Global History Network (GHN) into Engineering Technology History Wiki (ETHW) broadened coverage but made finding IEEE-relevant material (especially History Milestone Proposals) much more difficult. The other organisations in ETHW are mostly more ?USA centred? than IEEE so ETHW looks much more of a USA operation than was the GHN. One bad consequence of the structure is that comments on Milestone proposals in process are now rare, because it is harder for members and non-members to find out how to do that ! This risks undermining the rigour of the evaluation process for Milestones. Recommendation: make use of the ETHW resource, ensure that you can access the documentation about Milestone proposals in progress and are able to submit comments about them.

Announcing HISTELCON 2019

Provisional: this conference may be at Strathclyde University, Scotland. A second alternative if this plan does not succeed, is in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Tentative date: late August 2019 or early September 2019

Primary theme: historic computers, to include the contribution special purpose processors have made to the development and use of advanced digital signal processing methods in many applications areas.

Martin Bastiaans: list of milestones exist that are possible, if you would like to, go for it. We need volunteers to apply for such milestones.

202 Section Membership Development and Vitality

Andrejs Romanovs, Membership Development: Large parts of this presentation are graphs, please refer to the actual presentation for the data.

We are loosing about 2% per year. Everybody is receiving monthly md reports. Skype meetings are working on it? MD workshops, open call for hosting, focus on Africa and Middle East. Check the slide, Check recording for questions etc.

- What are the plans of your MD officer in terms of membership development?
- ?Did you have a chance to discuss the MD Workshop minutes with your MD officer?
- Have your MD officer introduced any new strategy?
- Have you noticed any improvement of the membership development?

Aleksandar Szabo: Vitality:

For more than half of the sections, it is time for elections. This is necessary. Please look for successors, spend time on finding those.

AS focusses on the rules for consecutive time and total time spent in the same function. Try to have your elections early, so that the new candidate can prepare well.

Use v-Tools for electronic voting to make it possible that all voting members can vote easily.

AS presents a Section Vitality Self Assessment survey: 89% of sections of Region 8 carried out this survey. The six major performance indicators are Six major categories referred to as Performance Indicators:

- Recognition
- Section Operations
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Outreach
- Chapter Activities/Affinity Group
- Professional Development

Sections received all information about this survey, and should use it to improve the vitality of their sections.

Andrejs Romanovs reminds the committee of the workshop during Sections Congress.

203 Africa Area Report

Gloria Chukwudebe can not be there, Habib Kamoun replaces Gloria.

Last main activities

- 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)
- IEEE President, Karen Bartleson visited Kenya in May 2017
- Tunisia section received the 2017 IEEE MGA Outstanding large section award
- 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
- 2017 IEEE PES Power Africa Conference held in Ghana, 27-30 June, 2017
- IEEE Nigeria Section organized a Maker Event 2017, June 2017

??Upcoming Conferences/Congresses

- IEEE African Student Young Professionals Congress (ASPYC) 8th - 10th Sept. 2017
- IEEE AFRICON 2017, Cape Town, South Africa, 18 - 20 Sept 2017
- IEEE East Africa Students and Young Professionals Congress (EASYP), Kenya, 5-8 October 2017
- IEEE Virtual Events Program in Africa - Smart Grid 2017 planned for October, 2017
- IEEE NIGERCON 2017 Conference, Nigeria, November 7-19, 2017 ??

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
- 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 announced 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

Questions: Szabo: Mauritius Sub Section also exists.

ME: thanks to Habib to present this presentation, and thank Gloria to prepare the presentation and work.

204 Action for Industry

Marios Antoniou presents the current actions of the committee as well as the next steps, focussing on 4 main programs:

- 1) Mentoring program
- 2) Internship program
- 3) Engaging industry corporations
- 4) Engaging startups and entrepreneurs

Mentoring program

Many of our IEEE young engineers have applied and been accepted for Internships, and also sought contact with Mentors. More than 100 IEEE Students have been placed in Internships throughout Region 8 during 2016. Additionally, many IEEE Students and YPs have sought Mentoring. The Mentors have responded positively to the Mentees. R8 Hardship fund managed by Afl.

Internship program

Stakeholders

- Industry corporations.
- IEEE Senior, Life members, Young Professionals and WIE who work in Industry.
- Section Industry Ambassador Teams.
- National Technical Chambers and organizations.
- Universities.

Internships secured in multinational companies (Dylniq, Cynapsys).

Companies seek high ability IEEE Students. They are very selective and seek people who show commitment, communicate well and have good interpersonal skills. These are most likely to be offered placing.

Industry Events

- Italy Section is organizing the third International Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry. Modena 11-13 September 2017. <http://rtsi2017.ieesezioneitalia.it/committees.html>
- Spain Section is organizing a panel with several industry representatives to be presented during the IEEE day.
- UK and Ireland Section run in May 2017 an Innovation / Research to industry (R2i - 2017) event.
- Kenya Section is organizing events with Industry representatives during 2017.
- Sweden Section is organizing WIE workshops and seminars with industry players.

Entrepreneurship

- Participation and mentoring in start-up and fin-tech events.
- Mentoring young entrepreneurs.
- Explore collaboration with Startup organizations.
- UK and Ireland Section Industry Ambassador team to run future Innovation / Research to industry (R2i-2017) in Scotland and England.

Action for Industry 2017 - Next Steps

- Communicate with companies to seek new internship positions for 2018. Note that companies define their budgets for 2017 during September and October 2016.
- Grow the Afl internship programme to new companies via SIAs, Seniors & Fellows.
- R8 (in 2017 Awards) and IEEE global to include outstanding SIA recognitions for their contribution and results in 2016 and 2017.
- Encourage industry entrepreneurs to visit academic institutions and discuss the challenges they face in their daily work. ??
- IEEE Region 8 Afl to set up Industry Groups of Industry Leaders through the Seniors and Fellows
- IEEE Region 8 to provide forums for SMEs
- Development of training for skills and competences that are more relevant for industry.
- Use of IEEE's continuing education tools. Organize webinars on selected topics such as mentoring and entrepreneurship.
- Corporate Membership of Industry Companies ? not provided yet by IEEE, but precedent is the IEEE Standards Association. The benefit is the motivation of companies to be involved with IEEE and their motivation of employees to join. IEEE may offer reduced fees to employees of Corporate members.
- IEEE President has visited Kenya and had several meetings for industry engagement.

Further success through closer collaboration with:

- Section Chairs
- Region 8 Young Professionals committee
- Region 8 Student activities committee
- Region 8 Educational activities committee.
- Region 8 Women in Engineering committee.
- Life, Fellows and Senior members in industry.

Questions: Austria: Startups, any statement from IEEE, is there a clear role, do they consider startups like any other company?
ME: of course really important, many students go there, lots of good stuff to be used from IEEE for startups. MA: Startups offer a flexibility and bring an experience to students that other companies can not bring.

Italy: How many Industry Ambassadors? MA: no limit, typically one or two, but for very large ones, 20 to 25, more becomes difficult. Having good people in that position, is the focus. Costas Stasopoulos: The size of the company also matters.. Italy: difficult to convince a company to help attract members in other companies. Often competitors, maybe better to have one per big company. Egypt: Section chair is Industry Ambassador, we have a YP involved, as well as have many students that have encouraging this engagement with Industry.

France: Industry ambassador, workshop with General Electric. Around 50 people there, I organized it personally with the industry ambassador. Now we need continuation. We need more people to keep on organizing more. Antoniou: lets start making the team, they can then solve these issues.

Mats Sweden: When we start, we need to continue. However Industry expects a certain quality. Sometimes enthusiasts start, but sometimes less is more? It takes a lot of time to do something, you really need to monitor that the quality is there.

Tunisia Habib Kamoun: Is it possible for the companies to work together with the section chair to select who is involved in the internship process? MA: we don't want to put the screening process out of the hands of the companies. It is not a must to sections. IF sections can, sure, they can do it, it can create value to the process.

205 Young Professionals

Sara Barros: Anything different ? The logo! Another new logo, hopefully this is the last one for it?

You become it after your first graduation, and stay like that for 15 years. Higher grade Young professionals are a decreasing part of IEEE.

The team is divided, per section one team member.

Three points we focus on:

- Support
- Funding
- Ideas

If they need money? Answer exist: Step, Meet up. Signature events. Seed Funding

Concerning Ideas, a map is developed with every activity in Region 8, so you can easily get inspiration from other events. PA program, Distinguished lecturer program, put them in touch? We are happy with our efforts especially volunteers, but normal members are less happy

Vinko presents SYP Congresses as a great event to attract YP members, and Meetup and Signature events which come with a big amount of funding, 1500\$. Three main exits from graduation How to get the all different Rui Costa will talk about industry: We are not engaging the companies enough. This is now going to change with our new program, but it is still under development. Skander Mansour: Speaking to entrepreneurs about how to pitch their ideas, will be ready by the end of the year. Flavia Dinca: YP Bright futures, check booth 31 at sections congress, Challenge gravity! Mohammed: social media expert. Contacting with young professionals, we are covering on facebook twitter linked in and Instagram

Questions: UK&I: in 2015 asked funding, in 2016 got series of this in London, Dublin, later in Scotland hopefully. We would love to share that with YP. They are really experts on that. Sara: we would love to hear all about it.

Poland: Meetup, we organize one in Warsaw, please apply and encourage your students Sara: meetup funding is already gone, next year new.

Austria: startup programs, there are everywhere startup programs, it would create some value Sara: still not started, proposal is there, we would like to also understand the geographical situation. We want a fair competition anyway. We would love to get your feedback on that.

Habib: on behalf of student branch and yp , we would love to thank you for the successful SYP Sara: thank you for organizing such a nice events.

ME: thanks the YPs, I hope the section chairs found some answer on how to engage the YPs.

206 EPPI

Marko Delimar: let's cut the history, it is in the presentation, let's focus on today. In 2017, the committee had 2 parts of the scope.

Public Policy activities are expanding across IEEE

- Board has been studying since 2012
- EPPI
- InternetInitiative
- Ad Hoc on Activities in Africa
- Increasing engagement in PSPB, EAB, SA, TAB (Societies), IEEE-USA

Board-approved priority in 2013 (one of four)

Board actions in 2015

- Established principles to guide IEEE Public Policy Activities (Bylaw I-311)
- Established processes and authorities for development and approval of policy documents (IEEE Policies, Section 15)
- Established new Global Public Policy Committee (IEEE Bylaw I-305.8)

Marko Delimar presents all current activities, as well as the achieved results of last year. From signature events till supplements to the European public policy documents. Attracting not only technical, but also technical policy interest. "We are building new bridges all over Europe" Similarly to EPPI, there exists an IEEE Ad Hoc Committee for Organizational Support for Public Policy Activities. The charter is made, with as main goal to recommend an organizational home for EPPI.

- Incorporate BoD feedback into Ad Hoc proposal for interim solution
- Ad Hoc to return to the BoD in November with formal motion for approval with appropriate governing documents and staffing plan centered around IEEE Technology Centre, Vienna
- Final report will include a further look at policy evolution alternatives

Question: Poland: how many are from Industry? Marko: roughly two thirds, we checked several diversities, age, interest, location,... out of 200 fantastic candidates, we had to select 12. Marko: large industry involvement. Not many academics, primarily industries.

Germany: how many of Africa ? Marko: In EPPI, none. Different focus. In AHCAA, all of those in that group are from Africa, except Margaretha.

Marios antoniou: more info on consultants network? Marko: yes, but not yet.

Habib: the summits can be viewed online ? Marko: yes, but not live. The summit is very high level, ends in a policy paper or two.

Habib: 200 present 200 virtually present, could such a thing be done. Marko: that is a note to take with us in the next organization.

JAfaar of Saurida Arabia East: financial impact Marko: 280k in 2017, for 2018 about 190k in assessment, we may be expanding where the finances may be coming from.

Last comment: Marko has some experience on PP, most of us believe that it is local, but it is global in the sense that it should be everywhere. Marko is more than willing to share this knowledge, we need to grow this in other parts of R8. Get in touch with Gordon Day, to make this happen. ME: it is dear to Marko, to all, it is important, we can reuse it, good investment.

207 Vienna Office

Dr. Clara Neppel presents the team, currently herself and dr. Herman Brand.

She explains why the location for this IEEE Office is selected to be Vienna, which is nicely in the middle of Europe, providing support to all sections, focussing on becoming a smart City, and has a very high quality of life.

IEEE office is the IEEE Technology Centre in Vienna.

Goals of the Vienna Office:

- Advance IEEE's position as a global organization
- Facilitate global relations
- Expand IEEE's activities with stakeholders
- Increase presence within IEEE, both members and volunteers

How :

- Collaboration, support? and services? to the technical community
- ?Focusing on the needs of industry, academia, and ?governmental? institutions????
- Engaging and? ?participating in? public policy by facilitating dialogue between technologists and policy makers ?

Four focus points are presented:

- EPPI
- ?Standard Development
-

Takeaways - Vienna Office

- Part of the global platform for collaboration for Advancing Technology for Humanity
- Serves as a platform for forward thinking technology professionals: - Global initiatives foster local engagement
- Local initiatives foster global engagement
- Initial focus: standardization and public policy initiatives
- Facilitates interdisciplinary cross-sector collaboration to master Digital Transformation
- Contributes to IEEE's mission of taking social responsibility for contexts of technology evolution

Questions: Tiziana: Meeting in Italy of EPPI working group, section was not informed. Marko: this meeting is in conjunction with a conference. We are not in the habit of engaging sections as there is no time for that. ISGT, we will take a note to inform sections in next cases.

Poland: lot of global goals for IEEE, what help is there for Vienna office ? CN: indeed, we visit all major section in the close future.

Republic of Macedonia: what support will be get for the sections? CN: we have to be in dialogue with the operating units, to identify the needs. So that we can identify the best moment to CS: the request for ideas is to help them shape, not decided this will be like that.

Turkey: will you work with IEEE SA? CN: yes of course.

300 Call to Order and Roll Call

We have a quorum. Director Margaretha Eriksson asks the committee to think about an achievement of their section. ME commends the great things we do in our region.

301 Secretary's Report

Jan Verwecken introduces the secretary team, clarifies the focus of the Secretary team. He thanks his predecessor, Christian Schmidt for the excellent and continuing guidance.

302 Treasurer's Report

Ralph Kennel indicates the report that was given. He also explains the expense reimbursement form. Please send all information to both treasurers, as Brian is still the only one that can perform payments.

RK focusses on the reestablished good net worth to Long term investment, but mentioned the realistically high costs of this event in Sydney. Region 8 budget, focus on 18 % travel is much cheaper than some societies, good payment. Large student activity funding, but little support to sections, reasonable support to YP?

Next issues to become treasurer, takes still a few trips to UK. Also the software is different between Germany and England, this problem is still to be checked.

The budget is largely the same budget as the previous year, comments are welcome. Note that the membership numbers are decreasing, and because of that our income decreases too.

Booking for flights was rather successful, if you can not get money transferred to your country, use this option to get all necessary money, rather than cash refunding.

Questions Jan Haase: let's spend the money for something. Let's get a few good ideas. RK: be careful, touching the reserves is not easy. HQ saves it...

Martin Nzomo: Thank you for your fast actions on booking tickets.

Szabo: budget proposal? RK: yes will come

Antonio Luque: bogus boss Fraud mentioned in the report, what is this? RK: This value will still change, not clear yet how much is defrauded.

UK&I: deficit, new income? Strategy of where to invest? RK: deficit was expected, related to this congress.

303 Future Conferences (Energycon, Melecon, GCC,...)

Peter Nagy:

- Africon: Shaun Kaplan, South Africa, 18-20 September 2017
- MELECON, May 2 ? 7, 2018, Marrakech, Morocco
- Eurocon 2019, Vladimir Katic, 1-3 July 2019.
- ENERGYCON 2018 Towards Self-healing, Resilient and Green Electric Power and Energy Systems ?June 3-7, 2018, Limassol

304 Awards & Recognition

Costas: awards by SAC committee mainly, yesterday at dinner. He urges the committee to nominate all those that are deserving of recognition, as this is an important part of our organization and member function.

305 Nominations and Appointments Report and Elections Instructions

Costas Stasopoulos presents the election procedure. For details, please refer to the presentation on the website. He lets the candidates present themselves, and afterwards opens the floor to questions.

306 Vice Chair Candidate Presentations and Discussion

Christopher James: Explains why he is doing his job and what he focusses on. The main target is maintaining the quality. Costas explains the main goals of a N& A committee.

Questions: UK: a specific program to get closer to industry?

Vice Chair Technical Activities Christopher James: the program that Marios Antonio has spoken about yesterday, rolling that out looks very promising. We do believe that we are doing very good things, rolling out is still starting.

Vice Chair Member Activities Antonio Luque: Explains what his role is. He draws attention back to his report of yesterday. Many members, help them grow in their profession. The VC should help to provide a coherent set of service. Starting from YP all the way to Life members. Coordination, staying in contact with all sub-committees.

No questions to Antonio Luque.

Vice Chair Student Activities Femia through video: personally thank for vote last year, hopes to continue supporting the team and members through the new challenges.

No questions possible

307 Presentation of Director Elect Candidates

Both candidates for position of Director Elect, Antonio Luque and Rafal Sliz are presented as candidates, and invited to present themselves and their program: Please refer to the presentation on the website for their program.

Questions: South Africa: strategy MM and tangible benefit? Rafal: Multi Million Biz plan is for YP, provide something that will increase attention. Access to papers will finally happen for YP.

UK: what would each one of you do to bring real benefit, concerning the membership Antonio: good questions, big issue at IEEE. We are not providing something they want. Probably not enough to be a member, we are doing more or less good.

308 Executive Session

It is in the nature of an Executive session, that no notes be taken.

309 Elections

310 Presentation of Election Results

Results of the elections are presented:

- Technical Activities Vice Chair Christopher James is reelected for another year term.
- Membership Activities Vice Chair Antonio Luque is reelected for another year term.
- Student Activities Vice Chair is reelected for another year term.
- Antonio Luque and Rafal Sliz have been accepted as candidates, and will be proposed to IEEE BoD.

Congratulations to all candidates.

311 GDPR Changes

ME introduces Eileen Lach, General Counsel, as well as the colleagues Jonathan Wiggins, Patricia Almaraj. The presentation is of a legal nature. To not make any mistakes, please refer to the original presentation on our website.

Not only applied to EU, but to all of the world, if it concerns EU citizens.

Right to be forgotten: it is enforced not only to the first data controller, but also further down the stream, all others need to stop using and delete it too. It handcuffs the lawyers, now we have to really say what we mean.

Patricia: what have we been doing to become compliant Currently our data collection consent is IMPLICIT We need an EXPLICIT consent? currently we do not have that? It goes as far as using any picture, any information they have given to register.

Questions: Egypt: Samiee, what will happen there? Christian Schmidt: Create a few use cases for us, so we can understand it? JW: yes, please.

Jan Verveckken: I can create a survey to get an overview? JW: good point, we will see?.

Russia: Russian government, personal data of Russian citizens, can only be kept in servers in Russia? JW: we haven't talked about the location and transfer of data? It is permitted in certain situation, we have updated policies to allow for that.

Italy: in Italy we need to document every member of an organization, including their fiscal code. JW: Consent may be required in such a case, we are not .

Jan Verveckken: taking a course, will IEEE help us somehow? JW: will indeed be necessary

Finland: does the GDPR mention where the data is physically located? Can it be stored forever? JW: yes, it does specify it, there is information about transferring it etc.

312 Sections Congress Recommendations

Secretary Jan Verveckken reminds the committee of the process that led to the Recommendations IEEE Region 8 proposed to be voted on. Starting with the workshops in Stockholm, an OpCom filtering, a committee voting of the 3 most interesting, which were combined by MGA into 2. These 2 in question were: He specifies which 2 there are currently on the ballot.

- 1) Create partnerships with successful online course providers (or develop courses in-house, based on the input of high-profile experts in all technical skills/fields) to offer members looking for specialized training with discounted professional educational opportunities.
- 2) Create IEEE training and mentorship program for members who want to translate their ideas into sustainable businesses.

313 Next Region 8 SYP Congress

Next IEEE Region 8 SYP Congress is planned to take place in Porto, Portugal, in July 2018. Several proposals were evaluated. More details will be made available during the Next Region 8 Committee Meeting.

314 Next Region 8 Committee Meeting

Next Region 8 Committee meeting location as well as date is unclear at that time, as the preparations have been severely impacted by preparations for Sections' Congress.

315 Motions

Past Director Costas Stasopoulos opens the floor for Motions.

No new motions were offered to the committee.

316 New Business

Director Margaretha Eriksson opens the floor to New business.

UK&Ireland Section delegate mentions: "There is not a great deal of horizontal collaboration, if we could expand this for sections cooperation, chapters, etc? We are very vertical, we could create value horizontally for members."

Past Director Costas Stasopoulos: "Noted. Also reminds of the existing Cross sectional SYPS, as well as the ongoing work between sections."

Iran Section Delegate fully endorses what UK&I Section delegate mentioned concerning collaboration between sections, and emphasizes that it will enhance the visibility of IEEE in our respective countries.

317 Adjournment

Director Margeretha Eriksson thanks all attendees for their attendance, the fruitful discussion. and requests to reflect on what we will take with us after these two days of meeting. In light of Sections Congress, she wishes us fruitful discussion with IEEE Staff and volunteers.

Section/Subsection Officers

(GEO) Current Reported Section Chairs_R8_12Jan2017

Organizational Unit Name	Position Description	Position Start Date	Position End Date	First Name	Last Name	Email Address
Algeria Section	Chair	11/21/2015		Amar	Tilmatine	atilmatine@gmail.com
Austria Section	Chair	12/8/14		Peter	Palensky	palensky@ieee.org
Bahrain Section	Chair	1/1/15		Adel	Ahmed Hamed	dr.adel@ieee.org
Belarus Section	Chair	1/1/16	12/31/17	Aleksandr	Gusinski	avggus@mail.ru
Benelux Section	Chair	2/4/15		Adrianus	Smolders	a.b.smolders@tue.nl
Bosnia And Herzegovina Section	Chair	1/1/17	12/31/18	Meliha	Selak	melihass@shaw.ca
Bulgaria Section	Chair	1/1/17	12/31/18	Kiril	Alexiev	kiril.m.alexiev@ieee.org
Croatia Section	Chair	1/1/17	12/31/18	Maja	Matijasevic	mmatijasevic@ieee.org
Cyprus Section	Chair	1/1/16		Nicos	Michaelides	nicos.michaelides@cyta.com.cy
Czechoslovakia Section	Chair	1/1/15		Matej	Pacha	matej.pacha@ieee.org
Denmark Section	Chair	1/1/17		Erik	Stilling	stilling@ieee.org
Egypt Section	Chair	1/1/16	12/31/17	Samir	Shaheen	sshahen@ieee.org
Estonia Section	Chair	1/1/17	12/31/18	Peeter	Ellervee	p.ellervee@ieee.org
Finland Section	Chair	1/1/16		Toni	Mattila	toni.mattila@hut.fi
France Section	Chair	1/1/17	12/31/19	Frederique	Vallee	sarl.fandco@free.fr
Germany Section	Chair	1/1/17		Ingo	Hahn	ingo.hahn@ieee.org
Ghana Section	Chair	1/1/17		Eric	Kuada	erickuada@yahoo.com
Greece Section	Chair	1/1/16		Nectarios	Koziris	nkoziris@cslab.ece.ntua.gr
Hungary Section	Chair	1/1/17	12/31/18	Levente	Kovacs	kovacs.levente@nik.uni-obuda.hu
Iceland Section	Chair	3/11/15		Thomas	Runarsson	tpr@hi.is
Iran Section	Chair	1/1/17		Ahmad R.	Sharafat	ahmad.sharafat@gmail.com
Iraq Section	Chair	1/1/15	12/31/18	Nidaa	Abbas	nidaa_muhsin@yahoo.com
Israel Section	Chair	5/1/15		Mark	Shtauf	shtauf@tauex.tau.ac.il
Italy Section	Chair	9/6/16		Tiziana	Tambosso	tiziana.tambosso@gmail.com
Jordan Section	Chair	1/1/16		Gheith	Abandah	abandah@ju.edu.jo
Kenya Section	Chair	1/1/16		Humphrey	Muhindi	hmuhindi@ieee.org
Kuwait Section	Chair	6/1/90	12/31/17	A	Alghunaim	arkghun@gmail.com
Latvia Section	Chair	1/1/16	12/31/17	Andrejs	Romanovs	a.romanovs@ieee.org
Lebanon Section	Chair	1/1/17	12/31/18	Hadi Edmond	Sawaya	hadi.sawaya@usj.edu.lb
Lithuania Section	Chair	1/1/15		Vytautas	Urbanavicius	vytautas.urbanavicius@vgtu.lt
Malta Section	Chair	1/1/17		Conrad	Attard	conattard@gmail.com
Morocco Section	Chair	2/1/16		Mohammed	El Mohajir	m.elmohajir@ieee.ma
Nigeria Section	Chair	1/1/16		Rapheal	Onoshakpor	maejow007@yahoo.com
Norway Section	Chair	1/1/16		Runar	Soeraasen	runar.soeraasen@ieee.org
Oman Section	Chair					
Poland Section	Chair	1/1/16		Mariusz	Malinowski	malin@isep.pw.edu.pl
Portugal Section	Chair	1/1/15		Ana	Madureira	amd@isep.ipp.pt
Qatar Section	Chair	5/20/15		Somaya	Al-maadeed	s_alali@qu.edu.qa
Republic Of Macedonia Section	Chair	1/22/14	12/31/17	Lupco	Karadzinov	l.karadzinov@ieee.org
Romania Section	Chair	2/1/14	2/15/18	Mircea	Eremia	eremia1@yahoo.com
Russia (Northwest) Section	Chair	1/1/17	12/31/18	Mikhail	Shestopalov	shestopalov_08@mail.ru
Russia (Siberia) Section	Chair	1/1/16	12/31/17	Alexey	Rodionov	alrod@sscc.ru
Russia Section	Chair	2/9/15	12/28/18	Sergei	Nikitov	nikitov@cplire.ru
Saudi Arabia Section	Chair	9/14/11		Muhammad	Al-Dhamen	muhammad.dhamen@gmail.com
Serbia And Montenegro Section	Chair	2/3/15		Vera	Markovic	vera5556@gmail.com
Slovenia Section	Chair	1/1/14	12/31/17	Urban	Burnik	urban.burnik@ieee.org
South Africa Section	Chair	1/1/17		Albert	Lysko	alysko@csir.co.za
Spain Section	Chair	3/1/15		Jesus	Fraile-Ardanuy	jesus.fraile.ardanuy@upm.es
Spain Section	Chair	2/16/2016	12/31/2017	Antonio	Luque Estepa	aluque@gte.esi.us.es
Spain Section	Chair			Emilio	Corchado	escorchado@usal.es
Sweden Section	Chair	1/1/14		Mats	Edvinsson	m_edvinsson007@yahoo.se
Switzerland Section	Chair	3/31/15		Andreas	Koschak	akoschak@parametric.ch
Tunisia Section	Chair	7/7/15	12/31/18	Habib	Kammoun	habib.kammoun@ieee.org
Turkey Section	Chair	1/1/16		Murat	Uysal	murat.uysal@ozyegin.edu.tr
Ukraine Section	Chair	1/1/16	12/31/17	Felix	Yanovsky	felix.yanovsky@ieee.org
United Arab Emirates Section	Chair	1/1/17		Essa	Basaeed	essa.basaeed@gmail.com
United Kingdom and Ireland Section	Chair	1/1/16		A	Hessami	hessami@vegaglobalsystems.com
Western Saudi Arabia Section	Chair	1/1/14		Mohamed A	Turki	mtmm@mtmm.com.sa
Zambia Section	Chair	2/1/13		Bellington	Kabwe	kbellington@yahoo.com

Membership

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Director

Margaretha Eriksson

Goals

To lead and support the activities in Region 8 and represent the interests of Region 8 in IEEE Board of Directors.

Status

We have a dedicated leadership team and great elected and appointed officers. We are executing on the goal areas we have set out:

- 1) Future members - Students and Young Professionals,
- 2) Getting closer to Industry, and
- 3) Section Vitality. The Vice-Chairs will present progress in these areas.

We also work with the IEEE Africa Committee to expand IEEE into five new African countries. We have opened an IEEE office in Vienna and work with European Public Policy actively.

Outlook

The EPPI committee is forming a new team for 2018 to promote IEEE member's views on Energy, Cybersecurity, and E-health issues to EU politicians, and I'm looking forward see the results. We are forming the role of the IEEE Vienna office, and what services the Sections need and would like to see delivered. For our members in Africa, forming an Africa Council is essential when the special support to Sections and Subsections in Africa through the Africa Ad Hoc Committee will be transferred to R8. The transition must start during 2018.

Points of Concern

We need to strengthen the communication within the region on all levels, using all the means and technical support we have at hand, both IEEE tools like Collabratec, and commercially available tools.

Other Issues to report

Past Director

Costas Stasopoulos

Goals

To help with my experience the smooth running of the Region 8 and to help promote and enhance IEEE in the whole region. To inspire young people become volunteers in IEEE and to get involved in humanitarian activities. Offering advice to IEEE members on various IEEE issues and trying to find solutions to problems.

Status

Working in various committees to achieve the above goals.

Outlook

To be effective and proactive. Promote IEEE more in Africa and Eastern Europe.

Points of Concern

The growing size of our Regional Committee. Membership retention and membership satisfaction.

Other Issues to report

Director-Elect

Magdalena Salazar Palma

Role of Region 8 Director-Elect

- 1) The Director-Elect is responsible of Region 8 (R8) Strategic Planning and Region 8 Vitality.
 - The Director-Elect chairs the R8 Strategic Planning Sub Committee (SPSC). The SPSC report details its Goals, Status, Outlook and Points of Concern.
 - In order to ensure the Region and Sections vitality, the Director-Elect is helped by the Sections Vitality Coordinator (SVC). The SVC report details its Goals, Status, Outlook and Points of Concern.
- 2) The Director-Elect participates in IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Board (MGAB) meetings and Board of Directors (BoD) meetings, during the February, June, and November IEEE Meeting Series.
- 3) The Director-Elect represents R8 in meetings at the request of R8 Director or as needed. The following report refers to these last two roles of the Director-Elect.

Goals

To participate in MGAB and BoD meetings in preparation for the incoming role as Director, networking with all MGAB and BoD members. To represent R8 in meetings of different types in order to support, encourage and serve members.

Status

During year 2017 I was voting member of MGAB as Technical Activities Board (TAB) representative, which helped me to better learn at the MGAB level and better interact with MGAB members. I was also Chair of one of the MGA Committees, namely the MGA Awards and Recognitions Committee (ARC), and as such, member of other MGA Committees and Boards, namely, the MGA Member Engagement and Life Cycle Committee, the Awards Board and the Awards Board Policy and Portfolio Review Committee. By being member of these committees I have acquired an MGAB and IEEE broader view and I have contributed to bring R8 points of view, experience and achievements into the discussion. In 2018 I will continue to serve as member of MGA ARC, as past chair. With respect to the BoD, besides the learning experience of participating in the February, June and November meetings, during 2017 I have been the chair of one of the committees that reports to BOD, namely, the IEEE Ethics and Member Conduct Committee (EMCC), as well as member of the BoD Ad Hoc Committee on IEEE Ethics Programs. In 2018 I will continue as Chair of the EMCC. For 2018 I am also member of another committee which reports to the BoD, namely the European Public Policy Committee.

I represented R8 in Middle East Student and Young Professionals (MESYP) Congress 2017, in Tunis, Tunisia, in IEEE Panel of Conference Organizers (POCO) 2017, in Sydney, Australia, in AFRICON 2017, Cape Town, South Africa, and also in other trips that I undertook for technical reasons to Cape Town, South Africa, Gaborone, Botswana, and Nairobi, Kenya. These last trips have been possible because of my involvement with several TAB Technical Societies.

Outlook

During year 2018 the activities of the Director-Elect will continue in a similar way, with the scope of improving the interactions with MGAB and BoD, and acquiring a better understanding of R8 needs to better serve its members during the next two years, 2019 and 2020, when I will become R8 Director.

Points of Concern

Being the second largest region in terms of members, the first in extension and diversity, and the region where many of IEEE technical activities take place, R8 needs to have a main role in shaping the future of IEEE.

V/C Member Activities

Antonio Luque

Goals

The VC Member Activities coordinates the following activities: - Membership Development - Professional Activities - Region 8 News - Affinity Group Activities (Young Professionals, Life Members, Women in Engineering) - Humanitarian Activities
The primary goal of the MA committees should be to engage members, by providing them the initiatives and programs of non-technical nature that they demand. One of the long-term goals of MA must be to increase the level of volunteering among all members, so that new activities and programs can be initiated and maintained.

Status

In the last months there have been changes in the leadership of the Life Members and Humanitarian Activities subcommittees and also in the editorial board of Region8 news. New volunteers will be coordinating these teams in 2018.

Membership in the Region keeps declining at approximately 1% yearly rate. This can have an impact on the level of activities that we can develop and the total income of the Region. The trend is similar to Regions 7, 9 and 10, and significantly better than in Regions 1-6, where the decline is even larger.

I invite all volunteers to look at the reports from the different subcommittees under Member Activities for more details of the current status and planned activities for 2018.

Outlook

The demand of humanitarian programs is growing among our members and the level of activities is on the rise all across the Region. The Humanitarian Activities Committee needs to be given a permanent place in the volunteer structure and has to foster this activities in every possible Section.

Also, there is a growing interest in promoting STEM among female students and to recognize achievements and contributions by female engineers. The Women in Engineering team needs to have a better defined structure to help in these objectives. Both issues can be addressed through a modification of the Operations Manual that is being proposed.

Points of Concern

Retention of members, especially first-year ones, is very low and keeps decreasing. We need to improve the perception of members in their first years of members so that they value their membership from the beginning.

Other Issues to report

V/C Student Activities

Efthymia Arvaniti

Goals

The Student Activities Committee has set some common goals for the year 2018 that are already aligned with the previous year's. These goals will serve as a motive for all SAC members, and through our pre-set KPIs, the progress and the deliverable of the team will be easily measured and monitored. The goals for 2018 for the Student Activities Committee are distributed across the functions of the team, with major points the following:

- 1) Awards&Contests: Successful campaign for the 2018 submissions and higher number of submissions in comparison to 2017 and the other regions. Engagement of more applicants for the Outstanding Branch Counselor Award.
- 2) Electronic Communications: SAC Website Restructuring and social media regular updates. Support the Awards&Contests Campaign, the Student Paper Contest Campaign, as well as other initiatives. Engage with students through Facebook Page and reach 10.000 likes in 2018.
- 3) SPC: Motivate students to participate and submit more than 10 eligible papers for the Student Paper Contest 2018. Host a Webinar for preparation of the interested students.
- 4) R8 SYP Congress: Support the efforts of the organizing committee and join forces with YPs, in order to adjust the eligibility and selection criteria of the funded participants.
- 5) Restructure and enrich the R8 SAC Website.
- 6) Keep the database and all the contacts of Section SACs and Section Representatives, as well as the events up-to-date file with all the Student Branches' emails, on the interactive R8 Map.
- 7) The Cross-Sectional Congresses for 2019 to be better organized and successful.

Status

- 1) 2017 was a year full of Cross-Sectional SYP Congresses, with MESYP, HSYP, CEuSYP, WESYP, GCCSYP, NSYP, ASYP and EASYP.
- 2) This year there were 21 papers submitted by the closing date of December 1 2017. The papers were seen by four jury members- Prof Anastas Mishev from FYROM, Prof Christos Schizas from Cyprus, Prof Mustapha Benjallali from Morocco, and Prof Paul Micallef from Malta who is also the SPC Coordinator The jury members are rotated over a period of time depending on where Melecon and Eurocon are held. The participants where from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Egypt, Greece, Iran, Jordan, Malta, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain and Turkey. The five finalists who will be presenting their paper at Melecon 2018 in Marrakech are:
 - a) Ahmed Abdelraouf Mohamed, Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport Cairo, Egypt, with the paper ""A Multi-Objective Distributed Generation Allocation and Sizing using Swarm Intelligence Based Algorithms""
 - b) Benjamin Chim, Universit Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, with the paper ""Supervised classification of structural brain networks reveals gender differences""
 - c) Marko Mihajlovic and co-author Nikola Popovic, University of Niš, Serbia, with the paper ""Fooling a neural network with common adversarial noise""
 - d) Nima Taghipour Bazargani, K.N. Toosi University of Technology, Tehran, Iran, with the paper ""A Novel Approach for Probabilistic Hurricane Resiliency Assessment of a Grid Connected Microgrid Using Point Estimate Method""
 - e) Yazan Qiblawey with co-authors Ruslan Abu Sneineh, Majd Ahmed Abduljabbar and Yousef Jamal Orabi, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar, with the paper ""Design and Implementation of Autonomous Surface Vehicle""
- 3) MGA SAC and R8 SAC are working on clearing up the number of active Student Branches, and put the inactive SBs in probation.
- 4) Social media are playing a vital role in the communication with the Students, and the campaigns are engaging more and more participants.
- 5) Awards Campaign for the 2017 Awards is ongoing, and the submission deadline closes on the 15th of February. Higher numbers than last years' are also expected.
- 6) The biggest R8 Student and YP event, the R8 SYP Congress will be hosted in Porto, Portugal, from the 25th to the 29th of July 2018. The SAC and YP Teams are supporting the efforts of the organizers with monthly meetings and regular communications, through collaboration platforms. The team is working towards locking Sponsors and Speakers, and to deliver a great quality Congress.
- 7) The reporting campaign for the activities and officer reporting of the regional branches is successfully continued with 204 reported SBs for the Academic Period of 2015-2016 and 202 for the Academic Period 2016-2017. The reporting process for 2017-2018 is still ongoing.
- 8) R8 SAC Cookbook: A review of the current recipes on how to help students with easy-step guides is getting enriched with more guides and a FAQ section where students can check for answers, suggestions, ideas and help.

Outlook

The 2018 SAC plan, includes the fulfillment of the aforementioned goals and the development of strategic plan for the knowledge transfer to the 2019 SAC Team. Additionally, it is planned to organize the documentation in a simple yet understanding and complete level.

Points of Concern

- 1) One of the points of concern is the ever-growing number of students that apply for funding for the Regional Congress and the high registration numbers and low final participation, but the SAC and YP teams are working on changing this

status and suggest alternative ways of keeping the attendees active.

- 2) Each year, it becomes more and more difficult to secure sponsors for the R8 SYP Congress, and a possible source of support can be the AFl Subcommittee and the Technical Societies and Chapters.
- 3) There should be a formal and legal committee/person within Region 8, responsible for assisting and covering the sponsorship and legal signatures (suggestion: IEEE Office in Vienna) for the Student Events and the Section Activities where IEEE is not recognized as a legal entity.

Other Issues to report

V/C Technical Activities

Christopher James

Goals

- 1) Harmonise and standardise conference provision in R8
- 2) Provide new opportunities for IEEE Industry Members in R8 and beyond
- 3) Provide a solid foundation in Educational Activities across the Region
- 4) Widen participation including Standards Activities within the Region
- 5) Expand the technical offerings for the members of R8 and beyond

Status

Strong progress on all fronts. New initiatives in Educational Activities, Standards, Industry and more are keeping Technical Activities in our Region fresh and vibrant.

Outlook

The outlook is good - we have string engaged volunteers within the relevant roles, these are grasping opportunities and putting systems in place to guarantee and strong future for our members.

Points of Concern

Because of changes in committee leadership, the coverage of our initiatives can be patchy and we can lose momentum - the creation of Handbooks within given roles is one way of mitigating this 'risk'.

Other Issues to report

Treasurer

Ralph Kennel

Financial Report for Year 2017

Overview:

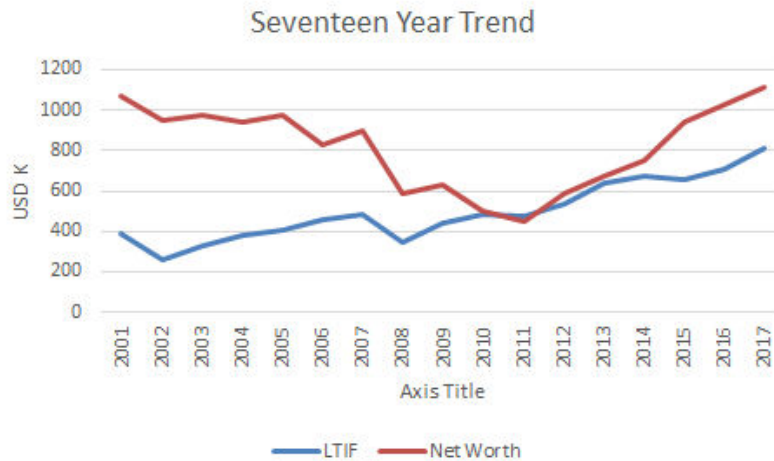
IEEE Region 8 finished the financial year of 2017 with NET ASSETS of \$1,111,903:86 of which \$1,035,570:48 are due to Reserves and \$76,333:38 are due to a surplus of Income over Expenditures for the year.

However, it should be appreciated that these results are essentially due to the high performance of our Long-Term Investment Fund (LTIF) during this period. The trend followed that of the U.S. Stock Market as has been seen during the present Presidential administration, but of course such high growth can be subject to some correction in the future.

The "Statement of Region 8 Net Worth" as at the 31st December, 2017 is shown in this report. The Treasurer draws the Committee's attention to the fact that owing to large events during the year the Cash Account was decreased by the amount of \$54,612:99. The Committee should not be misled that the stated surplus of \$76,333:38 indicates a more desirable outcome than was in fact experienced.

The Cash Flow at the end of the financial year required some supplier payments and expense reimbursements to be rescheduled into year 2018.

The Income



From the "Financial Report for 2017" it will be seen that IEEE Region 8 Income is essentially made up 64% from an "Assessment", which is in effect an algorithm derived from our total membership numbers. A further amount of 21% during this period arises from a "Rebate" from MGA. Investment Gain and Dividends contribute a further 12% to the Net Assets, but these are used to purchase further Investment and are not taken as a contribution towards the cash account.

This indicates that the future income and consequential health of Region 8 is dependent largely on the number of active members within Region 8.

The Region 8 Treasurer has reported in past years that additional income such as that derived from Conference activity would assist in reducing this sensitivity to falling membership numbers and further ensure the future wellbeing of the Region.

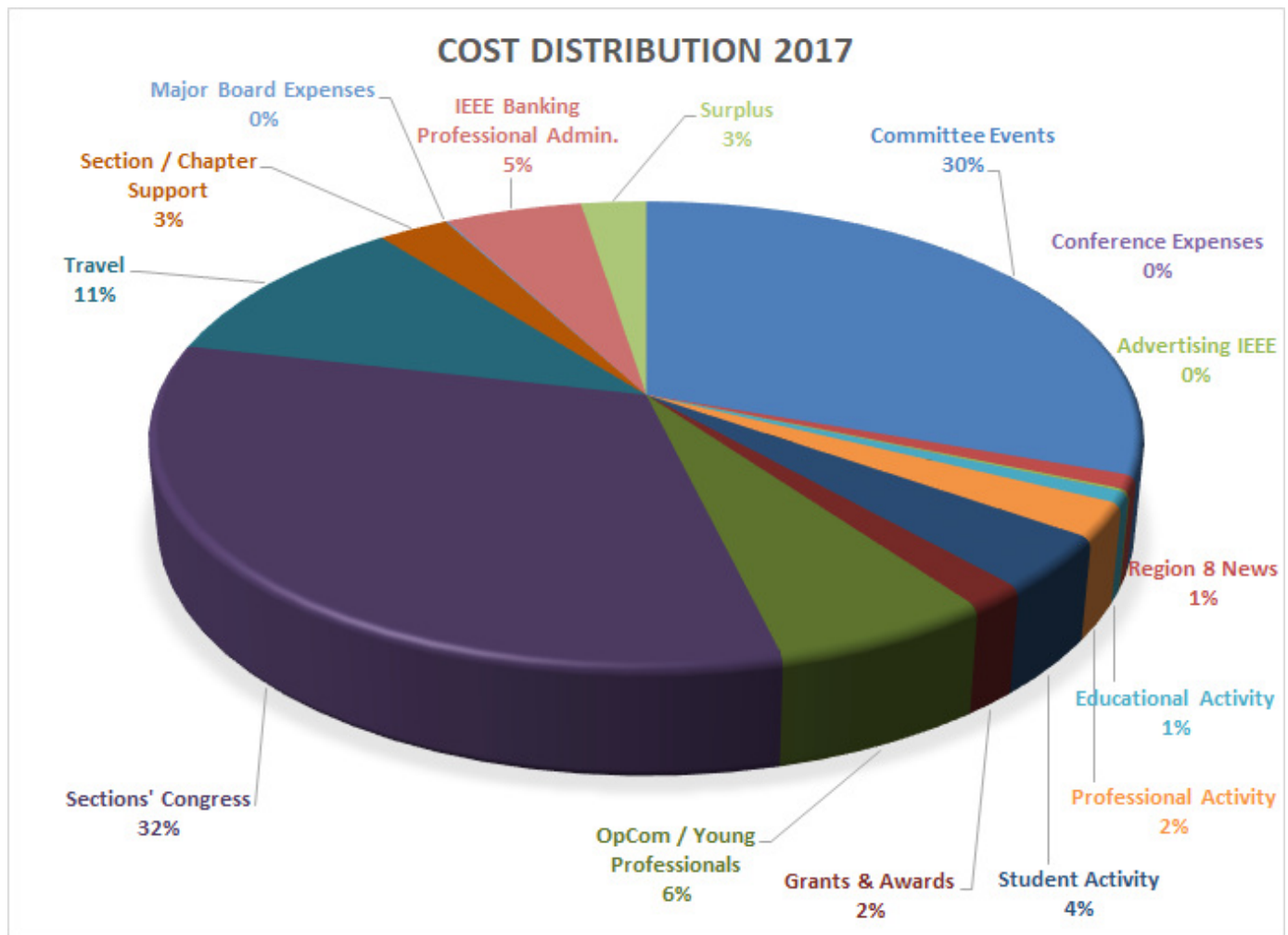
Region 8 values the assistance that it is able to give to those students of a low income, or are resident in areas of Region 8 having a relatively low GDP Per Capita. The VCF (Voluntary Contribution Fund) provides travel assistance to those IEEE Region 8 students who qualify to enable them to attend conferences of International standing so that they may present their papers on their research activity. The students are asked to acknowledge their support from IEEE during their presentation.

Region 8 thanks all those members who make such Donations or Voluntary Contributions whilst renewing their annual membership subscription to the Institute. Our desire is to further increase this support where possible.

The Expenditures:

It is apparent from the pie chart of "Cost Distribution" that the areas of "Committee Events" and "Sections' Congress" dominate the expense costs during 2017. Other activity was essentially squeezed between these two major events.

At a cost as at year end, and before any recoveries have been made, at \$266,641:56 the Region 8 Committee meeting in Stockholm, Sweden is the most expensive Region 8 meeting Region 8 has supported. When full recoveries of costs have been completed for Sections' Congress in Sydney, Australia the cost of this meeting is expected to be below the figure of \$246,686:25



as is seen at financial year end.

In considering the pie chart it should be appreciated that for reporting purposes we are required by MGA to include all travel costs associated with Sections' Congress within the "Sections' Congress" caption.

It will be seen that in 2017 the support to Student Activity appears to have been much reduced. The major Region 8 Student and Young Professional Congress takes place every two years and is destined to take place this year (2018) in Porto. The funding for this event is reliant upon the organising Students and Young Professionals achieving appropriate funding. IEEE Region 8 will contribute as a sponsor for this event.

The Region 8 Committee will be familiar with the volatile nature of the currency market during 2017. In order to ensure an accurate figure for the Net Assets of the Region at financial year-end, Region 8 completes a currency re-evaluation. This determined that during 2017 Region 8 lost the equivalent of \$19,422:24 in Net Assets owing to the variance in foreign currency exchanges as compared with the yearend position as at the 31st December, 2016.

The Outlook:

The exceptional high cost of particular events during the year 2017 demands that the appropriate controls are demonstrated on all such future potentially high cost events. Region 8 cannot sustain the continuing losses on the Cash Account.

IEEE Region 8 is also aware of the need to reduce the administrative effort required to support the Treasury.

It is intended that the efforts required to process reimbursements and to make payments, and the effort needed to prepare reporting to OpCom and to IEEE MGA should be distributed among more than one person.

It is intended to upgrade the present Banking and Bookkeeping processes to encompass an on-line reporting system to Region 8 Budget holders, that will be supported by an automatic bank feed from Region 8's Bankers. The present systems have been technically positioned to make this an easily achieved step.

IEEE Region 8 Financial Report for 2017

All Amounts are in &K US

Income (2017)	2017	2016	Disbursements (2017)	2017	2016
Region 8 Assessment	546.25	533.90	IEEE Region 8 Committee	236.25	215.64
Direct Support from MGA	174.34	172.99	Region 8 News	7.23	39.85
Voluntary Contributions	12.87	12.48	Conference Expenses	(0.08)	9.32
Technical Co-Sponsorship	0	1.00	Educational Activity	5.97	(10.93)
From Foundations	1.50	0	Professional Activity	18.29	17.04
Meetings and Social Events	0	0	Student Activity	29.90	98.82
Conference Revenue	7.27	19.42	Grants and Awards (VCF)	12.66	5.08
Educational Activity	0	0	Other Programmes (OpCom)	47.97	58.42
Project Revenue	0	0	Sections' Congress	250.83	0
Sections? Congress Receipts	0	0	Travel	84.32	151.18
Receipts from MGA	0.50	0	Sections and Chapter Support	21.00	42.10
IEEE HQ and Societies	0	0	MGA and Board Expenses	(0.68)	3.16
Unrealised Gain / (Loss) on Investments	92.73	37.92	Bank, IEEE HQ, Audit, and General Expenses	41.92	40.87
Dividends on Investment	13.16	11.37	Foreign Exchange Variance	19.42	(2.23)
Bank Interest	1.71	1.07			
Total	850.32	758.17	Total	773.99	668.35
Surplus	76.33	89.82			

Note: Year 2016 Income reduced by \$K 31.97 to account for Fraud occurrence

Statement of Region 8 Net Worth as at 31st December, 2017:

Region 8 Assets:	Beg. Balance 2016	Increases	Decreases	End Balance 2017
Cash Accounts	352,064.57		54,612.99	297,451.58
Investments	706,011.95	105,888.20		811,900.15
Loans and Advances (Receivables)		2,320.99	(231.14)	2,552.13
Accounts Receivable		2,000.00	2,000.00	
Total Assets:	1,058,076.52	110,209.19	56,381.85	1,111,903.86
Liabilities and Net Worth:				
Loans and Advances (Payables)				
Net Worth at 31st December, 2017	1,058,076.52	110,209.19	56,381.85	1,111,903.86

Secretary

Jan Verveckken

Goals

To aid the IEEE Region 8 Committee in organizing meetings, as well as the documentation and archiving of all activities. Specific goals for this year are automating the creation of the Agenda book, as well as the Meeting registration, to decrease the learning curve and workload for future Meetings

Status

First automation was implemented for the 110 Region 8 Meeting in Athens. For the large part of the reports and registrations, this went smooth. Some issues, especially concerning unawareness of IEEE-Gmail accounts, made it difficult to access the registration form. These were resolved on case by case basis. The Poster templates in google sheets created issues with most users. These were manually resolved. For future events, this process will be changed.

Outlook

We look forward to organizing the next Region 8 Meeting, as well as streamlining the whole process, so that meetings can be prepared more in advance. 2017 Sydney Sections Congress but a big delay in the preparation of future IEEE Region 8 Meetings, of which we are expecting to recuperate by fall 2018. By May 2018, we expect to have final preparations for the fall meeting done, and initial preparations for the spring meeting of 2019.

Points of Concern

The intense cooperation between treasurer and secretary in preparation of the meetings is necessary. Automated processes can only create benefits for all users, if all users are bound to use them.

Other Issues to report

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Action For Industry (AfI)**Marios Antoniou****Goals**

number of industry and entrepreneurship events that will be organized in Region 8

Status

NXP in Czech Republic and Cynapsys in Tunisia offered internship positions for 2018. A letter addressed to Region 8 Section Chairs asking for their contribution in AfI initiative was sent by Region 8 Action for Industry Committee Chair. Region 8 AfI subcommittee members will contact Sections and ask them to contribute in the AfI initiative. Region 8 AfI subcommittee chair and members were invited to participate and contribute in Industry forums and industry workshops that will take place during IEEE ICPS 2018 and IEEE GEM 2018. During the Region 8 meeting in Athens an AfI workshop will take place. In the AfI workshop Section Industry Ambassadors will share experiences and best practices and will finalize the 2018 AfI Action plan for their respective Section.

Outlook

Our next steps are:

- 1) Consolidate and continue the Internships.
- 2) Mentoring of members who work in industry, entrepreneurs and YPs.
- 3) Bring willing companies into R8 initiatives.
- 4) Expand AfI initiative in new countries through the appointment of new Section Industry Ambassadors and with the collaboration with YPs, Senior and Life members.
- 5) Encourage and support t Local IEEE Section in their efforts to organize Research to industry,, entrepreneurship and industry events,. Local IEEE Sections can sponsor these events or have their members participate as mentors and speakers.
- 6) Participate in Industry forums and workshops that will take place during IEEE conferences.

Points of Concern

Sections in R8 should put as a priority to get closer with industry and organize events with industry. Region 8 OpCom could ask Sections to participate and contribute in R8 AfI initiative. Section Chairs should not only appoint at least an Industry Ambassador but also set budget for events during which industry people and companies can discuss their plans and their thoughts for the future. Section Industry Ambassador team should have at least one Young Professional.

The biggest challenge so far for AfI initiative is to create a critical mass of members who are involved in this initiative. In order to do so at least 2 people should be involved and contribute in small Sections and at least 3 people in big Sections.. IEEE should recognize members as well as Sections that are participating and contributing in the Action for Industry initiative.

Other Issues to report

Africa Area

Gloria Chukwudebe

Awards & Recognition Subcommittee (A&RSC)

Costas Stasopoulos

Goals

To find suitable candidates for awards from around Region 8 in all the award categories

Status

Promoting the awards by email and social media

Outlook

To find excellent and deserving IEEE members to be awarded. To increase interest in general for IEEE and contribute to its visibility and status.

Points of Concern

Lack of interest from some geographic areas

Other Issues to report

Chapter Coordination Subcommittee (ChCSC)

Amara Amara

Conference Coordination Subcommittee (CoCSC)

Péter Nagy

Goals

- 1) Improve Information sharing, Regular news to relevant organizers, webinars
- 2) Well documented processes, TCS requirements, GDPR preparation
- 3) Recruiting good candidates for Flagship conferences, supporting the awarded conferences
- 4) Good relation with MGA, MCE, other regional conference coordinators.

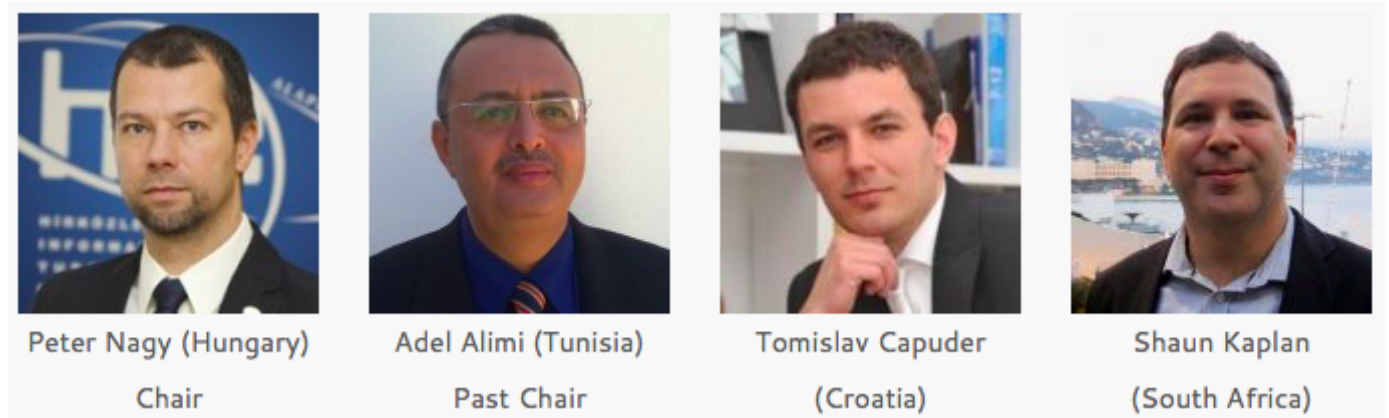


Fig. 1. Conference Coordination Subcommittee members

Status

- 1) Committee website
 - 2) eNotice service
 - 3) Technical Co-Sponsored conferences
 - 4) New TCS fee
 - 5) GDPR preparation
 - 6) Flagship conferences - Site selection Melecon 2020
 - 7) IEEE Convenc 2018, Education Day, July Berlin, Germany
 - 8) Center for Leadership Excellence,
 - 9) IEEE Conference Organizers? Newsletter
- 1) Committee website The website is kept current with the list of upcoming R8 flagship conferences, new TCS fee, GDPR preparation, upcoming webinars (and listings of older ones) and other information relevant to our members and conference organisers. <http://www.ieeer8.org/technical-activities/conference-coordination/conference-coordination-subcommittee-cocsc>
 - 2) e-Notice service e-Notice requests approved are approved by IEEE R8 CoCSC member (Tomislav Capuder) after checking whether the conference requesting e-Notice service is technically co-sponsored conference of the R8. IEEE R8 Director and Vice-Chair is kept in the loop of all communication and have a final word in case of any issues.
 - 3) Technical Co-Sponsored conferences Region 8 is still leading the IEEE other regions in the number of IEEE conferences organized in its different sections:

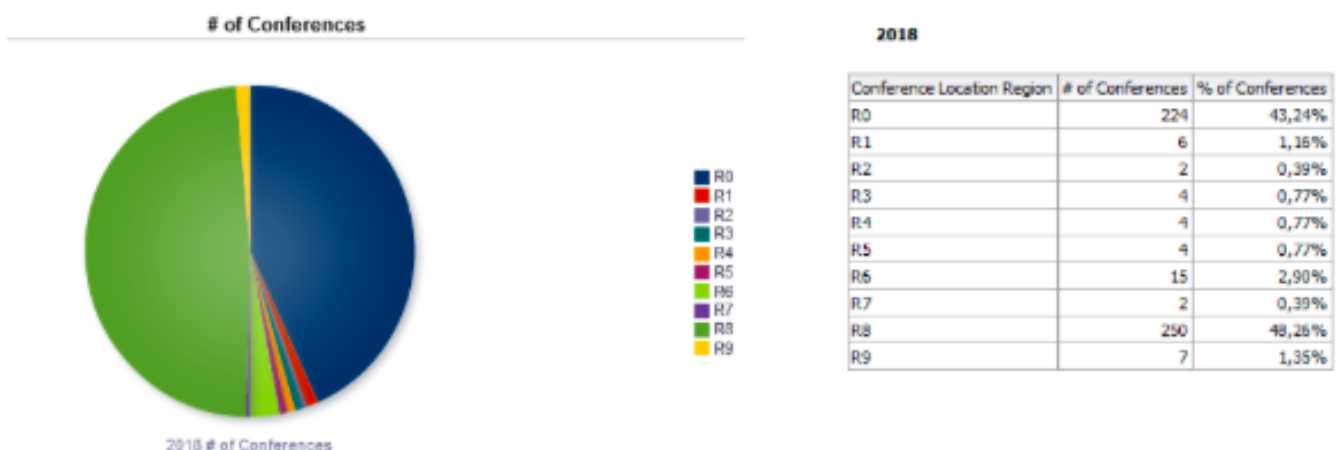


Fig. 2. Technical Co-Sponsored Conferences Statistics

Technical co-sponsorships by IEEE Region 8 for conferences starting after 1 January 2018: 12 approved, 3 submitted/pending. Increased number of TCS IEEE Region 8 due to eNotice for ALL Region 8 members being available only to IEEE R8 TCS Conferences.

Financial Co-Sponsored conferences



Fig. 3. Financial Co-Sponsored Conferences Statistics

- 1) New TCS fee For all conference applications received 1 January 2018 or later, in which an MGA Geographic Unit is a technical co-sponsor and there is no IEEE financial sponsorship, the MGA TCS Fee policy shall apply. This fee is \$1000 per TCS conference, and \$15 per paper sent to IEEE Xplore. If multiple IEEE Organizational Units (OUs) technically co-sponsor the same conference, the fee will be divided equally between all IEEE sponsors (i.e.: Society, Council, MGA Geographic Units). MGA Geographic Units will have the option to bill the TCS fees directly to the Conference. An exception to this general policy ? MGA will continue to pay these fees if the external (non-IEEE) financial sponsor has a National Society Agreement with IEEE or has a Sister Society Agreement with one or more of the IEEE Societies. Starting 1 March 2018, IEEE MCE will retroactively deploy processes to collect the TCS fees for any conference application with technical co-sponsorship by an MGA Geographic Unit received on or after 1 January 2018. Last webinar presentation: <http://ieeer8.org/wp-content/uploads/201112Understanding-MGA-TCS-Cost-Allocation-2282018.pdf>
- 2) GDPR preparation The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), originating in the European Union, is expected to have far-reaching implications on how organizations, like IEEE, conduct business worldwide, including conferences. This regulation places new obligations on organizations that market, track, or handle personal data. This legislation goes into effect on 25 May 2018. IEEE will be providing solutions over the next several weeks and months. In addition, training will be available shortly. News at R8 website: <http://ieeer8.org/newsnew-gdpr-regulation-impacts-for-ieee-conferences> More information is available here: <http://sites.ieee.org/gdpr>
- 3) Flagship conferences - Site-selection Melecon 2020 We are in the process of selecting the site for IEEE Melecon 2020. The result will be announced in April.
- 4) IEEE Convene 2018, Education Day, July Berlin, Germany Learn how to organise conferences and about innovations in conferencing. Formerly known as POCO (panel of conference organisers). It is beneficial for Sections, Chapters to send volunteers to this event to learn from other organizers and IEEE staff. It will be organized this time in our Region on July 19 - 21 2018 in Berlin, Germany. Education day will be held on the 21 July and likely will be broadcast to allow others to follow. Website: <http://ieeeeconvene.org>
- 5) Center for Leadership Excellence There are many resources, templates, tutorials at IEEE Center for Leadership Excellence (CLE) website. The new redesigned CLE offers a "one stop" training solution designed to serve the multiple and diverse range of IEEE user communities. From volunteers, non-volunteers to students, members and conference organizers, the site offers a simpler and effective learning experience. <https://ieeee-learning.org/CLE>
- 6) IEEE Conference Organizers' Newsletter The Newsletter is intended to communicate important information about conference organizing practices, new services and tools available, IEEE policy changes, and industry information or issues relevant to conference organizing. http://www.ieee.org/conferences_events/conferencesorganizersorganizers_newsletter.html See you at the Region 8 meeting in Athens, Greece! Pter Nagy, Adel Alimi, Tomislav Capuder, Shaun Kaplan

Outlook

MGA, MCE relations Peter Nagy took part of the Regional Conference Coordinators' Meeting during last Section Congress. R8 has quite many procedures, documents which can be best practices to other regions. From 1st January Peter Nagy became the MGA representative to IEEE Conferences Committee and in this role he has more insights to MCE procedures. The IEEE Convene could give more information, guidelines to conference organizers, for that reason we fully encourage to participate that event.

Points of Concern

Conference coordinators in Sections It would be beneficial if Sections provide us a Conference coordinator's contact details, to provide relevant information regarding conferences, procedures, webinars. Please, send the contacts to Peter Nagy



Fig. 4. IEEE Convene

(nagy.peter@ieee.org)

Other Issues to report

Educational Activities Subcommittee (EASC)

Sohaib Qamar Sheikh

Goals

The Sub-Committee's mission is to coordinate educational activities programs in the Region and create public awareness of engineering, technology and other relevant topics within IEEE's fields of interest, and we aim to achieve this mission by organizing targeted events and programs which are:

- 1) Aligned with Region 8 strategic goals;
- 2) Focused on improving the experience and knowledge of our members; and
- 3) Introduce IEEE educational offerings to industry professionals, educators, students and the general public.

The Sub-Committee has discussed and agreed on the following goals for 2018:

- 1) Support Educational activities officers in Sections by organizing at least one online meeting with them to increase awareness of programs and understanding their challenges;
- 2) Organize a Teacher In-Service Program (TISP) Week program of Section-level TISP workshops for educators in the Region;
- 3) Organize an Educational activities track at the Region 8 Student and Young Professional (SYP) Congress;
- 4) Promote Educational Activities Board programs and resources in the Region;
- 5) Organize a competition, known as EASC Acceleration Program, to promote Section level educational activities;

In addition to the items listed above, we will also be working on the following non-SMART activities:

- 1) Support general Section level educational programs;
- 2) Liaise with relevant units within EAB to align our activities and programs;
- 3) Liaise with Region 8 Action for Industry team to explore further opportunities for continuing education programs.

Status

Planning is in initial stages for the following programs and events:

- 1) Educational Activities Officer Meeting : tentatively scheduled for May 2018;
- 2) Educational track at R8 SYP congress - Coordination almost completed with the SYP organizing committee for EASC workshops and sessions as part of the congress
- 3) TISP Week and 'Acceleration Program' Competition : Initial strategic discussion started for a potential TISP Week and competition in the second half of this year.

Outlook

Our focus this year is to continue making all areas of educational activities - Pre-University Education, University Education, Accreditation, and Continuing Education active and optimized towards offering maximum value to our members. This involves a combination of promotional efforts, organizing face-to-face and online events, exploring partnership opportunities inside and outside of IEEE, and supporting Section level efforts.

The focus of next year's committee should be to capitalize on the momentum built in the last two years and creating stronger partnerships with the Sections by working collaboratively with them and understanding their needs further. Key yearly events should also be continued. These include:

- 1) TISP Week;
- 2) Education Track at R8 Student and Young Professional Congress (at sub-regional congresses in alternate years);
- 3) EASC 'Acceleration Program' competition;

Points of Concern

The Region is vast with varying educational needs. One of the critical elements is to work closely with external entities, especially for accreditation and continuing education, which demands a longer timeframe than one or two years. This is a major challenge as both of these areas have been inactive for a number of years and we started developing our strategy to create strong offerings in these areas last year. The Sections and Region are requested to share ideas, contacts, resources and local examples of programs and partnerships in these areas.

Other Issues to report



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.

New Server

The need for this task was to update to a more powerful machine as the old one was getting over-stressed. There was a risk of the software to crash on periods of high load. Also, the software on that server could not be further updated and this could potentially lead to a security issue. After the transfer we had to solve some new issues that arose which included rebuilding the user access support. Those problems were created after some plugins remained out of date for a long time and missed some upgrade steps.

Aliases over personal emails

In an attempt to protect personal information of the committee members and block malicious software, an alias email was created for each member. Those emails operate as mailing lists where there is only one member that is able to receive any incoming email. This way, we will have a public email for each position that goes through a spam/antivirus filter and at the same time we hide the private emails of the committee. By responding to an incoming email from that group, your email will be revealed to the original sender and can communicate with you directly. For the full list of aliases please visit: <http://ieeer8.org/category/committee/>

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 110th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting to be held in Athens on 10-11 of March 2018. 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://ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2018-march-athens/>.

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

We removed the Google Analytics tool in an attempt to make the site a bit more lightweight. The following statistics are from Wordpress.com, the tool was enabled mid-December 2017. According to the monitoring tool that has been installed on our websites these are the statistics that were obtained over the period from the 12th of December 2017 to the 28th of February 2018. Over this period, near 7,674 people visited the website and over 17,847 pages were viewed. 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 1,050 members! Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ieeer8/>, has over 1,060 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 365 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.

Please contact with me at xeirwn@ieee.org for more information or assistance.

History Activities Coordinator

Anthony Davies

Goals

- 1) Encouraging and assisting the preparation of proposals for IEEE History Milestones
- 2) Encouraging Sections and Chapters and other OUs in R8 to conserve their historical records and achievements and to maintain their history on the IEEE section of the ETHW website appropriate for this
- 3) Encouraging the creation of Oral Histories by interviewing distinguished IEEE members and high-achieving engineers

Status

As reported before, there are many topics for IEEE History Milestone Plaques in the Sections of Region 8; the obstacle to progress is mainly the inability to find "champions" who will see a proposal through from initial idea to final approval and installation, a process which takes a minimum of two years and often much more than that.

Section websites are very "variable" in the extent and style to which they record the Section's history, and some still provide almost nothing. This history can also often be included in the ETHW website, but this is not done in most cases. The quality and content of Section websites can be a major influence on the vitality of the Section as it is seen by members and non-members. A similar comment can be made about Chapter websites.

Some say that Students and Young Professionals do not need to be interested in Technology History, yet if it is believed that they are responsible for "inventing the future", they must be aware of past methods and achievements.

Outlook

Several proposals are underway for History Milestones, and one is approved for unveiling in Dundee, Scotland on 5th April 2018, to commemorate amorphous silicon thin-film transistors, which were an essential step in the feasibility of large flat screen displays. A number of History related conferences organised by various societies are planned for the next two years; IET weekend history conference on Programmable Logic Controllers will be in Birmingham, England, and of course it is hoped that HISTELCON 2019 will be feasible in Glasgow, Scotland. I expect to be giving a talk on some aspect of Technology History (not yet decided) in April at Glasgow Caledonian University. There is potential for better collaboration with other History of Technology related organisations (for example, in UK, the LEO Computers Society, the BCS Computer Conservation Society, and the Defence Electronics History Society)

Points of Concern

As mentioned often, it is not easy to find volunteers who maintain interest and who are also willing to devote adequate time to the various aspects of preservation and publicising technology history, and some policies of the IEEE History Committee appear to alter significantly from year to year.

Other Issues to report

To make a success of HISTELCON 2019, not only will more people be needed to provide actual volunteer help with the organisation (including reviewing papers), but financial support will be needed since History of Technology events need to have a very low cost of attendance and cannot be expected to create financial surpluses.



Fig. 5. Milestone Unveiling at Karlsruhe in Germany

Humanitarian Activities Subcommittee

Ruba Abu Alrub

Goals

The Region 8 Humanitarian Activities Committee is responsible for raising awareness of the IEEE SIGHT program, overseeing and fostering the development of local SIGHT groups and providing development opportunities to members; Success within this operational unit is indicated by the formation of local SIGHT groups and the successful submission of project proposals to the steering committee (primary indicator); . A second metric of success is the impact of Humanitarian Technology projects to the local community in which they take place. That is also the reason why HuAC's activity must receive continuous attention also from other IEEE units; In order to serve its purpose (according to the primary indicator) the Committee is dealing with 3 Sub Missions: The outreach of the SIGHT program, the communication with the existing groups and the internal committee operations. Specific goals were assigned to three unit leaders so as to achieve a wider range of activities, measurable by the deliverables of each task.

Status

The committee leadership has prioritized three axis of activity: Outreach, Communication with existing groups and Operations and Strategic planning. Outreach Group:

- The outreach team has invested a tremendous effort is formulating a strategy to increase awareness of the SIGHT program within R8.
- The team has developed a concise Market Approach Plan, examining the opportunities within the region and proposing a strategy for exploitation.
- A special communication channel has been developed for the collaboration with the SIGHT steering committee Outreach officers, to increase effectiveness of the outreach effort globally.
- A new collaboration with the Young Professionals Committee has been agreed and the two committees are currently in the process of establishing an implementation strategy on how to engage YPs in SIGHT activities.
- The LinkedIn and Facebook Groups of HuAC are now fully Operational, with weekly posts and activities involving existing SIGHT group members and other IEEE volunteers. In the same context, new digital promotional material has been developed.
- A new social media record was achieved with more than 2000 likes reached. Delivered many presentations about SIGHT R8, in Tunisia by Alex, Jordan by Ruba and Nigeria by John.

Communication with existing SIGHT groups: The communications team is establishing contact with the existing groups, to monitor their activities and assist them with their operational or other problems

- New groups in R8 are offered guidance through an introductory email upon establishment. A new R8 SIGHT activity document has been developed as a database to monitor group activity updates.

Operations group: The operations team has been tasked to provide the documentation and material required for the operation of the other two groups, as well as the management of shared documentation, TelCo management and preparation and minutes.

- The team has been planning the Committees strategy and presence in regional events, such as central European SYP, the Middle East SYP, the Jordan SYP, the Tunisian SYP and the Africa SYP. A presentation has been given to all those events.
- A unit of the operations group is dedicated to examine SIGHT project proposals and assist groups in their preparation. This unit operates in close collaboration with the Steering committee.
- Many new groups were established and many are waiting for the approval (the groups are attached in the excel sheet).
- The team is also examining/trying to develop special humanitarian programs for areas with low memberships such as Africa.

Notes: SIGHT is a program that can contribute significantly in IEEE membership development, since SIGHT groups are consisted from both IEEE members and non-members. Thus, IEEE's name and culture is promoted through these activities as well as the community impact there is.

Outlook

Our development Model is:

- 1) Increase awareness of the SIGHT program and the funding opportunities and thus increase the number of groups and project within Region 8. To that direction, we aim to:
 - Work on developing the recently established collaboration with the Young Professionals and aim for collaborations with other IEEE Committees, such as SAC.
 - Seek a collaboration with the the Society SIGHT Groups.? Examine the evolution of existing and successful EPICS-in-IEEE programs to SIGHT initiatives in order to qualify for funding to complete more ambitious tasks. Establish a network of SIGHT ambassador's in every country, to promote the humanitarian activity in the section.
 - Participate in IEEE summits in the region and to conduct workshops on how to form and run a SIGHT group Increase awareness of the SIGHT program within industry, by means of close collaboration with section, chapter and affinity group partnerships and Young Professionals who work in industry.
- 2) Actively support the existing groups to reach their goals and accomplish their projects
 - On a group basis, we plan to decide a semester report of the group to monitor the progress of their work. Having in mind that experienced SIGHT groups can mentor newly established groups, the HuAC is willing to foster the necessary environment for to make this mentoring effective.
 - Have a group or a platform for the R8 SIGHT groups to interact and share experiences on.
 - Initiate a competition for the best SIGHT Group in Region 8.

Points of Concern

In order for HuAC to achieve the above goals and implement the given plan, it is required:

- Financial Support to HuAC members to participate in a limited number of events within the region in order to establish healthy SIGHT groups and spread awareness of the nature of this noble IEEE program;
- Collaboration for Promotion of the SIGHT initiative via publicity channels and section chapter chairs, in order to raise awareness of potential programs to pursue;
- A monitoring system of regional SIGHT activity is examined, since until today all the groups report only to the Steering Committee.
- The participation in the Global SIGHT chairs meeting in San Jose must be partially supported by each Region.
- The length of the approval process for the new SIGHT groups.

Other Issues to report

The flexibility to change team members who aren't active/responsive

Life Member Coordinator

Charles Turner

Goals

- Enhance and encourage interest in electrical and electronic engineering at secondary and tertiary (college) levels.
- Utilize the vast experience of LMs to impact the general public's knowledge of electrical and electronic engineering and increase understanding of the role of engineers.
- Foster collaborations in pre-university education and encourage students to consider taking up engineering as a career.
- Promulgate the history of electrical engineering together with information and related technologies.

Status

This status report from Charles Turner (Region 8 Life Member Coordinator during 2017) highlights two notable developments of Life Member activities during the second half-year 2017 :

- 1) Meeting of LMAG Chairs in Neuchatel, Switzerland, September 5th 2017. The LMAG Chairs from Benelux, France, Italy, Lebanon, Slovenia, Switzerland, and UK & Ireland held a meeting on September 5th to coincide with the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Swiss microelectronic watch industry, at the Microcity Centre in Neuchatel. This was the first meeting of LMAG Chairs in Region 8. The continuing loss of older members was a matter of concern in most Sections and needed to be addressed urgently. Among the proposals discussed were ways to improve the quality of service for older members, a review of the criteria for qualification as a Life member, and the need for wider inclusion of older members in Life member activities. A proposal for the involvement of Life members in IEEE's Humanitarian Activities (e.g. the IEEE SIGHT programs) was also discussed. These are expected to be especially of interest to retired members: it was agreed that Sections should be encouraged to begin recruiting volunteers from their Life and retired members for specific projects in their local communities under the SIGHT program.
- 2) Life Member Committee Task Force A Task Force set up by the IEEE Life Member Committee has been working on the problem of engaging Life members more actively. Some proposals being discussed include improving communications with Life members, and re-vitalising LMAGs. One potentially significant proposal argues for the active involvement of all members in the pre-retirement age group in Life member activities. This would help to boost the number of volunteers and active members in LMAGs, making LMAGs viable even in Sections with very few Life members. The Task Force report will be discussed at the next LMC meeting to be held in April. In summary, the main recommendation is that the current focus of the IEEE Life member community must be on proposals to raise the level of member involvement so that members at the end of their technical career are motivated to remain as members. The challenge to MGA is to offer an attractive menu of activities and services with particular appeal for older members through their LMAGs.

Outlook

The recruitment of long-serving members approaching LM status, together with retired members, would transform the viability of the smaller LMAGs. Increased collaboration between LMAGs and other IEEE Operational Units would open up new opportunities for LM activities. Sections can make better use of the knowledge and experience of older members, who generally have more time to serve as Section volunteers. More resources from MGA, Region 8, and Sections, would be needed if LMAGs are to be able to expand their activities, including sponsorship from industry and grant-giving organisations.

Points of Concern

Recommendations to R8 Section Chairs:

- 1) It is important that each Section nominates an official representative (it is not necessary that the representative be a Life Member) to a proposed R8 Life Members Sub-Committee, even if there is no LMAG formed yet in the Section.
- 2) We suggest that each Section send a formal invitation to older members approaching LM status to join their Section's LMAG. This would help to remove the confusion over who is eligible to participate in LMAG activities (i.e. not just LMs).
- 3) Make greater use of Life Members' knowledge and experience, for example, in mentoring Student members, and assisting Student Branches. LMs are a valuable resource for developing soft skills for job interviews and early career know-how. Other examples include Student Paper Contest judging, hosting book sharing days, involvement with local school districts (pre-university), and hosting Careers Days and Science Fair Judging.
- 4) They can also help with the formation of new Student Branches and Young Professional Affinity Groups. LMs can also be a reference point for Senior member and Fellow applications, and candidates for IEEE awards. With other experienced members such as Past Chairs and former Officers, Life members can set up a Section Advisory Panel to guide the future development of the Section.

Other Issues to report

Membership Development Subcommittee (MDSC)

Andrejs Romanovs

Goals

Due to the large geographic area and more than 60 Sections and Sub-Sections in R8, the role of Section MD Officer became vital component of the overall health of the Section and Region as a whole, and need to be nominating in every Section. Focusing on training is the essential part of MDSC activities, MD processes takes time to learn and, unfortunately, some new officers do not devote enough time to it in the first few months of their term; many MD officers do not participate in monthly Webcasts, telcos and MD Workshops. Taking into account the latest statistics ? minimal but constant decrease of members for last 3 years, MDSC focusing its activities on informing and training of MDOs and other volunteers, who work/recruit with members. This will be implemented in close cooperation with Society Chapters, Professional Activities and SYP, together promoting IEEE membership. Success stories of Sections are the best teaching materials and the primary source of inspiration for other Sections and volunteers, MDSC will focuses on following these success stories, to popularize it and to implement best practices across R8. MDSC maintain the previous traditions of direct and frequent communication not only with Sections MD Officers, but with Section Chairs too, to increase the momentum of retention and recruitment campaigns. Close cooperation with the MRRC will ensure Sections are aware of their respective recruitment and retention goals, and can plan accordingly all necessary MD activities.

Status

At the beginning of 2018, membership in our Region was at 76,168, showing small decrease of 1.0% in comparison with the previous year (see Fig.), which is slightly better, than in previous years ('17 vs. '16 -1.3%, '16 vs. '15 -1.6%; '15 vs. '14 -2.3%). Although the success with Student Members (+1.2%) the Higher-grade members statistics shows bigger decrease (-1.9%), this is the first MD task to work with. Overall, the region is slow to start this year, however, we are very positive that the region will recover soon and will have a fulfilling year ahead.

Outlook

MDSC focuses on coordination, informing, teaching and guiding of Sections MD officers, to serve as a main MD information hub for members and volunteers, to ensure and coordinate the information flow and MD activities in R8. MDSC will encourage:

- Sections to nominate the proper MD officers, not to just fill the position
- MD officers to be trained well, to use MD tools properly, to participate in MD activities ? Workshops, Webinars, teleconferences; Section Chairs to be asked to influence and encourage these trainings
- Sections Chairs and MD officers to use volunteers in their respective sections to reach out to members in arrears to renew their membership
- MD officers to order MD-Kits and actively utilizing it for the appropriate propagation of IEEE membership
- Volunteers to utilize IEEE tools like Collabratech, GoogleApps@IEEE, MentorCentre, Resume Lab, for Section events, campaigns and everyday business

MDSC will realize their activities in close cooperation with other IEEE entities, such as Society Chapters, Professional Activities and SYP, together promoting IEEE membership.

Analyzing the success of last MD Workshops, held in Tunis (Tunisia, November 18-19, 2016; 35 participants from 22 IEEE Sections) and Bratislava (Slovakia, May 19-20, 2017; 24 participants from 20 IEEE Sections), and showing very positive outcomes, it is planned to organize next Membership Development Workshop, that focuses on Africa-specific problems, tasks and opportunities. Workshop will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, March 23-24, 2018.

Points of Concern

Feedback from the Sections MD officers and volunteers shows the big increased interest in MD tools, that can be used in different situations, e.g., who should I contact when I need something, where do I find the information I need, how should I do right the tasks I'm expected to do. Offline materials are good when you need to find information you have already heard about, but if you are new to the positions and cannot devote enough time to it in the first few months of the term, some few very useful tools should be ready to assist MD officers. The best possible way is to combine offline MD materials with MD Workshops and monthly Webcasts, using new IT tools too. Webinar based training might do the magic as a good compromise between offline training and a workshop. A workshop is always the most successful event as it engages all the people in, and people like to be a part of something bigger and feel the energy. New IT tools (GoogleApps@IEEE, MentorCentre, Resume Lab) could help not only in volunteers everyday business, but to serve as a possible source of new members, for example, IEEE Collabratech allow people, that are not necessarily IEEE members, to be registered and actively participate in. R8/MGA can support these activities, especially MD Workshops, with a proper balance found between the number of events, costs and possible results.

Other Issues to report

Nominations and Appointment Subcommittee (N&ASC)

Costas Stasopoulos

Goals

To find the best candidates for the vacant positions in IEEE Region 8

Status

We are now in the process of forming the call for interest for the 2019 positions

Outlook

To find excellent and willing candidates for the positions we have

Points of Concern

The Region 8 positions are very time consuming and this decreases the interest from many suitable candidates

Other Issues to report

Professional Activities Subcommittee (PASC)

Jan Haase

Goals

Make the services of PA known to all members and support local PA activities

Status

PASC added more PA speakers and was present and visible at last year's R8 flagship conferences.

Outlook

This year's R8 flagship conferences will have PASC involvement, too. We'll work closer with YP in this regard. Furthermore, we plan to restructure the procedures of inviting PA speakers as well as for the speakers themselves.

Points of Concern

PASC and PA as a whole is still relatively unknown.

Other Issues to report

Region 8 News

Alistair Dabbs

Goals

IEEE Region 8 News is the member newsletter for those in Region 8, reporting on member activities around the Region, including meetings, conferences and events, plus important milestones and key initiatives by Committees and Affinity Groups. The newsletter is produced by volunteers from contributions by members. It is distributed to IEEE members in Region 8 with IEEE Spectrum and The Institute. PDFs of current and back-issues are available on the Region 8 website.

The editorial team changed in January 2018 and our immediate goal is to bring the quarterly publishing cycle back on track, having encountered slippage during 2017. It is intended that re-establishing a regular publishing cycle should help the newsletter regain recognition among members.

This year we plan to introduce a digital edition that is more readily discoverable and easier to read on small screens.

The new editors will build on previous efforts to foster relationships with members and volunteers, with a view to making the newsletter content more timely and keeping readers up to date with ongoing projects and initiatives in the Region. This will involve more forward planning of issue content and commissioning of articles in advance.

Status

After the September 2017 issue, severe pressures on volunteer time prevented the production of a second issue of the newsletter before the end of the year. A re-organisation of the volunteer team was proposed by the editors and accepted by Region 8 OpCom. Bojan Nikolic has been joined by new editor Alistair Dabbs, who previously worked on IEEE Region 8 News in a supplier role. The first issue of 2018 will be distributed at the beginning of March, with the PDF edition available for download from mid-February. Subsequent issues are planned for June, September and December.

The newsletter has its own pages on the Region 8 website and has nominal social media presence on Facebook.

Outlook

The bookmarked and hyperlinked PDF edition of IEEE Region 8 News, available at the Region 8 website, solves a basic requirement for a downloadable version of each print issue but is limited in scope for incorporating media content or accommodating different screen sizes. The PDFs are not easily discoverable in their current form and location, and there is no means of notifying members when new PDF issues become available.

A priority for the editors in 2018, then, is to better serve members who do not receive the printed newsletter by post. This includes those whose discounted membership fees cover electronic magazine subscriptions only and those who signed up for the electronic edition of IEEE Spectrum for environmental, logistical or other reasons.

Several approaches are being tested, from enhanced PDF to responsive digital content in an app for smartphones and tablets. Embracing the opportunities of digital publishing would also allow us to support rich media content such as video, audio and picture galleries. Within the constraints of volunteer availability, it could allow IEEE Region 8 News to publish more frequently and visibly.

The editor is attending the Region 8 Committee Meeting in March and will have demos to share with those interested.

Points of Concern

Although the newsletter is free to members, the printing and mailing costs are significant and are funded by Region 8. Producing four issues in 2018 compared with just the one in 2017 will be notable in the Region's expenditure this year. It is hoped that the newsletter's budget can stretch to fund a modest digital publishing project.

The newsletter lacks a social media strategy. In its current format and publishing frequency, IEEE Region 8 News cannot realistically support dedicated channels of its own. Instead, we might be advised to try and engage with members better by taking advantage of ? and contributing more to ? the existing Region 8 branded presence on key social media platforms.

It became apparent at the end of 2017 that the editorial team needs shared access to content earlier in the editing process leading up to publication, in case one of the team is called away for work, falls ill, etc. We are developing a cloud-based workflow that takes advantage of the free tools available to us as IEEE members ? Google Apps and Collabratec ? which should be ready by the Region 8 Committee Meeting in March.

Other Issues to report

Section Vitality

Aleksandar Szabo

Goals

The basic goal is to have vital Sections serving better their members. That means successful Section operation, timely reporting (officers, meetings, financials) to receive the rebate, retaining and recruiting members, training new volunteers and holding elections on time by taking care about the period of service following the rules presented in the MGA Operations Manual. An important goal is to increase the activity of Subsections having Region 8 as their parent. If we meet these goals, we can say at the end of the year that we were successful.

Status

Since 2015 the section vitality has been significantly improved. Especially the situation with elections and reporting has been much better from year to year. The Sections officers' sense of duty has been increased. At the moment, when writing this report, the annual Section Reporting is under way. To be eligible for the dues rebates, Sections are required to submit their annual financial reports by the last day of February, and their annual officer and meeting reports by 15 March. All Sections whose reporting (financial, meeting and officer) has been submitted by the third Friday in February (16 February in 2018), will receive a 10% bonus of the total rebate not including activity bonuses. Adam Jastrzebski is helping our Sections in meeting the deadlines for the financial reports. From year to year he has been doing a great job. We expect that many of our Sections will qualify for the bonus. Since Region Officers start their terms on 1 January we are asking Sections and its organizational units for having start terms of their Officers on 1 January as well. Most officers in sections having elections in 2017 started on 1 January 2018. For the Region it is important to have an updated list of Section Officers before the beginning of the calendar year. The election process should finish well before the end of the calendar year to enable a long enough transition period and to report the new officers before 1 January. The basic success indicators of Section Vitality in the Region are the number of Sections and its organizational units reporting on time and receiving the rebate as well as the number of Sections with officers serving inside the period of service according to the rules and organizing elections on time.

Outlook

What should be done to improve vitality? ? Section self assessment ? Use the Section Vitality Checklist ? Be familiar with the use of the Section Vitality Dashboard, SAMIEEE and v-Tools ? Be familiar with the MGA Operations Manual (Section 9) ? Be familiar with the Geographic Unit Rebate Schedule, Requirements and Procedures (MGA Operations Manual - Section 9.0.E) ? Organize elections on time, well before the serving end date of current officers. When doing so you will ensure an adequate transition period. Start date should be 1 January. ? A Section may define in its local operating procedures document if the Vice Chair shall automatically become the Chair at the conclusion of their term (Operations Manual, 9.4.F). ? Any vacancy occurring during the year shall be filled by majority vote of the Section Committee or Section Executive Committee. ? All section officers should do their job with pleasure and on time. Be informed and efficient.. ? Increase membership and member engagement. Recruit and train volunteers and look for successors. Contact members and obtain member feedback. Fulfill membership needs ? Prepare a Program of activities for the calendar year. Start new initiatives. ? Organize meetings (professional, technical, nontechnical, administrative, social) by section, chapters, affinity groups, student branches. ? Have a chapter and affinity group coordinator in your Section and keep a vigilant eye on the activity of chapters and affinity groups during the year. Guide and help chapters and affinity groups and organize a yearly meeting/workshop with chapter and affinity group officers. ? Form new chapters, affinity groups and student branches. ? Encourage cooperation and joint events of section units (chapters, affinity groups, student branches). Conduct events with students. ? Get closer to industry (involve practicing engineers). Involve Young Professionals. ? Organize Educational (pre-university, lifelong) and Professional (leadership, management) Activities ? Have an active Student Activities Officer and a Student Representative in your Section. During the year they should keep a vigilant eye on the activity of student branches together with their chancellors and take care about activity/vitality of all Student Branches in the Section, involve students into section and chapter activities, help students. ? Awards (member/volunteer recognition, member grade elevation, launch IEEE Senior Member initiatives, Section yearly awards). ? Section website always up to date. ? Organize a Section annual social event.

Points of Concern

All Sections, Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches should take care about doing their basic job following the rules in the MGA Operations Manual. Officers should train themselves, possibly before running for a position. Organizing Section Operation workshops should be taken into consideration. All our Coordinators/Subcommittees should continue to help and encourage activities in Sections, Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches. Additional efforts should be taken to increase activity of organizational units outside Sections in accordance with the MGA Operations Manual (9.0.E.8). Region 8, as their parent, should take more care about progress in activity, reporting and elections in these units.

Other Issues to report

Standards Coordinator

David Law

Goals

Use IEEE-SA outreach, as well as leverage IEEE-SA meetings, in IEEE R8 as an opportunity to bring together the IEEE-SA, local sections, industry and government. In addition use the presence of subject matter experts as an opportunity to provide standards education.

Increase the number of IEEE R8 visitors to the IEEE Standards University website.

Increase the number of IEEE R8 students and faculty mentors applying for IEEE Standards Education Grants.

Arrange a speaker on standards and/or whole standards tracks at a major IEEE R8 conference, potentially collaborating with IEEE Standards Education Committee (SEC).

Status

IEEE R8 facilitated Standards Projects: The highlight for 2017 was the IEEE R8 facilitated discussions between an IEEE R8 member, who saw a standardization gap in the legal metrology field, and the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology standards leadership. This has resulted in two projects proposal that will be considered by IEEE-SA Standards Board at their March 2018 meeting.

IEEE Standards Education Grants: IEEE continues to offer grants to both students and faculty mentors to help with graduate and final year design projects with an industry standards component <http://www.standardsuniversity.org/grants/>. Grants include US\$500 for students, with additional honorarium for faculty mentors.

September 2017: IEEE-SA hosted the 21st Global Standards Collaboration meeting, a gathering of senior officials from national, regional and international standards bodies at the newly opened IEEE European Technology Centre in Vienna, Austria. This meeting provided a unique opportunity to share strategies and foster dialogue in support of global standards initiatives that take into account all stakeholders' inputs and insights.

November 2017: An IEEE-SA team visited Kenya and South Africa to engage with local stakeholders. This included: meetings with Section leadership, standards bodies (KEBS, SABS, ARSO), and local institutions; a webinar on standardization in cooperation with the NEPAD Agency; and preparation for the IEEE-SA Board of Governors outreach and engagement activities the week of 5th February 2018.

January 2018: The IEEE 802.1 Higher Layer LAN Protocols Working Group and IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group held their January interim meeting series at the ITU Headquarters and CIG in Geneva, CH. A joint IEEE 802.1, IEEE 802.3 and ITU-T Study Group 15 Workshop was held immediately following the interim meeting series to discuss Long(er) reach optical interfaces, Passive Optical Networking, Mobile fronthaul, 5G mobile transport, management and YANG Modelling.

Outlook

7th and 8th February 2018: The IEEE-SA Board of Governors (BOG) meeting will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa. A number of outreach and engagement activities will take place in conjunction with this meeting. These include: (a) An Open Data Summit, organized in Cape Town with the IEEE-SA Open Data Industry Connections (IC) Program Chair and local Section representation. The Open Data IC is an effort of the Cape Town community - IEEE members, startups, city and provincial officials, academics, to learn from the Cape Town experience in Open Data and identify standardization needs to grow the impact of Open Data. (b) A forum on the African Standardization landscape, featuring panelists from pan-African institutions, followed by a reception engaging the local standards and technology community, incl. Section leadership. (c) A joint event at the South African Bureau of Standards: 'New Era of Connected and Intelligent Systems?'. (d) A distinguished lecture at University of Witwatersrand. (e) A standards education lecture at University of Johannesburg.

16th and 17th May 2018: The IEEE-SA Board of Governors (BOG) meeting will take place in Vienna, Austria.

12th to 14th June 2018: The IEEE-SA Standards Board meeting series will take place in the Hague, Netherlands.

Points of Concern

IEEE Standards University: Looking for support in promotion of IEEE Standards University <http://www.standardsuniversity.org/>.

IEEE Standards Education Grants: Looking for support in promotion of IEEE Standards Education Grants.

Looking for potential opportunities for potential individual speakers and/or whole standards tracks.

Other Issues to report

Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Magdalena Salazar Palma

Goals

The SPSC is responsible for developing R8 strategic and long-range plan, with goals and objectives.

Strategic Planning is an organizational management activity that is used to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that people working in the organization and other stakeholders are working toward common goals, establish agreement around intended outcomes/results, and assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment. It is a disciplined effort that produces fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, who it serves, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future. Effective strategic planning articulates not only where an organization is going and the actions needed to make progress, but also how it will know if it is successful.

The Strategic Plan is a document used to communicate with the organization the organizations goals, the actions needed to achieve those goals and all of the other critical elements developed during the planning exercise.

The goal for the 2018 SPSC is to develop by the end of the year a complete Region 8 Strategic Plan (Goals) together with its corresponding Operating Plan (Actions) and the Metrics to assess its success.

The completion of the plan will be the primary indicator of the subcommittee success.

Status

During 2015-2016 R8 Mission and Vision were analyzed. An effort to align with the IEEE and MGA plans, in particular with the Africa initiative, was also done. During 2017, the SPSC held two meetings: the first one through Webex, while the second one was a face-to-face meeting in conjunction with the R8 Committee meeting in March 2017. Also some members of the SPSC attended other OU's Strategic Planning meetings, which will be beneficial for the work of the subcommittee.

Some years back a R8 strategic plan was developed. The SPSC started analyzing the output of this effort and worked from it considering also IEEE and MGA goals. This year Sections' Congress recommendations will be also taken into account.

Outlook

During the next years, once the Strategic Plan together with the Operating Plan and Metrics are approved, its implementation would be the primary effort. Then the Metrics will be used to assess its progress. Modifications should be adopted if needed in order to update Region 8 Strategic Plan.

Points of Concern

The diversity of the composition of the new SPSC in terms of geographical areas, professional background, gender and experience, ensures a good starting point. In order to achieve the proposed goal, i.e., the completion of the Strategic Plan by the end of the year, most of the work should be done in between the two face-to-face meetings in conjunction with the R8 Committee meetings. Thus, the major point of concern is the need to work online and how effective this will be.

After the face-to-face meeting at the 2018 Spring Region 8 Committee meeting in Athens the SPSC will meet through Webex every alternate month. Additional Webex meeting will be organized if needed.

The SPSC needs the support of IEEE MGA in organizing the Webex meetings.

Voluntary Contribution Fund Coordinator

Andreas Koltes

Goals

The Voluntary Contribution Fund (VCF) provides support for technical activities of members with low income (below \$10,000 per year). The main focus of the fund is to support travel and subsistence costs of researchers presenting their research at conferences in Region 8, which they would not be able to do otherwise due to the lack of finance. The main sources of the fund are additional voluntary contributions declared by IEEE members during the annual renewal of their membership.

In order to fulfil the mission of the fund, the key goals for 2018 are:

- Stabilize the income stream of the fund to at least \$10,000 per year by raising awareness for the fund amongst the membership.
- Continue to increase awareness of the fund amongst potential applicants in order to issue at least 15 grants per year making full use of the target budget of \$10,000.
- Continue to increase VCF publicity and promotion compared to previous years.

Status

The VCF has seen a stable incoming donation stream of approximately \$11,500 per year in recent years. However, the donations income in 2017 was slightly lower than in previous years, totaling \$9,344. The donation account holds a financial reserve to compensate donation fluctuations so the VCF is able to operate as usual.

At the time of this writing, pending activities stemming from 2017 have largely been completed. In total, 15 grants have been approved for the previous year totaling funds of up to \$11,050. Out of these, 11 grants were paid by the end of 2017 which were comprised of \$9,401 in advances and reimbursements. In addition, \$3,709 was paid as reimbursements of grants approved in 2016. At the beginning of 2018, 4 grants approved in 2017 were still pending payment of up to \$2,000 in reimbursements. During the previous year, 10 grants have been rejected due to non-eligibility of the applicants or lack of funds and 2 further grants have been retracted by the applicants. Compared to previous years, the grant holders receiving grants in 2017 were from a more diverse set of sections with 7 grant holders residing in African sections and 8 grant holders residing in Central and Eastern European sections. This was achieved by raising awareness of the fund with Section Chairs and conference organizers in Region 8.

The goals of the VCF set for 2017 have been fully achieved and the fund is in a healthy state of operation. Care must be taken to sustain the income stream to enable the fund to continue operating at the current level of funds being annually provided to the recipients of grants.

Outlook

On the income side, the donation situation is expected to continue to be reasonably stable based on the trend from previous years. However, the decline in donations in 2017 requires attention in the current year in order to stabilize the income stream of the VCF again. As the majority of donations are typically generated at the end of the year during the renewal process, suitable promotion activities will be put in place to encourage donations by the end of 2018.

Based on already approved grants and pending enquiries, the target volume of grants issued will likely be achieved again in 2018. The increased awareness of the VCF with Section Chairs and conference organizers will be supported by awareness activities in order to keep it at the increased level achieved in 2017. An overhaul of the application criteria and process is nearing completion and is planned to be instated during the current year.

Points of Concern

As the donation situation was slightly declining in 2017, care must be taken to stabilize the income stream to the fund (or ideally even increase it) as this is the fundamental operating base for the VCF program. Planning of a donation promotion campaign is underway for the upcoming renewal season at the end of 2018.

Other Issues to report

Women in Engineering Coordinator

Younna El Bitar

Goals

R8 WIE Committee's goals for 2018 include but are not limited to:

- Increasing the vitality of Section and Student Branch Affinity Groups, by getting closer to the active AGs, identifying and revitalizing dormant AGs, and creating AGs in the remaining sections with the help of Section Chairs
- Increasing awareness about R8 WIE programs and engaging WIE members
- Establishing WIE participation and visibility in R8 flagship events
- Reaching out to all R8 WIE members, via a survey, to establish communication channels and find out about their expectations
- Ultimately increasing the WIE membership in R8 and continue the growth trend achieved in 2017

Status

- Currently, there are 4108 WIE members in Region 8, which represents a 24% growth over last year. The members are distributed among 142 Affinity Groups: 38 Sections and 104 Student Branches, which numbers are continuously increasing
- R8 WIE has successfully achieved a stronger communication channels, with a new email address, updated website, over 2100 likes on Facebook and a newly launched Instagram account
- R8 WIE was successfully represented in various SYPs across Region 8, increasing the awareness about its programs and activities. In 2018, plans are being developed to have an even stronger presence with workshops and special programs

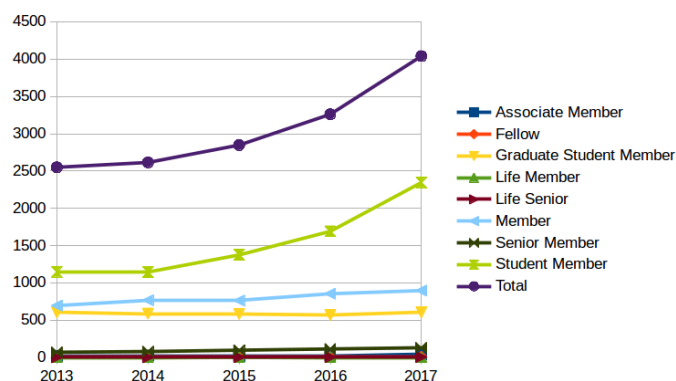
Outlook

- A pilot for new awards recognizing R8 WIE volunteers was successfully carried, a new initiative engaging and encouraging volunteers by recognizing their efforts
- Late 2017, Ana Cigaran Romero joined the team as "Outreach Officer", and in early 2018, Hzar Oqlah joined as "Publicity Officer" after winning a graphic design competition carried by R8 WIE. In 2018, a new member is expected to join the team as "Student Affinity Groups Coordinator"

Points of Concern

- WIE AGs do not have sources for funding within Region 8. The only funding is an amount of 300 USD that should be requested from MGA 3 months prior to the event
 - Sections should be encouraged to financially support their WIE AG events
 - It is preferable to have regional support in case the Section is not able to
- There is no support for WIE AG representatives to attend events such as the SYP or other conferences
 - As a start, active Section WIE AGs could send a funded representative (who is also a Student member or a Young Professional) to the SYP, which will provide significant motivation
- Means of involving WIE officers in various trainings, especially with the lack of funding

Other Issues to report



Region	Dec-16	Dec-17	% of Change
R1	608	614	1%
R2	494	532	8%
R3	579	568	-2%
R4	417	457	10%
R5	449	447	0%
R6	927	969	5%
R7	425	453	7%
R8	3261	4040	24%
R9	2731	2886	6%
R10	10488	12002	14%
Total	20379	22968	13%



Young Professionals Subcommittee

Sara Pena Barros

Goals

The main goals of the Region 8 Young Professionals team for 2018 are to:

- 1) Improve the status of Young Professionals Affinity Groups in Region 8, consisting of:
 - no inactive or dormant Young Professionals Affinity Groups in the Region;
 - Young Professionals Affinity Groups reporting their activities on vTools through L31 reports in a timely manner, and they all having the minimum required 2 activity reports before the end of the year;
 - create at least 1 new Young Professionals Affinity Group in the Region;
- 2) Create and share additional support material and manuals relevant for Young Professionals, focusing on strategies for getting funding and sponsorship for events and how to increase the publicity and visibility of their activities;
- 3) Bridge the gap between the 3 main segments of Young Professionals by:
 - Supporting Young Professionals Affinity Groups to organize more STEP events and work closer with students in their Section;
 - Supporting Young Professionals Affinity Groups to organize more Meet-ups events and work closer with industry in their Section;
 - Supporting and encourage Young Professionals Affinity Groups to allocate resources to entrepreneurship activities;
- 4) Cooperate with SAC for the continuous success of Cross-Sectional SYP Congresses and the Region 8 SYP Congress;
- 5) Cooperate with the other MA subcommittees and take advantage of each others' strengths to achieve our goals, particularly with SIGHT, PA and LM;
- 6) Focus not only on supporting active Young Professionals volunteers, but also on the development of programs that directly aim to increase Young Professionals members satisfaction based on segmentation studies;
- 7) Increase visibility of the Young Professionals program in Region 8.

Status

This year, we will continue to pursue the 2-year term goals defined in the beginning of 2017. For a complete overview of our strategy, please refer to the reports submitted during the previous year.

- 1) Currently there are 50 Young Professionals Affinity Groups in Region 8, 3 of which were formed last year. From these groups, all are active and with their reporting up to date, with exception of 3. The team is closely working with the Chairs of these Sections to revitalise these groups, focusing on their local needs and challenges. In order to keep a close relationship with each of the executive committees, the Affinity Groups are equally divided by the R8YP team members.
- 2) A series of webinars on Publicity & Visibility for YP Chairs' training is ready and scheduled for delivery in March. Additionally to it, other training/supporting material documents are under development, as a "Sponsorship for Dummies" guide, a "Cross Sectional SYP Congress Survival Guide" and a memo on how to quickly go through a petition process using vTools. A Best Practice manual for the next Region 8 YP team is also planned to be ready by the end of the year.
- 3) After much advertising and encouragement of the local Young Professionals AGs to use the funding opportunities available to them, 8 STEP events, 6 Meet-ups and 11 Seed-Funding activities have taken place in our Region, fully or partially funded by MGA YP, putting the Young Professionals community in Region 8 in the front row. Region 8 events reported the highest attendance rate of all the Regions. All the events were evaluated based on success metrics and deliverables, after which the funding was released.
- 4) Last year, 8 successful Cross-Sectional SYP Congresses were organized in Region 8: GCC SYP (1st edition), CEuSYP, MESYP, ASYP (1st edition), WESYP, HSYP, EASYP (1st edition) and NSYP. The organization of two new SYP Congresses in Africa was a significant milestone for its members and our Region. The host Section of the 2018 Region 8 SYP Congress is Portugal and its organising committee from the University of Porto. The Congress is scheduled to take place from the 24th to the 29th of July. For further details on these activities, please refer to the SAC report.
- 5) Collaboration with the fellow subcommittees under Member Activities as so far been successful with:
 - PA - joint efforts on the delivery of content and presence at IEEE flagship conferences as Eurocon and Africon;
 - SIGHT - by foresting the delivery of soft-skills training by local Young Professionals to newly formed SIGHT groups.
 - LM - by involving the subcommittee in the SYP Congress through the delivery of talks and experience sharing.
- 6) Based on the results from the segmentation study, two main programs and one visibility strategy were designed, focusing on reaching out directly to the Young Professionals members:
 - Company Branch Program, concept development and proposal finalized. A survey has been distributed to assess the target audience's (IEEE Young Professionals working in industry) impression on the idea and its added value. A total of 388 responses were collected, with a good diversity in terms of working field and years of experience in industry. More than 70% of the participants see the program has valuable or very valuable.
 - YPitch is the new entrepreneur-aimed program from Region 8 YP, consisting of a competition for young start-ups, who need support to take their first steps. Concept development and proposal finalised. Currently involving IEEE N3xT and IEEE Entrepreneurship for collaboration. A parallel proposal was also written to increase IEEE's visibility among the entrepreneurship world.
 - 2 Signature Events were organised by R8 YP: one at an IEEE flagship conference, Eurocon, and one at a large scale event, comprising of 3 conferences and an exhibition fair, with around 4000 participants, the European Microwave Week (EuMW). Both events aimed at exposing IEEE Young Professionals and its mission inside and outside the

IEEE community, while at the same time contributing to a closer collaboration with Academia (Eurocon) and Industry (EuMW). The overall experience was positive and effective.

- 7) Increase of the visibility of Young Professionals in Region 8 has been achieved by participation and delivery of workshops in Cross Sectional SYP Congresses, support of Meet-ups at technical conferences, organization of Signature Events, redaction of the YP Newsletter and online media campaigns. The YP Newsletter was released in January and a copy of this edition will be distributed during the meeting in Athens. Within the online media campaigns, #YPVoice was extremely successful, being recognized by IEEE staff, who requested permission to use the quotes in the IEEE website and marketing materials. During the past year, a significant increase of our number of followers on the various social media platforms was recorded 50% in our Facebook page (with a total organic reach of 47k+), 48% in our Instagram account and 20% in our Twitter account, showing the steady growth of the Young Professionals community engagement and the Region 8 YP team's visibility.

Outlook

Based on the experience gained during last year, the Business Plan from MGA YP and the priorities of Region 8, our strategy is designed around 2 main pillars: a strong academia/industry collaboration and the extra step towards the non-volunteer member experience and satisfaction. This said, the team will focus on achieving the goals set for this year through the following directives:

- Continuing the AGs division scheme, reducing the work load per team member and creating a more personalized contact with the local volunteers;
- Working on maintaining a strong collaboration with MGA YP and, within R8, with SAC and PA;
- Developing new links with other subcommittees under MA, e.g. as it is now being done with SIGHT;
- Expanding the Company Branch Program and contribute to the YPitch momentum until it is fully sustainable;
- Continuing the guidance and support of SYP congresses, as well as Meet-ups, working towards new succession solutions and budget optimization;
- Increasing collaboration with TAB and experience sharing with the YP communities from other Regions.

Points of Concern

Young Professionals have always represented a major fraction of the IEEE members, over 25%, but only recently it has become undeniable their impact and contribution to the future of the institution. With retention and satisfaction rates steadily decreasing among young people, IEEE is finally realising that it is essential to adapt to this new changing world in order to remain a relevant engineering organisation. As a result, the Young Professionals program is exponentially growing and becoming inherent to IEEE's strategy. We hope that Region 8 continues showing its constant support and enables the growth of this program to its full potential, in the same fashion IEEE as an institution is.

Other Issues to report



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Algeria Section

Amar Tilmatine

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?

- What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? After the economic crisis in Algeria following the drop of the oil price, our politics are enhancing economy and some industrials are now interested in "research and development". There are not many meetings between university and Industry in Algeria. However, there are several national conferences on electrical engineering and computer science organized in various universities. Industry sponsors attend to such events.
- What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? We need to enhance IEEE relationship with industry because the quasi totality of the members is issued from academic institutions, mostly from universities and laboratories. I propose for example that industrials from rich countries as in Europe invite some startups from third world countries to give them a training.
- What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? The major success is mainly the contact between laboratories and Industry. However, we think that contact between industry members should be encouraged, in particular between those issued from developed countries and third world countries. IEEE should perhaps encourage "rich" laboratories to give donation of second-hand scientific material to laboratories which doesn't have enough material to make experimental research. Indeed, there is a lack of research material to let Industry be interested in our laboratories.
- How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations? We are going to contact the former students who are now working in industry. Moreover, we plan to organize visits to different companies in order to encourage them to be IEEE member.

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?

- What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? The new IEEE members in our section come in general from academic institutions and mostly from universities and high schools. There are several conferences on electrical engineering and computer science organized in various universities. Students and Young Professionals meet together in such events. Unfortunately, meetings between young professionals are not often organized out of these events.
- What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? We think that IEEE should help more the new student members and offer them a free membership for the first year, in particular in countries with low income.
- How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals? We have know the possibility to use the budget from IEEE and we are going to organize some meetings to motivate students to be IEEE 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?

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section?

- The national conferences on electrical engineering and computer science are regularly organized in various universities. Moreover, we have to encourage student activities and organize student events such as PhD days..However, activities around industry is missing.
- What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? We think that membership fees should be more decreased for third World countries. As noted before, IEEE should encourage "rich" laboratories to give donation of second-hand scientific material to laboratories which doesn't have enough material to make experimental research. Indeed, there is a lack of research material to let Industry be interested in our laboratories.
- What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? I think that Algeria section has done efforts for new membership recruitment; our section has obtained a prize about this achievement.
- How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality The main problem of membership development is that in my country the payment by credit card is not generalized, especially for the students. However, our financial officer has obtained the permission to use his personal credit card to make group payment when there are at least 7 new members who want to renew their membership. This opportunity has allowed increasing the number of the members this year for more than 100 %.

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?

There are some things which could be done such as to encourage known professors and industrials to share their knowledge and experience with African people by giving conferences and plenary lectures. Moreover, offer the old material which is not used by "rich" laboratories to African institutions.

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?

It does not influence our section.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

As a new initiative, an Algerian association in electrical engineering was recently created which by the members of our section to enhance IEEE membership.

Austria Section

Michael Heiss

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?

works well:

- Organizing Industry Tracks on scientific IEEE conferences.
- Invite industry speakers at local IEEE events will be continued.

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?

works well:

- Two very active student branches (motivated by our local best student branch award)
- make IEEE locally accessible for the members: local events (open for non-members) will be continued.

Success since last meeting:

- Young Professionals are re-vitalized
- WIE are now not just an officer but a regular Affinity Group with full ExCom
- PES-Chapter re-vitalized

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?

works well:

- many technical activities in the Section

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?

- we have organized IEEE TEMS activities with "Focus Africa" in our Section; three events in this year (in collaboration with "Aphropean Partners")

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?

- Due to the fact that we are also located in Vienna we hope to have common events in the future.
- More international meeting are now taking place in Austria
- More awareness and importance of IEEE in Austria and Europe in the industry

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

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Bahrain Section

Adel Ahmed Hamed

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?

- Many members are working at local companies and factories, they created strong relations between their companies and Bahrain section through section industry ambassador to support joint events
- Section has invited the Under Secretary of Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication and the CEO of VIVA Telecomm Company as main speakers for IEEE-GCC conference & exhibition which was held on May 2017.
- SYP tour was implemented by SYP chair during the conference days at major telecommunication company "Batelco"
- Many Saudi companies supported that event.
- HE. The Minister of electricity & water authority EWA supports Bahrain section registration as a local branch of IEEE International

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?

- Section secretary had held a social evening on 22nd April 2017
- Section secretary has held a meeting on 17th Jan 2018 at University of Bahrain "UoB" to form computer society chapter
- 3 members had participated in SYP Congress, Tunisia on 1-4 August 2017
- Encouraging students to participate in the student paper contest "SPC", Marrakech, Morocco, 2-7 May 2018
- Continues Registration of Bahrain Section by the Bahrain Government as a local branch of IEEE international
- I invited Applied Science University "ASU" president & faculty during our meeting on 23 rd. December at their campus to form STB branch

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?

- Holds several ExCom meetings
- A new Communication Society Chapter has been formed and started its activities
- A new IAS Society Chapter has been formed and will start its activities shortly
- I invited to a new AESS Society Chapter formation
- A new humanitarian group (SIGHT) has been formed and started its activities
- Waiting approval of a new Computer Society Chapter
- We started collaboration with other sections in R8 and other Regions to exchange ideas, sponsor activities and doing common events

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?

- I focused on five countries (Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia) on the following broad goals: Engineering education, vocational training, workforce development and humanitarian technology-based projects
- During my meeting with Eng. Martin, Kenya section chair at section congress, SC 2017, Australia, I discussed all possible future collaboration to share ideas about vocational training and humanitarian technology-based projects
- I plan to meet the other 4 sections delegate during the Region 8 meeting to discuss the same or more issues

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?

- "Establishing the European Technology Centre marks an important step in furthering IEEE's global, strategic activities within Europe and beyond," said Karen Bartleson, 2017 IEEE president and CEO
- We expect Europe regional meetings support from IEEE Vienna office
- We are looking forward for opening an IEEE office in Bahrain too, especially after we got support from the government for our section registration

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- Bahrain Section welcomes all to comment/ feedback about The 9th IEEE GCC CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION and SYP CONGRESS which had been held at Manama, Bahrain :: 7-11 May 2017, Conference Theme :: Solutions for a Smarter Economy, for more details, kindly open the following link: <http://ieee-gcc.org/>
- Bahrain Section has got an 2017 MD outstanding recognition:
 - Jan 2015 :: 88 members
 - Jan 2016 :: 163 members
 - Jan 2017 :: 212 members
 - Jan 2018 :: 220 members

Belarus Section

Aleksandr Gusinski

Benelux Section

Dirk Van Hertem

Bosnia & Herzegovina Section

Meliha Selak

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?

Organized the IEEE B&H PES Day 2017 - Shaping the Future of B&H Energy Industry: The role of the IEEE PES B&H with aim of connecting the real sector and research institutions.

The industrial environment: JP "Elektroprivreda HZ-HB" d.d. Mostar, 28.06.2017; 11:00h, Title: "What we need to know for the power system upgrade and DG connections?", Meliha Selak, IEEE PES DLP lecture, participants 32 of IEEE members 6; Continue worked on BH Power Utility Company in sponsoring ISGT 2018 to be hosted in Sarajevo Bosnia and Herzegovina. IEEE IAS DLP lecture, Title: "Nuclear Energy Today And The Future ? What In The World Is Going On?", David Vaglia, participants 20 of IEEE members 15, IEEE B&H IAS/PES Joint meeting;

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?

Faculty of Electrical Engineering Tuzla, 14.04.2017; IEEE B&H PES future activities, Vedad Bećirović, IEEE B&H PES Chapter Chair;

International Burch University Power & Energy Society Student Branch Chapter, 02.05.2017; Meliha Selak, Dušanka Bošković; JP "Elektroprivreda HZ-HB" d.d. Mostar, 28.06.2017; IEEE B&H PES activities, Selma Hanjalić, IEEE B&H PES Chapter Vice Chair, IEEE B&H PES future activities, Vedad Bećirović, IEEE B&H PES Chapter Chair;

IEEE B&H PES Day - Shaping the Future of B&H Energy Industry: JP "Elektroprivreda B&H" d.d. - Sarajevo, 27.11.2017; 13:30 - 13:45h, Meliha Selak, IEEE B&H Section Chair;

Faculty of Electrical Engineering - University of East Sarajevo, 26.12.2017; IEEE B&H PES activities, Vedad Bećirović, IEEE B&H PES Chapter Chair.

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?

Participation of IEEE B&H at local conferences: "INFOTEH-JAHORINA 2017", Main organizer: Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of East Sarajevo;

Participation of IEEE B&H at local conferences: "INTSIKT 2017 (International Symposium on Information and Communication Technologies)", Organizers: Faculty of Electrical Engineering Tuzla, Faculty of Electrical Engineering Ljubljana and BIT Center Tuzla.

Participation of IEEE B&H PES members YP at conferences: "IEEE Student and Young Professional Congress B&H", 01.12.2017. - 04.12.2017; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Meetings regarding the organization of the ISGT 2018 Conference: - In 2017 the section members participated at a few organizing committee meetings, (9).

ICAT 2017 organized by University of Sarajevo and IEEE Control Systems Society, IEEE System, Man, and Cybernetics Society, and IEEE Computer Society. The symposia has significant participation from industry.

Bringing DLP with new and interesting topics.

Formation of the International Burch University Power & Energy Society Student Branch Chapter, 02.05.2017; SBC20137, Jasna Hivziefendi? (jasna.hivziefendic@gmail.com);

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?

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

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?

To promote ISGT-Europe 2018 Conference that will be held in Sarajevo.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

A remarkable achievement of our section: 2017 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance. Thanks to ALL IEEE members across Bosnia and Herzegovina!

Chapter Outstanding Engineer Award (OEA): Elvisa Becirovic, "For her outstanding contribution to theoretical, practical and regulatory aspects of Power System, and activating and developing the local PES chapter", Greater than 15 years.

IEEE PES Wanda Reder Pioneer in Power Award 2017, Meliha B. Selak for leadership in power system operation and for inspiring new engineers and women in engineering throughout the IEEE Regions.

PES Chapter representatives, Nermin Suljanovic, attended Chapter Chairs training at the Power Tech, 2017.

Section have had a few volunteer nominations at R8 and MGA level.

Workshop: JP "Elektroprivreda B&H d.d. Sarajevo", 27.11.2017; 15:00 - 15:45 h, Title: "Writing and Publishing of Scientific Papers for CC (Current Contents) Journals", Jasmin Velagić, Professor at University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, participants 140 of IEEE members 25;

Student Activities: IEEE PES SB University of Sarajevo:

- Workshop: "Teamwork", 04.08.2017; Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Organizers: "BeENG 2017", 15.08.2017. - 15.10.2017; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Volunteering: IEEE B&H PES Day - Shaping the Future of B&H Energy Industry, 6 student members.
- Participant at conference: Zagreb Energy Conference 2017, 15.12.2017-16.12.2017, 4 student members;
- Workshop (Technical activities): "Model of Smart train station", 20.2.2017 - 01.06.2017, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 3 student members;
- Workshop (Technical activities): "Model of Hydro reversible power plant", 20.02.2017 - 01.06.2017, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 3 student members;

International Burch University - IEEE Power & Energy Society:

- Workshop: "Construction of Solar Summer Residence (Shadrvan)", 09.12.2017; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Organizers: "IEEE Student and Young Professional Congress B&H", 01.12.2017. - 04.12.2017; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina;





Elektrotehnički fakultet u Sarajevu
14.3.2017. od 11:00 h
Sala 51

"Nuclear Energy Today And The Future - What In The World Is Going On?"
by David Ingels
IEEE Distinguished Lecturer

IEEE PES
Power & Energy Society

TEMATIKA PREDAVANJA

Power System Protection - Where We Are Today -
Muhamed Suljak, IEEE PES DLP lecture
Fakultet elektrotehničke Tuzla
14.3.2017. 11:00h

Agenda

- 1. Izazovi u zaštiti
- 2. IEEE PES DLP predavanje
- 3. Pregled stanja zaštite
- 4. IEEE PES BiH budućnost
- 5. Izazovi IEEE BiH članstva IEEE PES DLP predavanje

EP **IEEE** **PES**

3rd DINA PREDAVANJE
Muhamed Suljak, IEEE PES DLP lecture
14.3.2017. od 11:00 h
Sala 51

Agenda

- 1. Izazovi u zaštiti
- 2. IEEE PES DLP predavanje
- 3. Pregled stanja zaštite
- 4. IEEE PES BiH budućnost
- 5. Izazovi IEEE BiH članstva IEEE PES DLP predavanje



**2017 Outstanding Section Membership
Recruitment and Retention Performance
Bosnia and Herzegovina Section**



Bulgaria Section

Kiril Alexiev

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?

Up to now we could not find a successful approach to improve our relations with the Industry besides trying hard to recruit new IEEE members. Most of our volunteers are from the academia and a few of them have good relationship with the Industry. In fact there are not so many benefits of IEEE products to members from the industry besides the access to IEEE publications. This year we had a request from a private company for several memberships, but it can be regarded as an exception, not as a common practice. We try to serve these people in the best way. Unfortunately, our few members from the industry are very reluctant to participate in our activities, especially as volunteers. We encourage entrepreneurs and try to keep close relationship with industry. We try to disseminate best practice. In an interview with our member from the industry Krassimir Tonchev he said "I am proud that our technology is enjoyed by large airline companies". This is an example from our WEB site.

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?

We try to attract attention even of under university students, to orient them to the engineering profession and scientific research and acquaint with the world engineering organization of IEEE. Our enthusiastic IEEE members from Varna TU led by Dr. Valentina Markova organized interesting meetings with gaming elements with them. To have a successful Student branch, it is necessary to have motivated Student Branch Counselor and several motivated and enthusiastic student members. Thus we have now only one really active Student Branch thanks to its Counselor Prof. Bedzev in our small but University town Shumen. The group is very motivated to organize different activities for students support and for social networking. Our Young Professionals Activity Group is very active. They are organizing very successful events.

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?

In March 2017 we organized joint meeting of Bulgarian Section Executive Committee with all Chapter's and Activities Officers. On this meeting the old Section Chair and Treasurer reported about last Section activities and financial state. The Chapter chairs gave short description of the state of their Chapters. At the end in discussion were detailed the main directions for more effectively organized, dynamic and influential work of the Section members as a leading and esteemed part of a truly transnational IEEE in the 2017.

Our continuous efforts for preparation of the membership renewal and membership fees collection and transferring of more than half of our members are the best activity to drive the vitality and sustainability in the Section. These activities, together with all the year-end reporting, are taking several months of the ExCom oficers, but this is the only way to retain a considerable part of our members.

We are trying very hard to make our units following the rules about the terms of service and organizing elections according to these rules. The proper turnover of the officers is of crucial importance for the vitality of the organization. Last year we have succeeded to revitalize all chapters except one by taking the entire initiative in organization elections of their committees - from nomination to the voting procedures.

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?

We think that Region 8 is making enough to help our African colleagues in their efforts to establish new sections and strengthen them. Particularly we have not good relationship with IEEE sections in Africa and we haven't enough information about the state there and to give recommendations in this situation it will be not a good practice.

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?

I have a long talk with one of the officers in Vienna Office in Sydney and I hope that we could organize joint event there.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We participated in organization of several events last year. One very successful scientific meeting was 40-th International Spring Seminar on Electronics Technology, organized in May 10-14, 2017 in Sofia, Bulgaria. The second event - the "Biomedical data acquisition and applications" workshop was organized by IEEE CAS/SSC Bulgarian Chapter and hosted by Telecommunications Department, Technical University of Varna. The event has been supported by the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society in the framework of the 2017 IEEE CASS Outreach Initiative (ID 751). The workshop supported the advance of students and young professionals involved in CASS-related research and technology development activities, facilitated their career planning and development, and engaged them in IEEE activities. Also, we have a proposition for restructuring, based on the activities which are continuously implementing at IEEE ED/SSC Chapter Varna, Bulgaria in the field of biomedical engineering. In particular the Joint IEEE ED/SSC Chapter Varna to become a Joint IEEE ED/SSC/EMBS Chapter.

Croatia Section

Maja Matijasevic

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 professionals were interested in IEEE activities that provided opportunities to share achievements, learn about other business success stories, and to learn about top students and their projects. However, that alone did not contribute to the increase in number of Section's members from the industry. Therefore, a new kind of approach is apparently needed.
- We could benefit from other Section's experiences regarding attraction of industry professionals. Although the problem can be related to many specific local circumstances (please see our analysis below), information about any successfully applied policy towards this target group would provide useful insights for any Section faced with similar issues.
- Section should encourage establishing a team of IEEE volunteers dedicated to the goal of identifying and implementing projects that benefit IEEE and the local industry. IEEE and the Region should support these efforts by dedicating budgets for Industry Relations projects and providing a platform for sharing ideas and success stories between coordinators.
- There were no significant changes in membership share of industry professionals and their involvement in IEEE activities. During 2017, we analyzed the reasons for relatively modest share of industry professionals in total membership.
- The main motivation for entering the IEEE typically during the study, and leaving it soon after completion of doctorate, is the access to high quality literature. Moreover, the access to IEEE Xplore base is often perceived as the only benefit an individual member can have from the IEEE membership. Since the scientific literature is naturally not in the primary focus of industry professionals, it is not surprising that an average student member would probably leave the Section soon.
- Next, the members informed us that the companies they work for become more and more reluctant to cover costs of any professional activities not related directly to the job. Combined with high IEEE fees, it motivates the members to leave.
- Some Croatian companies are traditionally oriented more to other professional organizations, either the ones with global presence (e.g. Cigr), or local professional societies. These organizations, which can be viewed as a sort of competition to IEEE as regards membership attraction, usually have regular local annual conferences that gather many industry professionals and serve as a sort of platform for networking and practical experience exchange. In some cases, such events have been going on for decades now, which over time built a strong tradition.
- In spite of being rooted so well in industry communities, they, too, experience decreasing willingness of companies to cover costs. However, usual annual fees such organization charge to individual members are very low, typically between 15 and 30 euros, so that the members do not leave because of them.
- Another relevant specific circumstance in Croatia is that there is not really much industry in technological sector in the country, so the base of potential industry members is not too big, either.
- Based on our analysis, we believe the main problem with development of IEEE membership among industry professionals in our country is the existence of vivid local 'competition' that is more flexible and deeply rooted in the industry communities, whereas IEEE has never been significantly present outside academia, except for some notable exemptions.
- We will continue improving IEEE visibility through collaboration with local industry associations and develop connections with local start-up ecosystem to attract young companies in technological sector that can benefit from access to international IEEE network and knowledge. We believe that the new industry players that are more globally oriented business-wise can be attracted with more success than the traditional industry players that already have their stable long time relations with other professional organizations.

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?

- Student branches organize lectures that present 'success stories' from local companies. Such lectures give both students and Young Professionals the opportunity to informally network with industry representatives and learn about future employment opportunities.
- Similar activities are organized on a regular basis by the Croatia Section Young Professionals (YP) affinity group through the IEEE Elevate program, which was designed and launched in 2013 IEEE Elevate consists of informative events, featuring guest speakers who share their views, experiences and success stories in various IEEE-related areas of interest, with focus on novel and upcoming technologies, aiming to inspire and motivate students and young engineers to advance their careers. Elevate events are organized in an informal environment (such as local cafes), and they present a great opportunity for networking.
- The annual Students and Young Professionals (SYP) congresses are great opportunity for team building, which enables smooth transition from Student to YP status for volunteers and motivates them for further work in their student branches. The Croatian Student and Young Professionals congress (CroSYP) is organized in a different city each year, with the support of the Croatia Section, the local student branch, and the local university. CroSYP events encourage networking among student members, and provide a great venue for the exchange of best practices and ideas. This event is also attended by representatives of the industry, who through their professional lectures and workshops promote their companies and employment opportunities.
- There is a lack of knowledge for current members how IEEE operates on Regional and higher levels. Communication between regional committees and section committee could be better. Information that comes from various committees are not displayed in appropriate way. It is hard to find relevant information on committee website, which is why additional

effort is required to obtain information about events/actions/promotions/funding that are active within IEEE. It seems that committees are too often relying on social media and other platforms rather than their website, that are, in our opinion, not suitable for such purposes. Only event that Student and Young Professionals members can connect with Region are Regional SYPs.

- Since the last meeting University of Zagreb Student Branch organized CroSYP (Croatia Student and Young Professionals Congress) with support from both Croatia Section and Young Professionals AG. Congress provided opportunity for networking between students, Young Professionals and industry representatives. The main part of the congress consisted of several social skills workshops and lecture "History of the Croatia Section" by Aleksandar Szabo. The benefits of student membership and the responsibilities of student branch leaderships were presented. All student branches and YP AG presented their activities during previous academic year and took part in the debate on the future events and the problems they encounter.
- IEEE Day celebration was organized throughout Croatia by the student branches and YP AG. In all three cities (Zagreb, Osijek and Rijeka) student branches promoted IEEE and their local activities to their fellow students through workshops (e.g. "Become a Member" and "Social skills and competences" workshops), lectures and promotional activities.
- YP AG organized the lecture entitled "IEEE Elevate: Dark Times", presented by Ale de la Puente, an independent artist from Mexico who works with the National Institute of Astronomy and the National Institute of Nuclear Science. This lecture was organized as a part of IEEE Day celebration.
- IEEE ZEC (Zagreb Energy Congress) was organized by University of Zagreb SB with support from Croatia Section and PES Chapter. During the Congress, a number of speakers presented their work or recent scientific advances in the field of power and energy science. The Congress program also included three professional visits in nearby companies. The event was well-attended, with 50-70 participants, members of IEEE.
- Students from Croatia participated in IEEEExtreme 11.0 programming competition.

In the next period we are planning to organize following events:

- IEEE Promotional activities by student branches during March 2018 at the start of the summer semester. The goal of these promotional activities is to motivate existing student members to continue their membership and attract new members.
- IEEE TOPWeek (Technical Opportunities Week) which will be co-organized by IAS chapter, PES chapter and YP AG in cooperation with local university, innovation center and alumni organization.
- IEEE Step lecture organized by YP AG

Croatia Section offers a great support to Students and Young Professionals with their activities. Section supports student branches financially in their activities and provides lecturers if necessary. Continuous cooperation between Croatia Section SAC, YP AG and student branches results in multiple activities throughout the year.

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?

Our success is the result of the continuous work of our Section officers/coordinators as well as the vitality of our chapters, affinity groups and student branches. We take special care of timely annual reporting of officers, meetings and finances to be eligible for the bonus.

The activities / programs / initiatives that work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in our Section include:

- meetings, workshops and conferences;
- cooperation of students and young professionals;
- Pre-University education and STEM programs;
- Section awards;
- Section annual meeting/dinner.

To improve Section vitality and sustainability volunteers train themselves using the IEEE supporting material and programs. From the Region we expect help/guidelines and workshops for Section volunteers to improve Section operation and vitality. To foster Section vitality in our Section we will follow our current best practices:

- taking care of members;
- member retention and recruitment (we received "2017 Outstanding Section Membership Retention Performance" Award);
- recruitment and training of new volunteers;
- cooperation of Section units;
- organizing meetings and workshops;
- inviting Distinguished Lecturers;
- celebrating the IEEE Day;
- organizing IEEE conferences;
- sponsoring local conferences;
- Section awards;
- organizing Pre-University education and STEM programs;
- involving members from industry;
- organizing lectures/talks with renowned people from industry;
- launching local IEEE Senior Member initiatives - personal invitations to outstanding members to be nominated by Section.

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?

Aside from best practices described above, we have no specific recommendations for fostering IEEE in Africa. We would be happy to provide more information on any specific event or practice that the Africa Area Chair, Ms. Chuckwudebe, finds interesting for the Africa Area, or potentially applicable there.

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 Croatia Section currently has no need for staff support from the new IEEE office in Vienna.
- We expect administrative and financial support to be provided for the Region 8.
- We propose that the new office serve as an EU-based distribution point for IEEE membership development and promotional material (such as MD Meeting and Event Kit), as well as IEEE products (such as stationery, banners, plaques, pins and certificates), which are currently shipped all the way from the USA. Shipping these products to Europe by sea, and customizing them locally, would significantly reduce the delivery time and cost for Sections based in Europe (and, possibly, other geographically close countries). Further on, for the EU-countries, distribution from Vienna would also obviate the additional delay (and, sometimes, hassle) related to standard customs clearance procedures required for international shipments from non-EU countries.
- So far the existence of this office has not influenced our Section.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Special achievements include:

- Croatia Section received 2017 Outstanding Section Membership Retention Performance Award
- IEEEmadC organizational team received 2017 IEEE MGA Innovation Award
- University of Zagreb IEEE Student Branch received the 2017 Darrel Chong Student Activity Award (Silver Medal)
- University of Rijeka IEEE Student Branch received the 2017 IEEE Exemplary Student Branch Award
- Prof. Mislav Grgi?, SM, received 2017 IEEE Member Recruitment and Recovery Committee certificate of recognition for outstanding achievement for the Croatia Section during the 2017 membership year

Anniversaries:

- In 2017, the Croatia Section celebrated 46 years of existence and 25th anniversary of operation

Cyprus Section

Elias Kyriakides

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?

The IEEE Cyprus Section supports the Action for Industry (AFI) initiative IEEE Region 8 in order to rejuvenate IEEE's involvement with the industry and develop strong working partnerships between IEEE and industry. The IEEE Cyprus Section in 2017 has implemented the MOU agreements for internship programs with 10 big companies from the telecom, energy and computer sectors and has secured more than 50 internship positions for our student and YP members. The plan for 2018 is to increase the internship positions to 80. The IEEE Cyprus Section participated in two important industry events that took place in Nov. 2017: the Information Technology and Telecoms (Infocom 2017 and the International Information Security Conference & Workshops (Infosec 2017). The Section is also a co-organizer of a "Smart Cities" workshop in Feb. 2018 along with major industrial partners and local authorities. The SBs of the IEEE Cyprus Section have organized educational visits to large industries such as a Satellite Earth Stations and a Seawater Desalination Plant.

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 IEEE Cyprus Section will continue sponsoring events, activities, competitions and seminars, related to new technologies and other issues that are for the interest of the students, organized by the student branches in cooperation with their universities. The implementation of internship and mentoring programs through the Action for Industry Initiative will provide value to students and young professionals. Through the internships they will be able to acquire working experience and opportunities for future employment. We have appointed the outgoing Chair of our very successful University of Cyprus Student Branch as the Student Branches coordinator to stimulate all Student Branches to further upgrade their activities.

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?

Since vitality is one of the three focus areas of Region 8, it is also of high priority for the IEEE Cyprus Section. For the next period we are planning the following activities:

- Finalize the Legal Registration of the IEEE Cyprus Section
- Update our website <http://ieee.org.cy/>
- Keep metrics related to membership development. Contact deactivated members and ask them to renew.
- Motivate members to apply for Senior Membership.
- Further enhance the collaboration between SBs
- Organize seminars and workshops for our members.
- Teacher In-Service Program (TISP) : organize workshops in high schools
- Continue supporting the Action for Industry (AFI) initiative.
- Encourage the chapters that are not so active to organize more activities : a Chapters Coordinator has been appointed.

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?

There are several conferences on electrical and electronic engineering and information technology organized in Europe. The IEEE R8 could sponsor the participation of students and young professionals from Africa to these events. The IEEE R8 could also provide support and training to volunteers from Africa in order to coordinate activities and organize events in Africa. Furthermore, professors and industry experts from other areas can be encouraged and sponsored to participate in IEEE events that will be organized in Africa. Due to its proximity, the IEEE Cyprus Section is willing to help the activities of African sections. The IEEE Cyprus section will investigate the possibility to sponsor the participation of a number students and young professionals from Africa in Energycon 2018.

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 staff of IEEE Office in Vienna could implement regional activities and strategic initiatives and objectives of the R8. For example, it will be very useful for the whole IEEE R8 if the IEEE Office in Vienna could provide professional support for the organization of conferences and other events in the region.

Outstanding new initiatives

Outstanding new initiatives The IEEE Cyprus Section will organize the IEEE R8 flagship International Energy Conference ENERGYCON 2018 in Cyprus, 3-7 June 2018. A great technical and social program is being planned.

Special achievements

The IEEE Cyprus Section organized in Dec. 2017 two TISP workshops for students in High Schools (Aglandjia Gymnasium & Dhali Lyceum) in cooperation with Informatics and Technology & Design Teachers. The workshops were under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Anniversaries

The IEEE Cyprus Section is celebrating its 25-year anniversary. A special event is planned in June (on the Section's birthday).

Czechoslovakia Section

Matej Pacha

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?

To highlight the major success, our section has established the first agreement (Afl MoU) with NXP Semiconductor and is continuing with extending common activities. Few more companies have been approached (EATON, Honeywell, etc.), more engagement is planned for 2018. More companies will be contacted based on the success stories experiences.

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?

We are convinced that we attract future members by our activities and visibility. Therefore, we are working on new formats (such as "Industry talks" lectures or involvement in Educational activities) as well as continuing our successful activities (conferences, lectures, IEEE Day, student competitions). We don't have detailed analysis of our activities and the impact on our membership, however, the membership has grown since the last year. We will continue to support IEEE Student branches and YP activities, engaging them together.

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?

Based on our experience, conferences and lectures are the very known, successful and popular activities. We have plans to start new activities, however, starting such activities is not well planned, which is a space for improvement. In these "new activity" cases, we are experiencing a challenge in going for the opportunity and missing available resources, since many resources are project-driven. We will establish a budget for such activities to be ready to go instantly to enable these activities and evaluate them in practice. These activities help to keep volunteers and members engaged as well as they attract new members.

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?

Our members are engaged in the discussions regarding the Activities in Africa. However, further help directly from our Section was not discussed yet.

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?

Basically, we don't have many activities that would require the Vienna office involvement. However, it would be helpful when approaching industry: to have a serious meetings with people engaged in Standards and experience with Industrial and Professional organizations relationships. Another help would with visa invitation letters would be highly appreciated if official IEEE programs are being implemented, inviting speakers and guest from outside of Region 8.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Our Section is still in it's 25th year of existence. We are also proud to recognize Dr. Norbert Herencsar, our outstanding volunteer awarded by the Signal Processing Society as well as by our Section. Outstanding volunteer award was also presented to Dr. Jan Sisteck. One of our new initiatives is "Industry talks" - series of lectures on most recent topics delivered by Industry to students and young professionals.

Denmark Section

Erik Stilling

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?

Planning joint seminar in data security with national engineer association IDA (no expenses). However, the section generally is very limited in activities due to still unresolved issue of power of attorney to our bank account.

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?

Our new SB at AAU university work well in spite of the financial limitations mentioned above, e.g. joint AAU-SB lectures with invited foreign speakers.

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?

Our new webpage is now up and running, establishing easy access for members, incl. announcement of meetings and activities.

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?

Currently, we do not support activities outside our section.

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?

This office has not yet influenced our activities.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Our main focus is still to get access to our bank account. As this hopefully happens this year, we are in position to move with new initiatives.

Egypt Section

Samir I. Shaheen

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?

Egypt Section held a series of Seminars and Technology workshops for different industries including Machine Learning, Embedded Systems, Micro-Electronics, Image Processing, Automotive Systems, Self-Driving cars, Smart Grid, etc. Moreover, Egypt Section linked industry to Students and Educational institutes through its annual competitions on Graduation Projects (EED) and Made in Egypt (MIE) which involves linking industry to students in their graduation year to present their projects through an annual meeting in September 2017. In 2017, more than 300 projects and 1500 student presented their projects in EED. In MIE more 73 projects competed in the event. More than 14000 visitors from industry and students attended the events held during 2 days in September 2017. Moreover, agreement with the Egyptian Engineering Syndicate for cooperation on developing innovation workshops for students has been initialized and will be signed in April 2018. More than 70 workshops and seminars and 200 training hours for young professionals has been held during EED2017 and MIE bringing technology and engineering experts to exchange their knowledge with students and young professionals.

Other Several workshops for YP and Student Branches training were arranged in several cities on Professional development and IEEE Xplore with EKB (Egyptian Knowledge Bank).

More than 150 professionals from industry attended EED2017 either to judge graduation projects or to search for positional engineers and employees or to sponsor their projects and incubate it. A similar competition is performed in Aswan under the name "Upper Egypt in Action" for the south of Egypt Students in February 2017 and is planned in 2018 in April. This involves several Educational and Professional activities for Engineers and Students. It attract 3000 attendees.

Eleven Conferences were sponsored by Egypt Section in different geographic areas in Egypt and in cooperation with the industry and universities.

EED Web Site: <http://eed.eng.cu.edu.eg/eed.eg/index.html>

Closing Ceremony Video for EED: <http://eed.eg/images/videos/EED17-final.mp4>

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?

Egypt Section is making many Seminars and Technology workshops for different industries to attract new members. Several meeting with Engineers and Professional training has been conducted to involve volunteers to be members of IEEE. Moreover, Students are encouraged to work in student branches and as volunteers in the events EED and MIE to encourage them to join the student branches.

Eleven Conferences were technically sponsored by Egypt Section and posted in Xplore. In all conferences, industry was present and an average deduction of 40 US\$ in registration fee were applied. For members and student members. These conference span most Egyptian universities and Geographic locations in Egypt:

- 1) 13th International Computer Engineering Conference (ICENCO).
- 2) 27th International Conference on Computer Theory and Applications (ICCTA).
- 3) 8th International Conference on Intelligent Computing and Information Systems (ICICIS)...
- 4) ICASIS, 2017
- 5) International Conference on Advances in Mechanical Design and Manufacturing (MDP).
- 6) 2017 Intl Conf on Advanced Control Circuits Systems (ACCS) Systems & 2017 Intl Conf on New Paradigms in Electronics & Information Technology (PEIT)
- 7) 2017 Japan-Africa Conference on Electronics, Communications and Computers (JAC-ECC)
- 8) 2017 12th International Conference on Computer Engineering and Systems (ICCES)
- 9) 13th International Computer Engineering Conference (ICENCO).
- 10) 35th National Radio Science Conference (NRSC).
- 11) 1st International Conference on Innovative Trends in Computer Engineering (ITCE) Aswan University.

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?

Since the Egyptian Pound devaluation against the US\$ on November 2016, we have a very hard time keeping our members and attracting new ones. Moreover, after the Egyptian Knowledge Bank allowed IEEE Digital Library for all Egyptian Universities Staff, students and researchers. This made the drive to maintain IEEE membership less attractive. The current member Fees for One Year (without any societies) is around 85 US\$. This represent half a month's salary for a young Engineer. In 2017 the values of US dollar increased from 6.5 Egyptian Pounds to 18 Egyptian Pounds. This put a pressure on our membership. Student's membership also has been affected.

We were able to solve this issue by asking technology companies to subsidies some young members and students by contributing 30-40% of the cost which allowed Egypt Section to maintain its membership vitality. More than 150 YP and Students members used this sponsorship from industry to renew or to join IEEE.

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?

Egypt Section can help nearby Countries that does not have IEEE activity (e.g. Sudan / Eretria, etc.) in starting their activities. The current proposal for bylaws for Africa need studies to be able to really apply it. The current proposal to get operating fund from African sections to operate Africa Area is not reasonable and will not be accepted. That is, we are just able to meet the needs of members and activities in Egypt. Distance and Cost of travel between Egypt and faraway African Countries is very high.

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?

No we did not feel its existence. We need to know what services Vienna office can perform.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Egypt Section has one MOU's with the Academy of Science and Technology in 2017. There is a plan to sign two other MOUs. The MOU signed in 2017 with the Egyptian Academy of Science and Technology (Ministry of Higher Education and Research) facilitates the continuous support to Egypt Section innovation workshops and student's projects and events. Currently, the Academy sponsors some of the section events, Moreover, the successful projects in EED and MIE get incubated in the Academy and the industry. In 2018, there is a plan to sign an MOU with the Egyptian Engineering Syndicate. This will mark a new cooperation with the largest Engineering Organization in Egypt. IEEE section will help in Education and professional activities for young Engineers. Moreover, the Engineering Syndicate is planning to sponsors some of our events. The signing of MOU in 2018 with Nokia-Egypt, will attract more members to be among our professional network and join IEEE Egypt Section volunteer community.



Fig. 6. Workshop-for-YP-members.



Fig. 7. Workshop-for-YP-members.



Fig. 8. EED-Volunteers.



Fig. 9. Students-Vistorsin-EED-2017.



Fig. 10. The Gallery-MIE-Projects.

Estonia Section

Peeter Ellervee

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?

More wider distribution of information about different events like DL visits have made members from industry more active. This helps them to feel they will too benefit from being IEEE member. Contacts with the national industry associations are rather good thanks to the Industrial Relations officer.

The traditional August seminar attracted members both from academia and industry. Presentations at the seminar are from both groups and of interest for all.

Two new industry oriented joint chapters were created one year ago - IE/PEL (Industrial Electronics / Power Electronics) and IA/PE/RA (Industry Applications / Power & Energy / Robotics and Automation) - to intensify contacts with industry. One of them - IE/PEL - has been rather active in 2017 thus proving the need for such chapters. The second one, however, has not been so active mostly because of the small number of members but attention will be paid to make it active again.

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 activity of student is increasing and the student branches have been rather active. The increasing number of foreign students at universities seems to be one of the reasons. To make IEEE even more visible, student members at Tallinn UT are going to have their representative in the list of so called student ambassadors - student advisors with foreign background. The student representatives are present at ExCom meetings also.

Students participated again actively at IEEEExtreme and one of the teams shared the first positions in the final score. The section is covering the fee for those students the first time are enrolling to IEEE to take part of competition. An improvement compared to earlier years is that rather many participants have renewed their membership.

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?

On the one side, IEEEExtreme is still the largest one-event source of new members but on the other hand, the number of members has been stable, essentially, when comparing the numbers in the ends of different years.

To address potential members, we see two ways. First to make IEEE more visible among students who are often working already during their studies. This will also improve contacts with industry. Another way would be to use our traditional summer seminar by inviting non-members from industry to participate. In 2018, the seminar will be most probably near to Tallinn where the concentration of industry is higher thus making the seminar more attractive for potential participants.

On the other hand, to avoid the IEEE membership to be too Tallinn and Northern Estonia centric, the seminar in 2017 was held in Tartu, in the university city in the southern region of the country. We are planning to make such north-south (and east-west) swapping regular to cover wider areas with potential new members.

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?

Students from African countries studying at universities are often also working. This gives a good opportunity to advertise IEEE both through industry and academia.

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?

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Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

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Finland Section

Toni Mattila

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?

We believe that it is well established within IEEE that academic members gain more from their IEEE membership than those from the industry. Furthermore, we are now facing the challenge of making IEEE more relevant to its industrial members better by creating higher value for them especially. The most important action of the Finland Section to tackle this issue locally is to engage closely with the IEEE Action for Industry (AfI) initiative. We implement the AfI initiative through our Section Industry Ambassadors by reaching out to local industries in order to recruit companies to join the AfI initiative and provide internships for the IEEE student members and YPs. Over the past two years the number of industrial contacts has increased substantially. We will continue our engagement with the IEEE Action for Industry initiative also in the future.

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 academic institutions are actively seeking to engage with IEEE in organizing seminars and conferences that are open to our members. These events are good examples of essential value IEEE provides especially to academic members of IEEE. Finland Section actively engages and supports events that are of high quality and in the field relevant to our current and future members. We also encourage our technical chapters to level up their activities. Over the past two years, the latter activity has been particularly worthwhile.

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?

Finland Section is also seeking to engage in collaborative relations with other societies with similar focus in order to provide more benefits to the members of IEEE in the Section. One example of such activity is the collaboration with the local branch of the Institute of Physics (IOP) with whom we organized our 1st joint seminar in September 2017 and the next one shall be in the spring of 2018. Finland Section is also supporting its Technical Chapters to collaborate with their counterparts in other Section in the Nordics. For example, chapters of the IEEE/Electronics Packaging Society (EPS) are a good example: they merged together to form a Nordics-wide joint chapter and now together organize a technical conference & exhibition that is traveling from one destination to another within the Nordic states. The first conference was organized in June, 2017 in Gothenburg, Sweden and the next in 2018 will be organized in Oulu, Finland. In the past, Finland Section has had very active SYP groups but this activity is withering despite of our active efforts to find new people to carry on the tradition. This year we have set ourselves a goal to revitalize the young professional activities and expand this activity to include student members as well.

Our membership numbers are relative stable but in order to stay vital the Finland Section needs members that are more active. We seek to engage new members by inviting them to events and to participate in volunteering activities. We support our less active technical chapters to initiate new activities and encourage the more active ones to expand their activities and make them visible beyond the current members in the hopes to engage new people and new members. We have been quite successful in engaging new members but this activity should be made continuous.

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?

The existing activities among the different Sections in Region 8 are a good benchmark. Similar models/ideas that work in Europe and Middle-East may work in Africa as well.

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 existing activities among the different Sections in Region 8 are a good benchmark. Similar models/ideas that work in Europe and Middle-East may work in Africa as well.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Special achievements: in 2017 the IEEE Finland Section was recognized for achieving outstanding member recruitment and retention performance.

France Section

Frédérique Vallée

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?

We organize workshops oriented towards industry in order to give a better visibility of IEEE activities. One has been organized in June 2018 dedicated to "Data science and energy" with around 50 participants, 2 are in preparation: one in March 2018 dedicated to "5G is coming: Insights into the next generation for mobile access" and the other one in June 2018 dedicated to "Digitizing transportation? (co-organized with the IEEE Vienna Office). We think that it is necessary to have more than one Section Industry Ambassador (one by theme and by region). We would like to nominate new SIA in order to multiply our workshop initiatives and to continue to foster Industry Relations.

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?

We strongly encourage activities oriented towards students and young professionals. For example, we have sponsored one Student Branch for its technical week (Bee Week in Bordeaux in November 2017). We have answered positively at all financial help asked by our student branches. We also encourage the creation of new student branches. Our actions towards young professional are close to our actions towards industry but we would like to have a "young professional" dedicated event in 2018.

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?

We continue to encourage our members to postulate at higher grades. We have organized in December 2018 a "Chapter president meeting" in order to increase our chapters activities and to help them to better understand what is IEEE.

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?

End 2017, we have created a SIGHT serving the protection of endangered species and that is active in Tanzania.

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?

We think that this new office can help us to foster industry relations. We have met Clara Neppel end 2017 and decided to co-organize with the Vienna Office a workshop dedicated to "Digitizing transportation".

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We renewed our collaboration agreement with SEE (French engineers' association) for 3 years. In September 2017, we celebrated an IEEE Milestone dedication ceremony commemorating the French Transatlantic Telegraph Cable of 1898, known as Le Direct. It was the first successful direct connection between Europe and the United States. We are collaborating to the Italian Section event "IEEE RTSI 2018 4th edition".

Germany Section

Ingo Hahn

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?

Our Section has an Industry Relations Officer, but the contact between the IEEE Germany Section and the industry is mainly performed by the different IEEE Society Chapters. Furthermore, Germany's industrial landscape is so diverse and rich that many German IEEE members are employed in industry, so that we have already that close contact to industry. At the moment there is no need to develop further the industry relations.

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?

To attract new members our student branches and the society chapters are the most important and active part. They organize student branch and chapter meetings while inviting not only IEEE members. They regularly invite also some guests who could participate in their activities. Especially the work of the student branches is financially supported by the Section.

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 Section vitality is mostly driven by the activities of the different student branches and society chapters. On the Section level, we regularly organize twice a year Section meetings where all chapter chairs, student branch chairs and affinity group chairs are invited to report on their actual activities and to discuss their plans for future activities and the financing of that events. On the other hand, it is sometimes difficult to get in touch with some of the chapter chairs, because of the huge amount of their business activities, which prevents some of them from spending their leisure time as IEEE volunteers. Individual time is here a very crucial factor.

We started an initiative to clear up the legal status of the IEEE Germany Section according to German law. This initiative is really time consuming combined with much personal effort, because IEEE headquarters are not really of great help in solving the issue at hand. Since more than half a year our Section tries to get an agreement from the headquarters for financing the consultancy with a local lawyer in Germany.

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?

As it is reported last time, I can only recommend that the African Sections should try to get in touch with other Sections in IEEE Region 8, which could give them some hints on their best practices working in their countries. If those best practices from European or Middle East Sections would work successfully also in the African Sections is really hard to estimate. At the moment we have no direct project which supports IEEE activities in Africa, but since the end of 2017 we have an IEEE SIGHT group which could engage in such activities.

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?

We expect more direct engagement of the Vienna office for support and help with clearing up the legal status of the IEEE Germany Section according to German law.

We invited the staff of the IEEE Vienna office for participation in one of our ExCom meetings last year, but the existence of that office hasn't influenced our section yet. The work load has to be performed by the volunteers of the IEEE Germany Section and not by the IEEE Vienna office, which contradicts our expectations.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

IEEE Milestone for Jan Czochralski and its invention of the crystal growth method in collaboration with and based on the initiative of the IEEE Poland Section is approved by the IEEE History Center.

Ghana Section

Eric Kuada

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?

The Ghana Section is about finalizing an MoU with the Institution of Engineering and Technologist Ghana (IETG) as part of efforts to get members with engineering certificates to be registered and recognized by the Engineering Council of Ghana.

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?

Through the support of the Adhoc committee on activities in Africa, the Ghana Section is working on providing laboratory equipment support for a number of engineering educational institutions in Ghana to promote the signing of MoU to have their faculty and students supported to be members of IEEE

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 virtual conferences are very well patronized and should be encouraged to continue

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?

The section takes active part in organizing multiple virtual conferences and training programs being undertaken by the Africa Area

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?

Not yet sure

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The 2017 IEEE day was held outside the capital city in order to make the visibility of IEEE at other parts of the country

Greece Section

Athanasios Kakarountas

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?

- A series of lectures are given based on the following initiatives and programs
 - DLP
 - Participation to the Action for Industry initiative of IEEE
- Students get to know industry operations through Field / Educational Trips (thanks to Student Branches and IAS Chapter)
- Section supported as community sponsor/partner events of other organizations that are industry-oriented.
- An ?Action for Industry initiative? seminar was hosted at the HSYP 2017, that was attended by all the student branches officers
- Members get more opportunities to find their position in industry through job posting in our media of information (e.g. LinkedIn, website etc.) and promotion of job fairs.
 - An international DLP with industry originated lecturers would be interesting and is required not only for keeping our members updated, but also for initiating collaborations and business networks.
 - The Section is exploring the possibility for participating an Incubation program and mentoring/consulting services for young researchers and engineers in Greece. The first steps have been achieved in Patras, participating in the STEP-UP of the POS.

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?

- Excellence, collaboration and creativity are supported by contests:
 - Student contests
 - Maker fairs and shows
 - Promotion of IEEE R8 contests and awards
- Network of collaborations
 - Strategic collaborations of IEEE Student Branches
 - Organization of the Hellenic SYP 2017
 - Social Media Networking
- Participation as sponsor/supporters of local conferences and scientific events.
- Participation of the Membership Development officer to Regional workshops.

The Section officer received this semester an IEEE recognition certificate for Membership Development Some changes that are required by IEEE/the Region/ Section to better Attract and Support Future Members, are the following:

- Offer more opportunities for networking in R8
- Provide access to a number of services by IEEE for students and Young professionals that are not available in Region 8

The Section has supported the SBs and YP AfG to attract Future Members

- Support of Section?s Student Branches
 - Role allocation to Student Branch Officers
 - TISP events across Greece
 - SB workshops
- Support of YP AfG

Offer any support for reviving the AfG. The YP AfG has co-organized the HSYP 2017 with the Section

- Support of new SBs and YP AfG events with lecturers and sponsorship
- New officers are trained by experienced past officers through a new training program offered every two years in Hellenic SYP

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?

- Awareness
 - Website
 - Social media
 - Lectures in technical events
 - Participation in well known scientific events for the public
- Summits
 - Section summits
 - SB summits
- Young officer development
 - YP and SB Officers assigned active roles in Section

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?

The Section can offer collaboration via its OUs to other OUs in Africa. Twinning is suggested as the best practice.

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 IEEE office in Europe should consider porting all benefits that are provided to the rest members to the members residing in Region 8. Also, the office may serve as the bureau of the IEEE members in Europe and participate in think tanks and committees regarding the science and research in EU.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The Section has received numerous recognitions for its participation to Professional, Industrial, Membership Development and Educational Activities initiatives. Students have attracted prizes from Region 8 Contests, namely the first prize in Mind the Gap Contest and the first prize in the Acceleration Educational Program at the University category and a runner up position at the pre-university category. Finally, a large number of international conferences were technically co-sponsored by the Section.

Hungary Section

Levente Kovacs

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?

At our organized IEEE conferences (yearly 5 conference) involve invited speakers from industry, industry corner for conference sponsors. IEEE Hungary Section (HS) industry award establishment in progress. Industry is much more focused to attract students and young scientists for their own human resource shortage. We plan to organize industry technological seminars in front of students inside of universities. Combining IEEE aims with these seminars it could increase industry involvement in IEEE Hungary Section.

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?

Fortunately IEEE Hungary Section members do not need much membership advertisement as they are aware with the benefits of IEEE. However, young or new members need several activities. The Best Student Paper award established last year turned to be a success involving talented young students in the IEEE community. Based on last years experiences invited seminars proved to work attracting students and Young Professionals (YP) to IEEE. Hence, we will intensify these activities and during the seminars we can promote the benefit of IEEE for increase membership. Student membership increased with almost 50 new members. Reduced registration fees for students and YP at our IEEE conferences. IEEE prices at student competitions and conferences (including the most prestigious biannual National Student Conference). IEEE CS&C Joint Chapter, RAS Chapter and SMC Chapter organizes seminars and/or technical meetings, furthermore the members are encouraged to attend technical booths organized by mainly multinational companies. The 30th jubilee birthday of IEEE Hungary Section attracted more students then ever an IEEE event. Own IEEE conferences organized PhD sections involving PhD students from different universities.

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?

IEEE HS continuously increases in members in the last 6 years. Local operation procedures are updated or under update. Most of the HS chapters have been revitalized in the last year, chapter leaderships renewed. The IEEE Hungary Section jubilee birthday event combined with IEEE day celebration proved to be a real success among the students and members. Rudolf Kalman professor title was created and awarding ceremony held during IEEE day celebration. The student competition tripled the submissions of student works (87 works compared to previous years 20-25 submissions). The new section leaderships attracted more students. The MD officer sends out renewing e-mails for the IEEE HS members. Non-renewing members are asked to give feedback why not renewed their membership.

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?

By the Stipendium Hungaricum program, big number of students arrive from Africa in Hungary to learn (BSc, MSc or PhD levels). We advertise them IEEE, and firstly this year we give for the bests of them (nominated by their university) the possibility to join IEEE conferences by presenting their scientific work under a special session.

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?

MD materials

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

New webpage, mobile conference application, Best Student paper award, 30th jubilee birthday of IEEE Hungary Section, IEEE Control Systems Hungary Chapter formation, founding Rudolf Kalman professor title.

Iceland Section

Thomas Philip Runarsson

Iran Section

Ahmad R. Sharafat

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?

The followings worked well for us:

- 1) Requiring each sponsored conference to organize a panel session to promote academia-industry relations.
- 2) Evaluating requests for sponsorship also on their programs for the industry.
- 3) Requesting the student branches to initiate industry relations.
- 4) Organizing various workshops to cater for the industry needs.

The following changes are considered:

- 1) Enhancing the activities of the industrial committee with a view to generating more interest from the industry.
- 2) Encouraging the industry to consider offering incentives to IEEE members and give priority to hiring IEEE members.
- 3) Initiating internship programs.
- 4) Proposing improvements in the curricula to include industry related subjects.

Success since the last meeting:

- 1) We initiated serious discussions with the industry to consider the above mentioned changes, and are very hopeful that the industry will become more active. Specifically, we are in final stages of putting together an internship program by a major industry player.

We plan to implement the followings:

- 1) Organize workshops on topics of interest for the industry.
- 2) Encourage the industry to actively participate in organizing conferences.
- 3) Organize panels and webinars by the industry for students and Young Professionals.

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 followings work well for us:

- 1) Providing incentives such as giving discounts for purchasing books and registration fees of sponsored conferences.
- 2) Organizing annual National Student Counselors assemblies.
- 3) Organizing annual general Congresses during which annual awards are announced.
- 4) Facilitating renewal of IEEE membership.
- 5) Selecting highly qualified individuals based on their achievements for our annual awards.
- 6) Organizing and sponsoring students contests.
- 7) Organizing four Chapters to focus on relevant IEEE Societies.

The following changes are required:

- 1) We have not been receiving any support from Region 8 because of the past sanctions. This needs to be properly addressed with appropriate solutions.
- 2) We need the new IEEE office in Vienna to provide support (at least the airline tickets) for a minimum of 50 internationally renowned scholars to travel to Iran and give lectures on the topics of interest to our members in Iran.

We have maintained a vibrant and active IEEE Iran Section in spite of virtually no support from Region 8. In the absence of the required changes as outlined above, it would be very difficult to attract and support future members.

Future plans:

- 1) We will continue to rejuvenate the Young Professionals committee, and accord it the priority it deserves.
- 2) We will continue to apply what worked well for us, as outlined above.

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 followings worked well:

- 1) Sponsoring conferences.
- 2) Holding monthly meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 3) Organizing workshops and lectures on topics of interest.
- 4) Encouraging members to promote their membership grades.
- 5) Holding IEEE Day in various student branches.
- 6) Providing incentives to our members, such as discounts for purchasing books and hotel reservations.
- 7) Honoring highly qualified individuals for their achievements with annual awards.

Below changes are required:

- 1) We have not been receiving any support from Region 8 because of past sanctions. This needs to be properly addressed with appropriate solutions.
- 2) We need the new IEEE office in Vienna to provide support (at least the airline tickets) for a minimum of 50 internationally renowned scholars to travel to Iran and give lectures on the topics of interest to our members in Iran.

We have maintained a vibrant and active IEEE Iran Section in spite of virtually no support from Region 8.

Future plans:

- 1) We will continue to apply what worked well for us, as outlined above.
- 2) We will expand the local version of IEEE Iran Section Distinguished Lecturer program.
- 3) We will continue to propose improvements in the curricula of electrical and computer engineering programs of study in Iran.
- 4) We will continue to introduce different real-world problems to our members.

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?

We propose the following action items to be considered by IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe:

- 1) Organize online course, webinars and workshops.
- 2) Organize student contests for both undergraduate as well as graduate students.

We stand ready to help IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe in the implementation of the above proposals, or in any other way that our help is asked for.

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?

- 1) We have not been receiving any support from IEEE Headquarters and Region 8 because of past sanctions. This needs to be properly addressed with appropriate solutions. We are disadvantaged as compared to other Sections.
- 2) We need Region 8 and/or the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria to provide support (Airline tickets at the minimum) for at least 50 internationally renowned scholars to travel to Iran and give lectures on the topics of interest to our members in Iran.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We need to resolve the outstanding issues pertaining to sanctions and get the much needed support from the IEEE Headquarters and Region 8.

We also need to reactivate access to the IEEE Digital Library for Iranian universities as another action item of top priority.

Future Plans:

- 1) Invite distinguished national/international scholars to present technical and scientific lectures and present webinars.
- 2) Promote international collaboration between IEEE Iran Section committees with their counterparts in Region 8 and other regions.
- 3) Support Chapters to enhance their professional activities.
- 4) Expand the activities of existing Chapters in 2018.
- 5) Expand existing student chapters and establish new ones.
- 6) Enhance and foster involvement of the industry in the IEEE Iran Section activities.
- 7) Provide wider national benefits for IEEE members.
- 8) Provide online courses and webinars to complement their university education and prepare them for work in the industry.
- 9) Organize national student paper competitions (SPC).
- 10) Organize new student contests.

We have maintained a vibrant and active IEEE Iran Section in spite of virtually no support from IEEE Headquarters or Region 8.

We recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate with IEEE UK and Ireland Section, and plan to initiate joint activities that would be beneficial to membership in both Sections.

Israel Section

Yuval Beck

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?

The section has currently changed its management and is appointing a new industry ambassador who is a leading figure in the field with a lot of connections to the industry. The section is planning in collaborating with various companies to engage better relationships with the IEEE including support in IEEE events, joint conferences and other activities.

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?

There had been a lot of activities which were initiated by the young professionals which encouraged graduate student to attend these events along side with the industry. graduate students who are supported by funds are registered to IEEE the problem is undergraduates which usually are not registered due to competition with local organization who offer free registration.

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 section is maintaining a website with regular announcements regarding activities. we are planning more activities and technical sponsorships to spread the IEEE name.

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?

attending conferences

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?

We did not have any information regarding services from the Vienna office.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

in the last few months the section was busy with elections.

Italy Section

Tiziana Tambosso

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?

The initiatives that work well in Italy Section to foster Industry Relations are the following:

- the Industry Relation Committee is continuously working to increase the number of industries participating in the R8 Programs (Mentor and Internship) and Italy Sections Programs (forum, panels, workshops, job fairs, awards, Student Branch initiatives, special meetings).
- every year the Section organizes a special forum where Industry and Academia, Students and Young professional can meet and synergistically interact. The forum is IEEE-RTSI International Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry. The third edition was on Sept. 11-13, 2017 in Modena, the fourth edition will be on Sept. 10-13, 2018 in Palermo.

During RTSI many events enrich the technical program:

- The meeting with industries with participation of representatives of R8 Industry Committee and R8 Sections;
- three panels with industries and academia in the main fields of interest of the forum
- a research exhibition with start up and university spin off with demo and prototypes
- a special meeting on innovative startups (organized for the first time at the 2017 edition of RTSI) with the objective to inform young graduated and entrepreneurs on how to develop an innovative enterprise project also with the examples of some success cases of Italian start-ups.
- an Industrial Distinguished Lecturer Award. The awardees and their employing companies are given the opportunity to make a strong impact on IEEE Italian community. The 2017 IDL award was given to Benedetto Vigna (ST Microelectronics) (see: <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/2017-industrial-distinguished-lecturer-award-of-benedetto-vigna/>). He will be invited by three Chapters/Student Branches in 2018 sponsored by Italy Section to give a lecture on: "Innovation in Big Companies"

An updated list of members of industry can be useful to improve the service to members of industry and also to find other Industry Ambassadors. R8 can promote the introduction of the Corporate membership of industry companies. Some big companies in Italy already asked that options, an incentive to increase the number of internal memberships.

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?

New counselors were found and nominated and three SBs in probation (Bologna, Calabria and Politecnico di Torino) have been revitalized and have increased their membership. The active student branches have increased their membership (the number of IEEE students in 2017 increased of 124 new students as compared to the previous year). The Exemplary Student Branch Award (see <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/awards/>) was given to Pavia Univ. Student Branch the second (Roma La Sapienza Univ. SB) and third (Brescia Univ. SB) place were also awarded. The Ceremony was held in Modena in conjunction with the IEEE RTSI 2017 annual conference of the Section. A new edition of the award is now open for candidates. The second IEEE Italy Section meeting of Student Branches organized during IEEE RTSI 2017 in Modena was a very successful event with participation of representative of R8 SAC animating the event. The SB chairs received a financial support from the Section to participate in the meeting. A sponsorship program, to support Student Branches in their activities, has been implemented with procedures, modules and financial resources (see <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/documenti/>).

During the annual meeting of the Italy Section RTSI 2017 in Modena, for the second time (after the first edition in Bologna in 2016), a "YP Demo competition" was organized. Eight teams of IEEE YP presented their demonstrators in a special exhibition and dedicated time. All participant to the conferences were able to ask questions, see the demonstrators and vote their favorite one. The best demo was chosen by a special commission and the votes of the participants were taken into account. During the award ceremony the winners (the first four demo) were announced. The first place team received the Section award and the first four had a special project kit from ST Microelectronics (the industrial sponsor of this competition).

The third edition of the IEEE Italy Section PhD Summer School was held in Perugia from 17 to 23 September. The main topic of this edition was: "Smarter Engineering for Industry 4.0"(web site: ieees2017.unipg.it). With the support of "IEEE Smart Cities Initiative", Italy Section in cooperation with University of Trento, the IEEE European Summer School on Smart Cities (<http://events.unitn.it/en/ieees3ceu2017>) was held from 4 to 8 of September, 2017 in Trento.

In order to increase the number of students that maintain the IEEE membership after graduation I suggest a discounts for YP membership in order to smooth the passage from Student member fee to full member fee.

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 Committee on Professional and Career Activity, recently created is working to obtain certified credits from Engineering National Committee (CNI) for the courses, tutorials, schools, organized by the Italy section for the career development of professionals. This action is intended to increase the number of professional affiliation to IEEE. In the meantime special effort is dedicated to obtain certified credits for the tutorial organized by the section at the regional and local level.

The History activity committee is working on two new milestones, one for Galileo Ferraris together with Politecnico of Torino and the other to Giovanni Giorgi with University of Roma La Sapienza. The Life Member Affinity Group had its annual meeting in Milano on December 5, 2017 with the participation of the Student Branch of Politecnico di Milano. The meeting has also a

special session with two lectures on the history of technology (see the program on <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/files/2017/11/LM-AG-meeting-5dic-flyer.pdf>). As an output of this meeting a new activity of the section will start. A series of interviews (coordinated by a volunteer LM) with answers to questions on the history of technology, to be published on the section web. The Section has a very reach Section Award Program: six new awards were established and assigned in 2017 (see: <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/a> and the 2018 edition of these awards is on. Italy chapters, each year, assigned a tenth of awards to students and young researchers, i.e.: Best PhD thesis award, Best master thesis award, Best paper on an IEEE journal published by young researcher or Best paper presented by a young researcher during an IEEE conference organized in Italy. These awards are supported by Italy Section and, sometime by the IEEE Societies.

We had the first call of the Italian PES Scholarship Plus Initiative and the first four Scholarship were assigned during a special ceremony held during the Workshop ? IEEE PES Careers & Scholarship Plus in Europe held at ISGT (International Conference on Innovative Smart Grid Technologies), in Torino on September 26 Two of these scholarship are sponsored by an important industry in the power electric field (Schneider Electric).

Recently we add new awards sponsored by another big industry -ABB (more info on these awards are available on: <http://abbaward2018.ieee.org>) Italy Section continues to strengthen its relationship with Italian Technical Associations. In particular Italy Section has signed MoU in 2017 with: AICA - Associazione Italiana per l'informatica ed il Calcolo distribuito (www.aicanet.it/) According to the new IEEE procedure to partnering with national technical organization, Italy Section is organizing three joint events with AICA in 2018, two of them are together with WIE AG.

A two per year Newsletter of the Section is sent to all members. The newsletter informs the section members about the recent news of the Section, the Chapters, Section Committees, Student Branches, Young Professional, other activities, announcements. See Section website for the December 2017 edition of the newsletter (http://sites.ieee.org/italy/files/2018/01/newsletter_21-dicembre_2017-TT_DP_rev2-3.pdf).

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?

Italy Section can offer special rate for participation of IEEE Africa Sections members to Italy Section events/workshops/conferences/schools Cross-fertilization: Italy Section Distinguished lecturer can give their lectures at IEEE Africa Sections. It is possible to organize visits of Fellow and Senior Members of the Italy Section to Africa Sections/Chapters Italy Section can participate in humanitarian programs of R8 for Africa also with active cooperation of some very active Student Branches.

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?

IEEE Office in Vienna could give help:

- Being a meeting place for section chairs
- obtaining new benefits for European members like: discounts on flight tickets, discounts on SW packages,

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The major achievements of IEEE Italy Section are:

- increased membership
- two new SB WIE AG and one new chapter
- new activity with industries
 - Industrial Distinguished lecturer award
 - Four new awards sponsored by Industry
 - Special meeting for innovative start up
 - a large award program
- a new linkedin site: <https://it.linkedin.com/company/ieee-italy-section>
- a new financial support program for Student Branch activities



Fig. 11. Exemplary SB award- SB Pavia



Fig. 12. IDL Award2017-Roma-BenedettoVigna



Fig. 13. Riunione LM a Milano 5dic



Fig. 14. WIE AG Modena



Fig. 15. YP Demo competition

Jordan Section

Gheith Abandah

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?

We are trying to get closer to industry through the following techniques:

- Having more members in the section committee from industry; eight members of this committee are now from industry
- Our young professionals hold several professional and technical activities that involve young professionals from industry.
- We organize special workshops targeting engineers from industry such as Amman Metro Area Workshop. The second workshop of this series was held in September 2017
- We have expanded our annual student branches congress to include young professionals this year. JSYPC 2017 was held in July.
- Our biannual conference on applied electrical engineering and computing technologies targets participants from industry and focuses on academia/industry relationships and joint research. AEECT 2017 was held in October.

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?

We attract and support future members through the following techniques:

- Our section, chapters, affinity groups, and student branches hold many activities every year that give value to members and generate great visibility to IEEE in Jordan. Such activities continuously attract new members.
- We encourage and support creating new student branches and student chapters; several new branches and chapters were created last year. Such new organizational units attract new members and hold additional activities.

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?

We continue to foster section vitality and sustainability through the following techniques:

- Holding periodic elections for all organizational units including the section, the chapters, student branches and chapters, and affinity groups.
- Encouraging all units to hold periodic activities and meetings and to report these activities.
- Continue attracting new members and improve the retention rates.
- Hold general meetings and congresses such as JSYPC 2017 and the annual Section General Meeting. This year's the Section General Meeting will be in May. In this meeting, we have our annual recognition ceremonies and a keynote.
- The section financially supports activities organized by affinity groups and students and supports their participation in regional and international professional meetings.

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?

Jordan Section is open to collaboration with IEEE activities in Africa.

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?

To facilitate the mobility of the Region 8 members between the different countries, e.g., help in securing visas. To help in legalizing the existence of IEEE offices in the different countries of Region 8.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Jordan Section continues to achieve good results:

- Jordan Section has received the IEEE Gold Medal for 2017 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance.
- Our YP AG received Region 8 Outstanding Young Professionals Affinity Group Award.
- We organize a biannual conference and technically co-sponsor several conferences in Jordan. The AEECT2019 conference will be held in Amman in Spring 2019. We are planning to hold it this time as a joint conference with two other conferences that we usually co-sponsor. We hope that the joint conference will attract more participants, better research papers, and have wider range of activities.



Fig. 16. YP



Fig. 17. General Meeting



Fig. 18. AECT2017

Kenya Section

Charles Oduor Onyango

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?

Strengthened Collaboration with industry through a well functioning Industry Committee. Hosted a High Level IEEE Industry Outreach Visit led by the Global President, followed by signing an MOU with the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK), and another MOU under preparation with the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum.

There was also a collaborative meeting with Safaricom Ltd Technology leadership and agreement to enhance cooperation reached.

In addition, an elaborate Collaboration arrangement with Industry has been prepared for implementation, with support of IEEE and the Adhoc Committee on African Affairs.

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?

Strengthen and support the operations of the Section Steering Committee in order to strengthen members involvement in IEEE activities in Kenya.

Successes include very successful IEEE Day, students activities, Distinguished Lecturer programmes, e.t.c.

The Section facilitated the participation of 37 Students and Young Professionals at the East African Students and Young Professionals Congress in Kampala

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?

Preparation of Annual work or activity plans and budgets by each Section sub-Committee or Society, and involvement of members in their implementation.

Periodic members professional meet ups and presentations

Enhance opportunities for conference attendances both physical and virtual

Enhance student activities and follow-up on transition from students to Young Professionals

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?

Establishment of Eastern, Southern, Northern and Western Africa regional coordination arrangement to support Prof Gloria.

The Kenya Section supports IEEE Activities in Africa by publicizing and encouraging members to participate therein, eg the just ended AFRICOG in South Africa, etc

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?

Enhance diversity and inclusion programme to get members who are abled differently e.g physical challenges, deaf

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Formation of new chapters within the Section

- Kenya Chapter of the Communications Society
- Kenya Chapter of the Power and Energy Society
- Moi University Student Branch



Fig. 19. IEEE Day - Kenya 2017 at Riara University Nairobi, Kenya

Kuwait Section

Fadhel Abulhasan

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?

In 2018 shall focus on the private Sector in Kuwait Industrial different Fields, to promote IEEE through holding many workshops for the Young Engineers and the senior officials, to try to get the engineers to be involved in IEEE Activities, in addition to that, shall try to involve Future Engineers (Students) from Kuwaiti University as a Trainees to get acquainted with the Technical Programs arranged by the Industry Private Sector.

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?

Targeting new Graduate Engineers is our Aim, Shall be done through connecting with the local recruiting agencies and HR offices in the Private Sector and Governmental Entities. Connecting with the Engineering Colleges in Kuwait to promote IEEE Activities to the Future Engineers, and let the Faculty Members get involve with IEEE Young Professional Committee, to arrange seminars , Technical Workshops , Conferences in Kuwait and in GCC, and to participate in the Knowledge Cafe Events. Such activities and Events shall increase IEEE Membership in Kuwait and GCC Countries.

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 interms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Section to put strength and Support in different Professional Committees in the Section, to help them financially and Logistically with their Different Activities in the Universities and in Industry. High level Meetings between the Senior IEEE Members and the Section Board Members together with the Young Professional Committees and Student Branches shall encourage all Teams to work harder and spend more time with the Volunteer works and activities locally.

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?

Kuwait Section shall be Involved in the special Activities of IEEE in Africa, Kuwait Delegation shall participate in the MD Workshop to be held in Cape Town, South Africa in March 2018.

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?

Still not much information and inputs recognized by Kuwait Section Concerning IEEE Vienna Office. Kuwait Section did not received any Correspondence from IEEE Vienna Office yet.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Kuwait shall host the 10th IEEE GCC Conference in the first quarter of year 2019, where all GCC Countries shall Participate as a Steering Committee , and shall invite International Researchers , Scientist, Academicians, and top Industrial officials to present the New Technologies in different fields of Engineering in power, Communications, Electronics, computers and IT.

Latvia Section

Kunicina

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?

Open lecturers, organised by IEEE section and chapters:

- Working with industry through industrial associations, like Latvian Information Technology and Telecommunications Association (for 2015-2017 we have re-signed LIKTA-IEEE National Society Agreement (NSA)); The Association of Latvian Electrical Engineering and Electronics Enterprises, etc.
- Organizing of Industry Tracks on Section supported conferences and events
- technical and financial sponsorship of local IEEE events with invited industry speakers
- Organizing of industrial visits for pre- and university students

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?

- regular students visits to industrial and research institutions (e.g., contest for robots builders "Robotica", visits to Latvian Television, Incukalns natural gas storage)
- organization or support of student competition programs, which provides IEEE student membership to awardees
- collaboration trainings for secondary schools in electrical engineering and computer applications, promoting IEEE membership
- organization of the scientific events (open for non-members) with publications, included in IEEEExplore and indexed in WoS and Scopus (higher level students are interested in) and regional practical and scientific events with neighboring countries with social programs; Nordic cooperation would be beneficial

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?

- well organized team of volunteers, continuously expanding with new blood
- regular face-to-face ExCom meetings, planning Sections activities and special events, inviting non-IEEE important persons and students
- direct mailing special events
- organizing / sponsoring at least 3 international conferences and 5 local events yearly gives a good recognition level both locally and internationally

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?

Collecting the best working practices from different regions of Africa and development of the working tools for African Sections is a key to success -the ideas, that works in EU of northern Africa may not work in central or south Sections. Traveling grants for students and young professionals from African academia or industry to R8 organized conferences can increase interest in IEEE membership, the same with the invitation of speakers from Africa to our local events (free of charge or funded by R8).

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?

Vienna Office can organize promoting IEEE in EU and provide legal support for R8 Sections, e.g. visas to EU for non-EU volunteers, visiting R8 organized events; helping in foundation of IEEE legal entities in EU countries. Still, the main goal and the necessity of Vienna Office is unclear.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Points of concern: Difficult recruitment of new volunteers from academia (both regular and student members) with IEEEExplore freely available for Riga TU personal

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.



Lithuania Section

Vytautas Urbanavicius

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?

Activities/programs/initiatives that work well: IEEE Lithuania Section (LS) is constantly intermediaries between local electronic, communication and IT industry and Universities, assisting in the establishment of contacts, such as searching for employees, monitoring of study programs, counseling, organization of internship, etc. Changes would be required (by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations):

- The Executive Committee of LS must develop an action plan for industry related activities and allocate a budget for its implementation.
- Membership Profiles (Statistics) of the R8 Sections should be analyzed and it is necessary to ask the Sections with a large number of IEEE members of the industry to share their good experiences.

Major successes (since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations):

- IEEE Lithuanian and Belarusian Sections organized a joint 18-th workshop "Advanced Microwave Devices and Systems" on December 8, 2017 Representatives of the local Industry actively participated at the workshop and were asked to renew their IEEE membership.
- IEEE Lithuanian Section supported, financially and organizationally, a meeting called the "Orange Meeting" between representatives of the Industry and students of final courses. The purpose of the meeting was to increase the motivation of graduate students to continue their studies in the master degree study.

We are going to continue to foster Industry Relations:

- LS intends to invite representatives of the industry, coupled with the electronics, electrical engineering communication and IT, to participate in social activities, which are organized by our Section.
- LS intends to promote the participation of the industry in the exhibitions organized within the conference, supported by our Section.

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?

Activities/programs/initiatives that work well (to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals):

- Organization of the annual contest "Best Master Thesis".
- Co-sponsorship of annual Conference for Lithuania Junior Researchers "Electronics and Electrical Engineering".
- Series of technical meetings presenting frontiers of research in recently defended Doctoral Dissertations.

Changes would be required (by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members):

- It is necessary to draw up a detailed list of the benefits of being a student member of IEEE.

Major successes:

- IEEE Lithuania Section Women in Engineering Affinity Group was established in the summer of 201
-
- IEEE Nordic Student and Young Professionals Congress (NSYP 201
- was organized by our Section and was held on October 20-22, 2017 in Vilnius.
- The 5th joint Student Workshop "AIEEE 2017" of IEEE Latvia and Lithuania Section was held on November 24-25, 2017 in Riga.

Continue to support Students and YP:

- IEEE LS continues to support the YP representatives who work actively in the competition commission "Best Doctoral Dissertation in Lithuania" and advertise IEEE.
- IEEE LS supports YP representatives, leading educational work on behalf of IEEE among students and pupils.
- Prepare leaders to form IEEE Student Branch of Vilnius University.
- Searching sponsors for financial support of the IEEE Student membership.

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?

Activities/programs/initiatives that work well:

- The best volunteer of the year reward program.
- Regular face-to-face ExCom meetings preparing for and organizing all major events.
- Awarding or co-sponsoring visits of the best volunteers to workshops/congresses.
- Promotion of IEEE in carrying out such activities as "IEEE Day", workshops/congresses and conferences.

Required changes (by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability):

- It will be necessary to have more industry people in the board.

Major successes:

- ExCom of IEEE Lithuania Section in December 2017 has organized elections of the majority of Chairs of the IEEE Lithuania Chapters, as well as the rotation and updating of the officers of the executive committee itself.

Lithuania Section must always take care of (continue to foster Section Vitality):

- Organizing elections using v-tools to engage more members in nomination and voting process.
- Constantly updating the Facebook page of the Section (<https://www.facebook.com/IEEE-Lithuania-Section-462539263947774/>) and the website: <http://iee.lt/>.
- We could not realize our plan to increase the number of the Senior Members in IEEE LS.

We must not forget also:

- Member retention and recruitment,
- Recruiting of new volunteers,
- Inviting distinguished lecturers,
- Co-sponsoring of local and international conferences,
- Involving members from industry.

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?

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa?

- We encourage more active involvement of the competent representatives of Africa countries in the working Committees of the IEEE R8.

How could your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

- We expect to invite and appoint a reduced registration fee for participation in conferences and workshops, supported by IEEE Lithuania Section, IEEE members from Africa.

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?

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?

- Lithuania Section is hoping that the answers to questions that take into account the specifics of the IEEE R8, we will get much faster and more comprehensively of this new Office than from IEEE MGA Administration.

How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

- In fact, the office in Vienna has been working for a relatively short time and our Section did not need to contact the office to solve any problems or seek support during this time. It can be noted, however, that all Sections of R8 are very promptly informed about the initiatives of the IEEE European Public Policy Committee.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Outstanding new initiatives

- Lithuania Section has supported the initiative of the YP and Student Branch of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University to establish a "Foyer of the IEEE" at the Faculty of Electronics.

Special achievements

- Volunteer of the IEEE Lithuania Section Dovile Kurpyte was awarded an honorary diploma "2017 Region 8 YP Exceptional Volunteer Award" for her dedication carrying out the mission of IEEE YP in Lithuania.

Malta Section

Conrad Attard

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?

Malta Section has invested in a number of initiatives including a study (on going) with a large number of local organisations where we are seeing what IEEE can offer and how we can address different challenges they face. We participate in different debates and forums that allow us to share IEEE practices and how IEEE Malta and IEEE International can contribute in many ways. We face a number of challenges locally particularly when attracting students to choose STEM subjects. IEEE Malta organises several events in schools and with the ministry of education to help improve the way students of all ages experience science.

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?

Talks and social events. Different working groups and committees that focus on different segment such as women in engineering, young professionals and student organizations.

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?

More meeting with companies and more workshops with different organisations to participate in IEEE initiatives that are available from our societies.

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?

More exchanges to countries, planning events together and providing at least one support initiative to various sections in Africa.

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?

We already find a lot of support from IEEE but knowing what funding opportunities are available and how to obtain resources that help us reach out to the public to join IEEE will help us facilitate the events we organise.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We recently organized an awards and appreciation night. It was a success and a lot of members attend this event. We are planning a number of events for professional depending on time and resources.

Morocco Section

Mohammed El Mohajir

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?

- Leveraging resources for SMEs by offering internships to our IEEE students and YP members
- Technical meetings and conferences to exchange latest development on a very specific field
- Training and continuing education for staff members
- Award program and competitions
- R&D projects run by a mixed team from IEEE and SMEs

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?

- Empower existing members and enhancing their visibility with a series of events and training sessions (communication, leadership, technical skills ...)
- Diversified activities : technical, professional, social , humanitarian, networking, team building Existing members are themselves attracting new 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?

- Flag events recurring on a yearly basis like "IEEE Morocco Got Talent", "IEEE Morocco in SMEs", "IEEE Morocco Big Data", "IEEE Morocco Junior Maker Event", "IEEE Morocco Summit on Innovation and Entrepreneurship".
- Organizing IEEE MELECON 2018
- Sponsoring events, meetings and conferences

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?

Some of our members have been involved in IEEE meetings in Africa (Kenya, South Africa). An IEEE caravan in Africa involving all the members of the IEEE Africa council may play an important role to understand better the nature of the issues that need to be addressed by the various sections in Africa and engage more the volunteers of the council to work as a team to resolve them.

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? Did not get any real value till now.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- IEEE Morocco Junior Maker Event
- Formation of a new Morocco YP chapter
- Formation of a new Morocco WIE Affinity group
- Formation of a new Morocco Council of Electronic Design and Automation
- 2017 outstanding achievement in member recruitment



Fig. 20. Smart Car

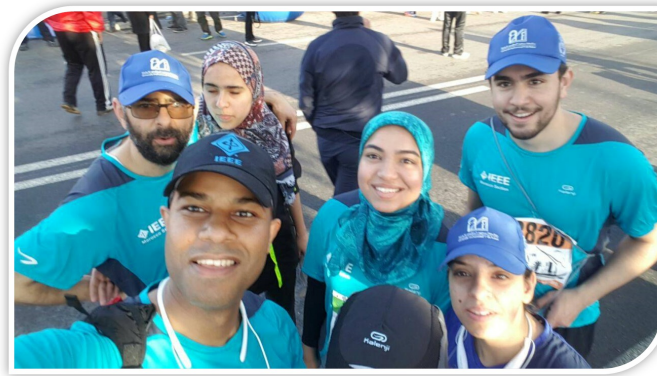


Fig. 21. Sport Event



Fig. 22. Award Program



Fig. 23. Junior Event



Fig. 24. WiE In Africa

Nigeria Section

Raphael Onoshakpor

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?

Student and young professional activities have proven very successful in the Nigerian Section. Additional support for Student and young professional activities would increase the interest and membership in the section as most of the aspiring members are students and young professionals.

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?

In 2017, IEEE Nigeria Section hosted the African Students and Young professionals in Abuja, Nigeria. It was a huge success as Students and young professionals from various parts of Africa were in attendance. If similar regional or global events can be hosted in Nigeria it would go a long way to motivate professional and academics who are potential members of IEEE.

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 interms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

For the Nigerian Section, activities oriented towards training and enlightenment have proven to be successful. An example are the recent TISP and virtual training events which have been highly attended in our section. In the Nigeria Section, we would like to change the choice of meeting venues to venues in order to suit the target audience. We got some reports in 2017 that potential members could not attend events because of the distance to the location or the logistics required. We hosted 2 major events in 2017 and we plan to replicate similar performances in 2018.

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?

Gloria is doing a great job. It would be better if she is given the opportunity to move around and see the various African Sections in person. I also suggest that she could pair section chairs in order for dual interaction to allow such individuals compare notes and improve their sections.

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?

I think that Section Chairs should be invited to the section office from time to time in order to enable the officers know and recognize the office and its staff.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Africa Students and young professional 2017, Abuja Nigeria.





Norway Section

Runar Søråsen

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?

The section has an ongoing activity to establish internships in the industry for students. Potential companies and mentors has been identified. Next step is to advertise towards students. This approach is aligned with the IEEE R8 Action for Industry Initiative. Unfortunately, the appointed Section Industry Ambassador had to step down due to other obligations. This has slowed down the process. The new board hope to appoint a new Section Industry Ambassador within the next couple of months.

To further foster industry relations active chapters with industry participation is a necessity. The section is doing its best to support the chapters, both by inviting them in the Section ExCom meetings and by assessing the chapter structure. During the last year we have succeeded in establishing a Joint Chapter of Control Systems + Robotics and Automation (Chair: Fabio Andrade). In addition, we are working on establishing a Joint Chapter of Power Electronics, Industry Applications and Industrial Electronics.

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 has one Young Professionals Group. This group is quite active, and the new Chair works well in the role. The section also tries to attract members through the IEEEExtreme competition. Last year 2 teams competed from Norway.

To better support the student activities, we need incentives to motivate students to become IEEE student members, so that they can join in the competitions, talks/seminar, etc. We also think that the establishment of internships in the industry for students will make it more attractive to become student 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 re-instated Section ExCom (where the section board and the chairs of all chapters and affinity groups meet) has been partly a success. Still difficulties in assembling all the participants to the monthly/bi-monthly telcos.

The section is discussing the possibility of arranging a face-to-face ExCom workshop before summer. This will include discussions of strategic measures to increase vitality.

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?

Currently nothing planned, but open to suggestions of how to support IEEE in Africa.

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?

Development and support of further membership benefits adapted to the needs of members in R8.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The first IEEE Milestone in Norway was unveiled 27 September 2017 honoring the first object-oriented programming language, Simula. It is placed at Department of Informatics, University of Oslo. The Section Vice Chair Kaveh Niayesh held a speech at the sermony. Thank you to the working group for making this happen: Jenny Olsson Picalausa (IEEE Norway section representative), Knut Hegna (UiO), Bjarte M. stvold (Norsk Regnesenter) and Sverre Holm (UiO).

The two Norwegian teams participating in IEEEExtreme (LostInComputation and AngryAvocados) achieved very good results. In top 8% out of the 3300+ teams globally. Special thanks to the proctors and helpers.

Oman Section

Amer Al-Hinai

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?

Oman Section has taken several initiatives in order to come closer to Industry. First of all, the Section has appointed an Ambassador for Industry (AfI) to maintain a link with Industry. The AfI officer is currently developing initiatives that should bring IEEE Oman closer to industry. Second of all, the industry was either involved in organizing events or invited to attend events. For example, members from industry were invited to attend seminars and tutorials on Big Data and IoT. In addition, members from industry are serving as officers in the Section. Third of all, the Section started a new initiative where the Section's Executive Committee meetings are hosted at Industry headquarters. Having these meetings at industry premises helps in prompting IEEE and disseminate awareness about its voluntary efforts.

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?

From our experience, students and young professionals are attracted to technical events (e.g. Workshops and Tutorials), Competitions (e.g. Robotics), and student societies. Therefore, the Section has organized a number of technical events in very hot topics that are attractive to students and young professionals. In addition, the Section has organized and sponsored a number of national, regional, and International Robotic Competitions, since we find that students are very attracted to this field. In addition, the Section maintained and expanded its support to Student Branches at universities. The number of student branches is now 9, and we are expecting to create two new branches by the end of this year. In fact members of the student branches have organized a number of technical workshops that helped in promoting IEEE to students. Additionally, the membership development officers has made a number of visits to universities to promote IEEE to students.

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 Section, Society chapters, and student branches have organized several events (Seminars and Workshops). The registration priority in these events were to IEEE members. This helps members to recognize the value of the membership. Also, reminders that sent annually to all members to renew their memberships.

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?

Currently, the Section does not have any programs for supporting in Africa.

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 office can help in facilitating speakers from Europe to delivers talks and workshops in Oman. However, last year the office has not influenced the Section.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

With the encouragement of the Section, the Communication Society Chapter was created in Oman. Additionally, Women in Engineering Affinity Group was created last year.

Poland Section

Mariusz Malinowski

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?

IEEE Poland Section organized meeting with IT companies (INTEL, Delphi, Aptiv, Samsung), which are interested to start cooperation with universities under umbrella of IEEE. Unfortunately, there is no defined by IEEE, especially for industrial members in Europe, real advantages for industry to be member or be active in IEEE. There is no benefits for industry from Europe to be involved in IEEE activities. IEEE Poland Section going to be liaison between universities and industry in direction of common scientific projects, common industrial PhD theses etc.

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?

IEEE Poland Section organized three successful events to attract new members:

- On 7-9 September 2017 was organized in Cracow IEEE YP Meet-Up at "IEEE Women in Engineering International Leadership Summits"
- On 12 September 2017, IEEE Young Professionals from Poland Section have organized for the very first time IEEE YP Meet-Up. The event took place in Warsaw, at EPE17 ECCE Europe conference (<http://epe2017.com>) and was co-organized by IEEE Power Electronics Society (PELS). The event gathered more than 170 attendees: students, young professionals, engineers and professors from about 30 countries.
- On 26-28 October 2017 was organized "2nd IEEE Students & Young Professionals Meeting 2017" in Opole, where was also organized 10 anniversary of IEEE Opole Student Branch.

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?

- Cooperation bilateral agreement with Polish Electrical Association (SEP)
- Organization of IEEE EPE Conference with 900 participants from over 30 countries
- Organization of historical exhibition presenting exhibits from first in Poland power plant

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?

Recommendations: support students events, invite frequently distinguished lecturers from IEEE, have a close contact and promote IEEE at universities. Poland Section can help to invite lecturers.

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?

Existence of office in Vienna not influenced Poland Sections. Office should help local sections in field of conferences, help in operational issues.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Preparation to common IEEE Milestone with IEEE Germany Section.

Portugal Section

José Silva

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?

Our section is currently invested on supporting the organisation of joint events between Industry and Academia. On these events we try to join companies, university departments and research centers together, so that they can exchange experiences, project results and have the opportunity to network.

In Portugal, but we believe this can generalise this to other countries, at least in Europe, we lack IEEE membership benefits that can justify the fee for industry members. Industry members don't see discounts in conference as a benefit, and Spectrum is not enough to justify the fee value. Networking and IEEEExplorer are the most valued benefits, but there also other institutions offering these kinds of benefits with a very cheaper fee.

We are working on establishing agreements with local companies to increase the catalogue of membership benefits.

We believe that our Region should work on increasing IEEE brand awareness. At least in Portugal the first challenge we face is to explain what is IEEE and what we do for the community.

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?

We face a small decline in membership numbers, comparing to last year. Students are still, by far, our most active OU's and thus our biggest way of attracting new members to IEEE. Unfortunately, as we all know, the transition between GSM to Member is still one of our challenges, largely caused by the steep increase in membership fees, leading to very low conversion rates.

Yes, we are committed to our Students and Young Professionals. This year we are organising SYP, so we are expecting to increase our efforts in the field.

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?

Given the size of our country I believe Portugal Section presents a good number of activities. In any case, our goal is to increase the number of Chapter activities through out this year.

To ensure that, we are preparing a Chapters Leadership Retreat, where we are planning a set of activities to increase chapters ability to organise and develop activities that increase section vitality.

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?

Portugal has long traditions with African Countries. We are part of CPLP (Community of Portuguese Language Countries) that is largely composed by African Countries.

With our connections and relations with Universities in this countries, we are available to help in any way Gloria and the Region see fit.

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?

We didn't had any contact with the new IEEE Office still.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

New initiative: ♪ ShareToy: An initiative from one of our Student Branches, where students and faculty members gathered broken (electronic) toys and promoted free classes to fix toys. At the end they distributed the refurbished toys to social institutions with kids. We hope to promote more of these initiatives this year.

Our recurring event for students (Leadership Camp) was yet again a great success.

Engineering Day, organised by the Section with the partnership of all Chapters, and companies like Vodafone and Microsoft. The event gathered this year around 100 attendees under the subject "Smart Cities".



Qatar Section

Amith Khandakar

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?

- 1) Activities/Programs/Initiative to Foster Industry Relations:
 - Need to have more International Industry Exposure
 - Communication between the Industry Relation officers of various section can help in sharing experiences.
- 2) Changes required by IEEE to Improve Industry Relations:
 - More IEEE funding to encourage meetings with Industry People at initial stages
- 3) Major Successes in terms of Industry Relations:
 - So far only assigning Industry Relation Officer for the section
- 4) Steps to foster further Industry Relations:
 - Arranging Technical Workshops, Seminars for the Members from Industry (based on their feedback)

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?

- 1) Activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to support Students and Young Professionals
 - Technical Seminars and Field trips focusing the Student Members, exposing them to the Work environment and opportunities to work there in the future
 - Encourage and funding them for next SYP Congress
- 2) Changes required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better support Students and Young Professionals
 - Subsidies for conferences and broadcasting it so that students members are aware of it
- 3) Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Students and Young professionals
 - Increase in the numbers of student members
 - Winner of the 'Best Student Branch' in the GCC Student Congress
 - Tasks to support the Students and Young Professionals
 - Conducting regular meetings with them
 - Informing them regarding the technical seminars and Field Trips
 - Student Branches aiming for more awards in the region
- 4) Things to do to continue Supporting Students and Young Professionals
 - More workshops on the benefits of joining IEEE
 - More Examples of success stories of Student and Young Professionals
 - Allocate fund for the SYP Congress

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?

- 1) Activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section
 - International Conferences in the region
- 2) Changes required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability
 - Provide Support and opportunity for hosting international conferences
- 3) Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality
 - Student Branches are winners in various Student Congresses
 - Received Recognition Award from Membership Development office for meeting goals regarding retention
 - Formation of the IEEE Legal Entity in Qatar
 - Student Branches are involved in meetings
 - Initiatives to have more Affinity Groups
- 4) Tasks to Foster the Section Vitality
 - Communicate with all the Officers in the Qatar Section
 - Hold Elections or nominate officers for vacant positions
 - Conducting Seminars/Technical Talks
 - Organizing International conferences in Qatar

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?

- 1) Recommendations:
 - Student Congress in Africa
 - Motivate more students from Student Branches to apply for the IEEE SYP congress
 - Noting down all the recommendations and discussing during the IEEE Region 8 Meeting

2) Support from Qatar Section

- Send some students in the Student Congress in Africa to share their experiences with them.

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?

Invite students from Qatar Section to visit the office and get motivated to be more active in IEEE Excom from all the sections in Region 8 to have annual meeting in the IEEE office and share experiences among each other.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

None

Republic of Macedonia Section

Pero Latkoski

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?

For many years our section has a problem with a very low number of members coming from the industry. In the past few years, the industry membership is around 10% of the total members, leaving the other 90% with academia background. In order to foster the industry relations, our plan is to find and appoint a suitable industry relation ambassador (or a whole team) who has an industry involvement at the moment and who will hopefully find a practical means to get the Section closer to our humble industry. The very first effort will be to determine the actual needs of the colleagues from the industry and to identify their benefits in joining and actively participating the IEEE society. Then we will try to organize meetings with the industry managers and higher level industrial executives to present the IEEE benefits and to recruit more members and volunteers among them.

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 gives a special attention to the student membership recruitment and retention by informing targeted students about IEEE and by providing instructions and practical help for the students so they can easily pay the membership fee in our local currency. Recently an initiative has started to form new SSCS student branch. The Young Professionals are very active in our Section organizing several activities per year. The Section supports these events. Our Facebook page is continuously updated with the forthcoming events and all interested colleagues are invited to join regardless they are member or not yet. Almost 1000 people follow our posts about Section activities.

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?

At the end of 2017, we have successfully organized elections in all our units (by using vTools), so our Section met 2018 with all level officers newly elected or reelected. At the beginning of 2018 there was a joint meeting between the past and new officers, so proper transfer of obligations was achieved. Our plan is to continue with regular ExCom meetings where all activities will be planned. Section Facebook page will be regularly updated with information about our efforts and activities.

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?

Maybe the IEEE R8 could organize and sponsor selected members and volunteers from Africa to visit and participate some of the IEEE events organized in Europe (e.g. flagship R8 conferences). Also bringing some R8 events to Africa could foster IEEE in Africa, as more members from there can participate the events without significant travel expenses.

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?

So far we didn't have any contact with the Vienna office. We expect that they can serve as a more accessible liaison to support us in the communication with the appropriate IEEE staff members and in getting more timely support when needed. For example, many of our valuable volunteers upgraded to Senior member level are waiting for their plaques for years.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Our Section has sponsored the biggest student event in the area of robotics called RoboMac which was held in the period 9th to 14th of October 2017 and was organized by the student branch. RoboMac is an international competition for robotics and artificial intelligence. The vision of this event is to popularize robotics among students and young people in the region.

Romania Section

Lucian Toma

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?

- Invited presentations of distinguished lecturers are hosted by various companies. Also, companies are invited to attend such lectures hosted by universities.
- Companies are involved in organizing conferences together with universities.
- The IEEE PES Romania Chapter proposes, on yearly basis, engineers from industry to be awarded the Outstanding Engineer Award.
- The Section helps engineers from industry to elevate to Senior Member.
- Engineers from industry are invited to universities to share their professional experience. The most active chapters are CS, EMB, PES, and MAG. However, although the Section develops activities to attract industry, the large number of members are from universities.
- Extensive participation of IEEE members into IEEE Standards Association and other standardization bodies (IEC, CEN-CENELEC, ASRO), which is usually attained through a strong collaboration with industrial representatives in these bodies. Most active: IEEE-PES and IEEE IMS.
- Intensive courses for local national and international companies have started to be organized and are well attended.

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?

- In order to encourage the future engineers to become IEEE members, the IEEE Romania Section pays the membership fee for the first-year membership for students proposed by chapters.
- Various student competitions and summer schools are organized by Chapters
- We believe that access for free to IEEEExplore for students will help IEEE to reach its goals. Most of the students cannot afford to pay for having access to IEEE publications, but their access will help the science. IEEE will have no financial loss from this. Another incentive would be to have yearly awards sponsored by IEEE for the best student dissertation (in fields represented by chapters).
- Representatives of the Section are invited within various conferences to present the benefits of being an IEEE member.
- The Section supports financially (awards) all IEEE student competitions organized by the Romanian chapters (SSC, ED, EMB, CS)

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 number of members of the IEEE Romania section was steady in the last years. However, the number of young professional members has increased thus replacing the retired members.
- The IEEE Romania Section contains 22 Chapters and 2 Affinity Groups. Many of our chapters (CS, PES, IAS, ES, and MAGS) are very active and organize various activities in the spirit of IEEE. Examples of activities are conferences, one-day workshops, invited speakers, student competitions, promotional activities and others.
- A Women in Engineering Affinity Group was created in 2016. Unfortunately, the number of WIE is very small, despite the high number of women in the IEEE Romania section. For this reason, a yearly workshop will be organized with IEEE and non-IEEE members focusing on leadership.
- The Young Professional affinity group was created in 2017
- The Section encourages members to apply for Senior Member and Fellow. Several members have applied in 2016 and 2017, while other are in preparation. In 2017, 8 members have been elevated to Senior Member.
- Conferences and technical events are good practices to keep the members active within the IEEE. 24 conferences have been organized in 2017 The Section promotes IEEE and the Section's activities during the opening ceremonies organized in Romania. On the other hand, rules have been introduced to increase the quality of the conferences.
- An workshop will be organized by the Section focusing on attracting more members

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?

- Probably IEEE should provide access to educational material
- We believe that informative campaigns through universities and foreign companies acting in Africa should be organized.

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?

- Still not very clear how this office can support our Section. However, we expect support in dealing with local rules when organizing conferences financially co-sponsored by IEEE Romania.
- It would be great to have free access to webinars/short courses/ on research ethics (IEEE code of ethics).

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- Dr. Lucian Toma has graduated the VoLT (Volunteer Leadership Training Program) in 2017, as one of the 10 graduates from Region 8.
- Members of the Romania Sections are invited worldwide to provide lectures as IEEE Distinguished Lecturers.

Russia Section

Sergey Bankov

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?

Activities/programs/initiatives work well in Russia Section to foster Industry Relations: close cooperation with national professional societies: Popov's radio engineering and communication society, National academy of electrical science, National academy of cosmonautics, Russia URSI branch; regular meetings with representatives of national industry; Changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations: collective IEEE membership for small teams, system of regular meetings, seminars and conferences with participation of Russian companies etc. Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations: Regular all Russia conference supported by AP, LEOS and MTT chapters (Moscow, November 2017). We are going to continue to foster Industry Relations increasing relations with "new" electrical, electronic and IT industry of Russia.

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?

Activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members: regular information distributed via Internet about advantages of IEEE membership. Required changes: more active promotion of IEEE in student and young professional community. Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Students and Young Professionals: establishing of Russia IEEE Young professional section on the base of Southern Federal University in Rostov-on-Don city. Future plans: We are planning to support new initiative to arrange Far East Russia Section branch. We are planning to arrange together with IEEE Russia North-West Section conference for students and young professionals. We are going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals in establishing of new IEEE student branches in universities.

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?

Activities/programs/initiatives work: close cooperation with national professional societies: Popov's radio engineering and communication society, National academy of electrical science, National academy of cosmonautics, Russia URSI branch; regular meetings with representatives of national industry; Changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability: collective IEEE membership for small teams, regular publishing in IEEE Russia section web site information about events and activity in Russia section. Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality: elections of new section treasurer and chair of Young professionals section. Future plans: establishing of a system of regular webinars, conferences and online meetings together with national professional societies, student and young professionals chapters.

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?

arrange regular African conferences sponsored by IEEE; arrange regular African administrative meetings for IEEE officers; apply mass media (TV, newspapers, Internet, social networks etc.) for IEEE promotion.

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?

This subject requires more time to get experience in interaction with new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

IEEE MGA noted success of Russia section in membership development during the last three years and awarded our section by a special image "For outstanding achievement in member recruitment for the Russia Section during the 2017 membership year".

Russia (North West) Section

Dmitry Kholodnyak

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?

Activities/programs/initiatives that work well in Russia NW Section to foster Industry Relations:

- Annual conference on Academia-Industry partnership which attracts representatives of big industrial enterprises and industry associations (e.g. Association of Electrical and Electronic Facilities manufacturers) as well as universities top management,
- cooperation with national professional societies (e.g. A.S. Popov Radio Engineering and Communication Society, Inter-Regional Association for Ergonomics, National academy of electrical science, National academy of cosmonautics, Russia URSI branch; regular meetings with representatives of national industry;
- A good number of scientific conferences and seminars where representatives of business and industry are specially invited to participate

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?

Activities/programs/initiatives that work well in the Russia NW Section to Attract and Support Future Members are:

- The Section web site advertising all events organized and supported by the Section,
- The annual Conference of Young Researchers in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. The last one in January 2018 attracted more than 500 participants from 15 countries, 35 cities of Russia, about 40 HEIs,
- The annual IEEE Day organized by student volunteers,
- Courses in Technical English (has been run successfully for 10+ years,)

We are going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals in establishing of new IEEE student branches at universities.

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?

Activities/programs/initiatives that work well:

- Active dissemination of information about the IEEE and member benefits in close cooperation with universities administration
- Regularly updated information on the Section Web site
- Individual communication with the Section members in the end of each membership year

Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality: The last 3 years the Section got Certificates for successful member recruitment.

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?

To sponsor financially and technically more conferences of African sections conferences. Provide these Sections more actively with membership individual benefits.

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?

So far, we do not feel the impact of this new office on our activities. Probably, more time is needed to realize the benefits of having it.

Russia (Siberia) Section**Alexey S. Rodionov**

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?

Industrial applications that are closely connected with tasks of development North, Far East and Asia-Pacific regions are of the prime interest for the Section. Special sessions and exhibitions devoted to industrial applications took place at the conferences supported by the Section, for example at the "2017 Siberian Symposium on Data Science and Engineering (SSDSE) (April 2017, Novosibirsk)", which took place in the scope of VIII Siberian Forum "Industry of Information Systems" (SIIS 2017). A lot of reports concerning industrial, agricultural and bio-medical applications had been presented at SIBIRCON 2017 (September 2017, Novosibirsk), International Conference on Information Science and Communications Technologies ICISCT 2017 (November 2017, Tashkent Uzbekistan) and others. Companies working in IT technologies, wireless networking and biomedical engineering are involved in organization of our conferences and scientific schools through relationship with universities, the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Novosibirsk Technopark. Close cooperation with industry is characteristic for Tomsk and Krasnoyarsk Chapters.

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?

Regular meetings with students in main universities are organized. Special reports and presentations are presented at all conferences that are supported and/or organized by Section. As a result, the Section has received Certificate for "2016 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment Performance" and Golden banner for "2017 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance". For better development and attraction of new members special programs are needed for supporting participation of young professionals and students in events organized by IEEE abroad: traveling expenses are too high for Siberians (about 500 EUR from Novosibirsk versus 80-100 from Paris for flight to Athens, for example). Student Paper Contests are included in programs of conferences that are supported and/or organized by Section, for example, Student Paper Contest and Conference on the Information Security (SIBINFO) 19-20 April, 2017 Tomsk.

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?

May be as a result of belonging most of officers, groups and chapters to academia or universities, main efforts are aimed on organizing seminars and conferences, among them: International Multi-Conference on Engineering, Computer and Information Sciences (Sibircon 2017) (18-24 Sep 2017); XI IEEE Conference 2016 Dynamics of Systems, Mechanisms and Machines (Omsk, 14-16 Nov 2017); 18th International Conference of Young Specialists on Micro/Nanotechnologies and Electron Devices (EDM) (29-31 Jun 2017). Section supports the Second Russia and Pacific Conference on Computer Technology and Applications (RPC) (Vladivostok, 25 Sep 2017) jointly with IEEE R10. In the course for expanding IEEE into Central Asia the International Siberian Conference on Control and Communications (SIBCON-2017) will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan (June 29-30, 2017,) and Sibircon 2017 includes XIII Asian School-seminar on Problems of Complex System Optimization in its program. Section supports scientific activity and recruits new IEEE members among students and graduate students through regular seminars and meetings, such as the Weekly IEEE SibSUTIS Scientific Seminar on the 4G/5G & Next Generations of Information (IT), Communications (ICT) and Computer (CT) Technologies and the Monthly IEEE Seminar on Radio Engineering organized by Siberian Federal University and Krasnoyarsk Joint IEEE Chapter.

For better vitality, we need attract new industrial sponsors, such as residents of Technopark of Novosibirsk Akademgorodok. We develop closer scientific and technological cooperation between Siberia section and Middle East (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) scientific centers, in organizing joint scientific conferences and schools in particular.

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?

To extend participation in projects that concerns development of IT infrastructure and applications, develop educational programs and organize seminars and conferences in Africa. Siberian Section can participate in such projects and help in solving problems that are common between Siberia and some African countries: wide area, rare population, lack of modern infrastructure and so on.

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?

Till now we notice no difference, but we hope for closer cooperation regarding involving our members in European projects carried by IEEE.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

This year we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the formation of the Section, and the special seminar will be dedicated to this event.

Saudi Arabia (East) Section

Mohammad AlMuhaini

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?

- Encouraging IEEE members from the industry to volunteer and organize IEEE events
- Inviting industry representatives to IEEE meetings.
- Discussing with the industry the best possible ways to collaborate and organize joint events
- Visiting industrial organizations and promoting IEEE.
- Organizing seminars with the industry in the latest technologies and applications
- Contacting industrial organizations to sponsor technical dinner meetings.

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 organized the 1st SYP GCC in the region with the help of student branches and YPs in the region.
- Officers visiting the Universities and introducing IEEE benefits.
- Financial Support to hold competitions and technical forums within Universities.
- Several events were sponsored at different universities in the region
- Two student activities coordinators will be appointed to assess the branches to organize events and help in establishing new branches.
- Section's website will be updated soon to provide updated information to the current and 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?

- Email contacts with the members and keep an active channel with all members.
- Organizing technical meetings with free attendance for Members.
- Holding more contact meetings with members and monthly technical seminar in two major cities in the region.
- Establish a new publicity committee that will be responsible of the website, social media accounts, and the newsletter.

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?

To organize joint events between the sections in middle east and in Africa to discuss the common challenges and initiatives.

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?

We would like to receive more legal support to resolve some major issues that the section experience

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- The 1st GCC Students and Young Professionals Congress (GCC SYP Congress)
- The 9th IEEE-GCC Conference & Exhibition to be held on 6-9 May 2017
- Participate with an IEEE booth to be set-up during the Information Technology Professional Development Program (PDP) Conference that is planned to be held on November 2, 2016
- To Organize the 1st local Robotics Competition in Riyadh

Saudi Arabia (West) Section

Bander Allaf

Serbia & Montenegro Section

Vera Markovic

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?

Nowadays, manufacturing companies are facing huge challenges since the digitalization changes existing business models. This increases pressure on the industry ? but opens up new business opportunities at the same time. The IEEE/Region/Section should encourage industry?s transition towards more knowledge-based production. The Industry 4.0, the current trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies, which includes cyber-physical systems, the Internet of things, cloud computing and cognitive computing, opens prospective for Section to help and lead industry through the change. In the previous period, Serbia & Montenegro Section supported some projects regarding Industry 4.0 and digitalization, for instance in the field of Computational Intelligence. In addition, several keynotes, meetings, panels, and workshops were organized in order to help Academia to understand the needs of industry, and vice versa. The big international conferences gathered companies and there were, as usually, a lot of meetings between IEEE representatives and industry people. Section will continue disseminating new and emerging technologies that have real-world applications. Section should empower groups with resources to produce ""fast-track"" content and deliverables such as white papers, guides, conferences, workshops and other events and projects in wide variety of industry related technical areas and issues.

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?

In our section, the vast majority of new members are Students and Young Professionals. A successful way to attract them are the student IEEE events, conferences and events with organized membership renewal and joining. Organized joining is of particular importance because it is the best way to explain to new members what IEEE membership is and what it consists of, what the benefits are and how new members can connect to local student branches and technical societies. Short presentations of IEEE (few mins) in classes by professors or student colleagues on special event, that direct student to organized joining event, show very good results. The best way to attract new members is to address their basic expectations. It would be great to enable them the access to all IEEEExplore papers through some promotional actions. Our major successes in last time in terms of attracting future members were organization of 10th international student conference IEEEESTEC 2017, student section at the conference TELFOR 2017 and several events with organized membership renewal and joining in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Ni. Our section continues to support student branches and student activities, and recently established YP Affinity Group with logistic and financial support.

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?

Establishing the Young Professionals Affinity Group within the Section needs to be highlighted as most recent major success since the last R8 meeting. With the goal of changing the position of young professionals within the industry, the primary focus of YP AG going forward will be to create opportunities for industry engagement and to define new activity concepts for students and young professionals. It is also important to emphasize that Section and its chapters and affinity groups had a lot of technical meetings, events, promotional actions and other activities during the previous year. The Section supported a significant number of conferences, workshops, seminars, invited lectures, talks within the scope of DLP, etc. Some of these events have been organized jointly with the National Society ETRAN, after signing a new MoU between two associations. Section web site is well maintained and regularly updated. Of course, one of most important condition for the section vitality is to retain the membership and to recruit new ones, what is not easy in the current economic circumstances.

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?

Africa is so diverse in terms of level of development, culture, etc., that it is difficult to give universal recommendations. In any case, our section will support all initiatives and activities aimed at strengthening the role and presence of IEEE in Africa.

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?

In principle, the IEEE office in Vienna, Austria, could be beneficial for some EU-related issues. However, we do not have enough information about the services, activities and outcomes of the office since its establishing. In order to have better insight into the office work, it would be useful to disseminate the information about current or possible services they offer to the Region 8 and specifically to the sections of non-EU countries, and about main achievements of the office during the last year.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The initiative for founding a new affinity group in Serbia and Montenegro Section finished successfully and on August 19, 2017, Young Professionals Affinity Group was established.



Slovenia Section

Andrej Trost

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?

Slovenia Section regularly invites outstanding engineers and presents success stories from the local industry at our annual conference ERK. The keynote speakers from the industry are able to present their innovations and get attention and potential cooperation with the university. The engineers from the industry take part also in regular sessions and can establish contact with scientists from various research areas for future cooperation.

We personally invite the partners from the industry to attend other sessions of the 2 day conference where they can meet promising students and young professionals. One industry partner is sponsoring some SB events and student competitions.

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?

We promote IEEE and regularly organize public events at our universities to attract new members. The student branches are addressing new members with organization of workshops covering some important topics which are missing in regular educational course.

The chapters organize lectures with distinguished guests attracting engineers, scientists and young professionals. The future members see the benefit of IEEE in networking, acquiring more skills and establishing contact with professionals in their field. We are encouraging members to renew the membership. The most difficult is transition from student to regular member due to expenses and we are trying to explain the benefits of continuous membership. We encourage the members to become active volunteers.

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 vitality of Slovenia Section is maintained by organizing and constantly improving regular events, specifically annual section meetings, conferences and student competitions. We are promoting volunteers jobs and we are happy to welcome new active volunteers at our section meeting.

We are successful in attracting scientists and industry to meet and present their work at our annual conference ERK covering the broad range of topics. The organization of the ERK joins IEEE volunteers from various fields promoting the event and IEEE at their organizations. We will continue to support the bilingual, Slovene and English, papers and presentations which is important for the young participants and local community.

We encourage the mentors at our universities to promote the IEEE student competition and we regularly receive excellent student papers.

The results of continuous support and promotion are high retention numbers for our members.

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?

The sections in Africa should rely on common communication resources, for example Collabratec, to connect engineers and researchers from the broad area. The IEEE should help local sections to organize events with distinguished lecturers.

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 office could give advice to local sections in maintaining the skills for efficiently running the section. It should provide support for the administrative tasks.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Our student Lucija Brezo?nik received first price on the Student Paper Contest 2017 in EUROCON 2017. The experience from the competition helped her to become active volunteer in local WIE affinity group.

South Africa Section

Albert Lysko

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?

- We have signed MoU with a local society, the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers, which is strongly linked with local industry (especially the power industry), and promote IEEE programs with them and perform activities together.
- We plan to run Senior Membership development workshops in May 2018 and nominate industry leaders to SMIEEE, as a way of attracting their attention to IEEE, and promoting support to payment of IEEE membership fees and IEEE activities at all levels.
- Conferences and IEEE lectures by DVP might foster Industry relations, this is the place for exchange of ideas and industry contact between academia and staff. Future IEEE conferences will assist further.
- The activities that work well to foster industry relations have been the talks that we have organised between people of industry and students. This creates a better engagement especially for the students as a lot of the questions they may have get answered. The students also get to interact with people from industry and get to learn from this experiences. A suggestion to help improve industry relation would be to offer attachments positions to IEEE students members. I understand finding such positions may be difficult, but I would recommend a limited number of vac work positions are awarded based on some kind of competition or merit process. Also if the vac work positions is a problem the IEEE can create a job shadow week where students can shadow people in industry.
- The changes recommended to the IEEE is to improve industry relations: if a more active relationship could be established between Industry and the IEEE student members. This can be done by organising more talks and lectures so that students can actively and constantly interact with industry people. I believe trips to different industries could also spark interest among student members and Improve industry relations. Also the Job shadow week would be very helpful.
- The student branches were able to organise Lunch and Learn sessions with some people from industry. Lunch and Learn sessions are essentially lectures that we have over lunch that are more interactive.
- We hope to organise a trip to one of the top industries so as to get the student members excited about whats being done in industry. We also plan on have some Lunch and Learn sessions with people from industry .

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?

- Regular communications and visibility provided by the IEEE events are helpful.
- Ensuring that the local conferences have a sufficient discount for IEEE members and requesting the conferences to show text like ""Join IEEE at iee.org/join at USD27 for students and USD90.50 for professionals"" proved to be useful to helping new members consider joining IEEE.
- The membership fees is a bit steep for academia, students, even for staff the expectation from many in South Africa for full membership is ZAR500 (USD40) for academia, currently it is almost double, there are institutions that are willing to support payment of membership fees.
- We were able to attract many members, may be a member fees discount for the institution as such based of large number of members they have/ able to attract or discount to that specific individuals who serve for the Computer society can assist
- We have improved the web site by adding more content, addressing common queries;
- With a student chapter the main aim is to get excitement around the prospect of being a student member. We plan to organise a welcome Braai which will also act as a recruitment drive. We are also planning on organising Lunch and Learn sessions to help keep the club relevant. We also hope to have atleast one trip to one of the major players in the industry. We also planning on having a Hackathon completion amongst our members .
- When it comes to the changes required by the IEEE, the heads of the Student chapter require more support in terms of getting contacts and people from industry to the universities. We also require a more active presence from the IEEE.
- Last year we were able to revive the Student chapter at Wits university as it had been inactive for a long time. Now that the club is alive we trying to push for recruitment to get the numbers up. However to do this the students need to see any kind of benefit of joining the club. That why the earlier suggestion was provided: if students members could get attached to various industries during the vac work or participating in a Job shadow week. Also, having friendly completions based on engineering projects could be helpful. This would definitely create more excitement amongst the student members and the club as a whole.
- Spreading information about the opportunities offered by IEEE (including funding programs and travel grants such as IEEE Region 8 Voluntary Contribution Fund) is important. For the conference IEEE R8 Africon 2017 in Cape Town, five people successfully received VCF grants.

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?

- We have supported 12 conferences held in South Africa in 2017 and have strengthen support to the conferences and see the consistent increase in membership (10% increase, as compared to the same period from 2016).

- The young professionals feel a sense of belonging to an IEEE Society if their little achievements are celebrated and acknowledged, Society's sustainability is based on its members. We are encouraging the above.
- We have signed MoU with a local society, the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers, and promote IEEE programs with them and perform activities together.
- We have run the regional conference IEEE R8 Africon 2017 in Cape Town, which received good attendance (over 200 presenters)
- In the Africon 2017, we have run a special full day session called ""IEEE Session"", which included presenters from R8 and above and told about many opportunities IEEE offers.
- We have invested in developing the Section's ExCom by providing a travel grant for one of our officers to attend the R8 meeting in Stockholm.
- We have awarded the most active volunteer in Section with a grant to attend the IEEE Sections Congress.
- We have invested in one of our active conference organizers by sending him to IEEE POCO in Australia.
- We have invested in another of our active conference organizers from Durban by providing her with a travel grant to attend the IEEE-SA event in Johannesburg.
- We have successfully nominated several members for elevation to Senior membership in IEEE and now plan to run Senior Membership development workshops in May 2018 to help to increase the loyalty and sustainability
- We have nominated a number of active volunteers to various MGA positions.
- For SBs the Lunch and Learn sessions are important, the possibility of getting attachments to various industries for vac work or having a job shadow week with people industry, The friendly completions based on engineering projects would also keep people interested in the Student branch
- More active IEEE presence helps the students see the importance of being members CHALLENGES:
 - We have identified a challenge experienced by many members in paying their membership dues. The student members do not have credit cards and have to rely on student branches collecting money. The staff at universities often experiences problems with being able to pay their membership fees from their research funds due to bureaucratic processes, which sometimes lead to the members not being able to fully recover the money paid for the membership. This was brought to the attention of IEEE but no response was received as yet.
 - Another challenge is financial and related to the general improvements in the country (thanks to the fall of the President Zuma), which has led to the steady drop in the exchange rate between USD and ZAR. Over the last 3-4 months, the exchange rate dropped from 14.5 down to 11.5, i.e. by over 20%. This has effectively reduced the amount of money Section has by 20%!
- It would be great to be able to receive the lists of new successful Senior membership applications, as a way to promote them in the local community.
- We found that the IEEE R8 VCF may need to request additional information (such as professor's letter telling what has and what has not been covered by the university for the student's trip) in order to counteract misuse of the fund.

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?

- We are supporting establishing IEEE Africa Council and actively participated in drafting the bylaws.
- We are bringing the IEEE R8 Membership Development workshop (MDW) to South Africa as a part of supporting one of IEEE's priorities, i.e. developing IEEE in Africa. The MD workshop will be held at the Hotel Verde in Cape Town in March 2018.
- In supporting continuous development of IEEE in Africa, we are also considering applying to host IEEE Sections Congress and IEEE Convene and have approached R8 and relevant parties. These events will help to highlight the IEEE activities to local volunteers and to train local African members/volunteers. We will continue attempt to bring some of IEEE R8 meetings to Africa, as this will help to show IEEE and R8 what the problems in Africa really look like and will also assist with promoting IEEE and training local volunteers.
- We have promoted cooperation between South African and Botswana Sections in the inaugural event for IEEE Botswana Section in Gaborone, Botswana.
- We have invited volunteers from other Sections to the IEEE Session we organized in the conference IEEE Africon 2017 in order to improve the visibility of IEEE and to help training our officers.
- We hope to extend the ""IEEE - SAIEE South African Distinguished Lecturer"" initiative to allow exchange with Africa. CHALLENGES:
 - We have identified a challenge experienced by many members in paying their membership dues. The student members do not have credit cards and have to rely on student branches collecting money. The staff at universities often experiences problems with being able to pay their membership fees from their research funds due to bureaucratic processes, which sometimes lead to the members not being able to fully recover the money paid for the membership. This was brought to the attention of IEEE but no response was received as yet.
 - A more active IEEE presence is needed. If the hand of the IEEE can be seen in the student's projects, this would generate more interest

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?

- We would like a strong consideration to bringing IEEE R8 meeting to Africa, at least once every N years.
- Sending of professionals to give lectures on various topics.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- Our IEEE South Africa Section Joint AP/MTT/EMC Chapter received ""Best Chapter Award"".
- IEEE South Africa Section has celebrated 40 years of its existence.
- We are in process of setting up a new initiative ""IEEE - SAIEE South African Distinguished Lecturer"" to allow good local lecturers to share their knowledge with colleagues and students away from their normal employment, within South Africa.
- Small challenge: as the Section card is used very infrequently, it is difficult to keep track of the PIN code.



Fig. 25. Event at MUT - 20171201



Fig. 26. Event at DUT 20171128



Fig. 27. Event at WITS University



Fig. 28. IEEE Session on 20170918



Fig. 29. UKZN Event

Spain Section

Jesus Fraile-Ardanuy

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?

We organized an executive meeting with key players in the Spanish Semiconductor Industry, research centers and university, explaining (and promoting) success cases of university-industry relationship based on a win-win basis. It was celebrated in October, 20th, 2017 Innovation Fund obtained from R8 (\$2800)

Our suggestion is to keep promoting these type of actions from R8 and promoting international networking with other multinational companies.

Our ideas is to create a common conference calendar to invite industry members locally to IEEE speeches organized by the chapters To promote collaboration with Young Professional and Student Branches to give tips to improve employability.

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?

Our new YP officer (and his team) have been very active during 2017, organizing several events (YP Tour in Madrid, Cartagena and Seville) and they we are also involved in WESYP 2017 in Valencia (november 2017).

From R8, we request more promotion and communication. Only 5-10 foreign YP members came to WESYP 2017 in Valencia. SBs are demanding that the IEEE Spain Section provide them with greater communication with the industry and organize visits. We are currently working on it.

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?

We are losing members in a slight but constant way over time.

From R8, my suggestion is to provide more attractive offers to our members, like US members have.

During 2018, we are going to perform a deep study about our members status and we are preparing a campaign to know the reasons for leaving our organization.

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?

Our Section does not support IEEE Activities in Africa in this moment.

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?

This office should help the IEEE R8 to collaborate more actively with the education and research policy of the European Union.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We will celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2018. We are preparing different events to celebrate it. All of you are welcome.

Sweden Section

Samarth Deo

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?

- Major event May 2017 with the power industry (Vattenfall, ABB etc) - Sweden first IEEE milestone, HVDC Gotland. A summary document distributed to R8 leadership for further sharing.
- Sweden Section drives & sponsors initiatives for approaching industry & business. E.g. Section driven or sponsored initiatives with Chapters, external parties etc, such as cross-chapter workshops with industry speakers, via WebEx - held 2016 and 2017.
- Industry relations strengthened by having industry members involved in IEEE positions, e.g., Chair or Board members in Chapters, Section Board etc. Section Board has Chair + 1 individual responsible for Industry initiatives
- Cooperation across IEEE Sweden to address topics of interest to industry members: We try to push Industry dominant chapters cooperate with academia dominant chapters.
- WiE is relevant for female industry professionals, hence a growing affiliate. Cooperate with industry associations in seminars.
- However, tighter business environment is a challenge; Down-sizing, tighter budgets & less time for voluntary work such as IEEE. Accelerated even more in 2017

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?

- Active inclusion of all into the total Sweden Section activities; Chapters, WiE, YP, SB + Section Board. This strategy appears fruitful. (presentation at Section Congress 2017 pending)
- Direct involvement of younger members in the Section Board: Initially by adjudicating key individuals from SYP & WiE, then elevate to ordinary positions. This cuts communication barriers and builds for future elevation to Board positions. Direct involvement of SYP members in Nomination Committee
- The Sweden Section vitality has increased substantially in WiE, YP and SB. Successful restart and acceleration of SB Chalmers via relations with chapters, (local) industry & Section Board. Revitalizing and boosting SB KTH & Stockholm. Started to exploring restarting SB Linkping
- Strong support & involvement from the Section Chair & Board inspires & enhances the efforts of SYP & WIE.
- Recognition is important, e.g., Awards
- Cross country-border events are very stimulating Adding the industry perspective making it even better.
- A constant risk of individuals moving on, leaving empty spaces.

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?

- Since 2014, bring business & industry experience & structure into Sweden Section operation: Combine strategic direction with reporting & financial infrastructure; looking for ways to extend process and improve, more active reporting & follow up. Presentation at Section Congress 2017 on Section management and finance
- When hosting the R8 meeting in Stockholm; put strong focus on relevant industry & science in key-note speeches, as inputs for IEEE global direction & implementation
- More direct communication with all Sweden Section members; Upgraded Newsletter (more professional, also mailed to R8 leadership), mails from Section Chair, ad hoc communication of special topics, outlooks for next quarter etc. Increased use of WebEx to reach across Sweden (3rd largest territory in Western Europe)
- Wider communication channels & cooperation, e.g., with other industry organizations
- Drive & sponsors initiatives that cuts across Chapters, SYP WIE etc, preferably with external parties. Institutionalized cooperation; the 4th year of a joint chair workshop in 2016q3 - chapters, SYP, WIE.
- Renewal of Chapter boards. Forming a new pan-Nordic chapter, hosted in Sweden initially
- Sweden Section website further modernized, in operation; Each chapter has direct access, hence ability to always update own info
- Active process to elevate members, successful 2016, less during 2017, more ambitions 2018
- More active promotion of Sweden individuals to IEEE awards

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?

Where possible, apply a more "business type" & structured operation, rather than academic approach. I am not sure how individual sections like we in Sweden can support IEEE activities in Africa. Need some guidance.

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?

- Speed up the decision process; e.g., in arrangements involving IEEE. E.g. closing a contract with a hotel or congress center should be done in days, not months. (Some players appears less keen doing events with IEEE due to lengthy bureaucracy and unnecessary hurdles, repeatedly)
- IEEE improvement: eNotice is too slow - direct mailing to all members have been delayed, hence missing inviting to opportunities, and outdated information
- IEEE improvement: WebEx too inflexible - setting up broadcasting a week (or more) in advance (rather than hours) is perceived as outdated

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- The first IEEE Milestone in Sweden ever - the world's first commercial submarine HVDC cable to Gotland 1954
- A new web in place, more useful for practitioners and more informative to members.
- We hosted the IEEE Region 8 meeting in Stockholm in March, very much appreciated for the content and organization.
- The cooperation across the entire Section, academia and industry is developing well. Sweden is becoming a role model for transparency, planning, budget and operation - which led to a presentation at the global IEEE Section Congress in Sydney in Aug 2017
- Swedish VT/COM/IT chapter won the 2017 IEEE Information Theory Society Chapter of the Year Award.
- Arnold Pears was elected into the Board of Governors (2018-2020) of the Education Society



Switzerland Section

Maria-Alexandra Paun

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?

- 1) In our section we have had many events organized in Switzerland, by the Chapters and Affinity Groups, with industry participation. For example ABB, LEM Geneva are all companies that have participated in our events.
- 2) Our Section has provided financial sponsorship to events organized by the Chapters with industry participation, i.e. IEEE PES Workshop: "The need for standardization in Smart Grids"(04.10.2017), with ABB participation.
- 3) Other event with industry participation that we have financially sponsored is the celebration of 50 years of microelectronics in the watch-making industry. This event was held on 05.09.2017 at Neuchatel and had participation of watch industry main players, such as Swatch and other industrials, i.e. Logitech. IEEE Switzerland was present and I have delivered a speech as the Chair of the Section.
- 4) The Section supports visits, especially of students, to different important companies in Switzerland (e.g. Google, IBM, etc.).
- 5) IEEE Switzerland is technical co-sponsor of conferences being held in Switzerland with industry participation (i.e. 2018 Crypto Valley Blockchain Conference in Zug and ISPDC 2018 Conference in Geneva). Its Chair, Dr. Maria-Alexandra Paun will set up a booth and also deliver plenary talk about IEEE Switzerland activities.

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?

- 1) As Chair of IEEE Switzerland, when I attend different technical conferences or other events, whenever I have the opportunity I will set up a booth with IEEE promotional material and I talk about the IEEE membership. For example, I have done this recently at the FISITA 2017 Automotive World Summit in September 2017 in Geneva.
- 2) The Section organizes different technical and professional development events where non-IEEE members are invited.
- 3) To support the members, the Section organizes various technical events as well as competitions for Students and Young Professionals.
- 4) For the second year in a row, a team from EPFL with Dr. Maria-Alexandra Paun as their proctor has won the IEEEExtreme 24h programming competition. On this occasion, many non-IEEE members have become members to participate in this event, which is a very well-known and appreciated worldwide event.
- 5) IEEE Switzerland Section has organized IEEE Celebration Day at EPFL on 02.10.2017, where we have talked about IEEE in general and IEEE Switzerland in particular. We have had the plenary talk given by the president of EPFL, IEEE Fellow and participation of both IEEE and non-IEEE members. Many young students came at our booth and I have talked to them about IEEE. Some of them did not know yet what IEEE was.

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?

- 1) The Section updates section website regularly with information (events description, etc.) and sends invitation through vTools to its members to invite them to different events that are being organized in Switzerland.
- 2) We organize frequent physical meetings in the ExCom of IEEE Switzerland Section and establish constant dialogue through e-mails.
- 3) We organize, at Section level, technical and professional development events, such as workshops, seminars and technical talks.
- 4) The Section checks the meeting reporting on vTools for all local units, Chapters and Affinity Groups. The Section sends friendly reminders about the dates of reporting in order to get the rebate bonus.
- 5) We report in vTools all Section Officers, Affinity Group Chairs, Chapter Chairs, and Student Branch Chairs.
- 6) We check for the inactive chapters and send them messages about their status.
- 7) We have a solid presence on social media (i.e. LinkedIn and IEEE Collabratec) where we also have a Switzerland section group and advertise our events.

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?

- 1) IEEE Switzerland Section is happy to offer our full support to IEEE Activities in Africa.
- 2) IEEE Switzerland Section can provide all the necessary support for different activities and collaborations. We are reachable and open to cooperation.

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?

- 1) We have not yet contacted the IEEE office in Vienna, Austria, with a specific question.
- 2) We would like to establish some dialogue about the program strategies and Europe-specific policies, procedures, opportunities, and challenges.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- 1) Our Section celebrated IEEE Day on 02.10.2017 at EPFL with a full day dedicated to Women in Engineering. This event was a success attracting more than 30 people and had the presence of EPFL President. An article in EPFL Flash Magazine has been written to present this event.
- 2) For the second year in a row, a team from EPFL with Dr. Maria-Alexandra Paun as their proctor has won the IEEEExtreme 24h programming competition. An article in EPFL Flash Magazine has been written by Dr. Maria-Alexandra Paun to present this victory.

Tunisia Section

Habib M. Kammoun

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?

The following activities fostered our industry relations:

- Co-founder of the ?IoT Tunisia? group in cooperation with well-known ICT companies in Tunisia in order to improve the technical skills of our members
- Organizing industry tours for students to the main companies and manufactures
- Inviting industrial engineers to the IEEE conferences
- Signing MOU with main companies in Tunisia: Primatec, Cynapsys, and Logidas

Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations:

- 1 new MOU was signed on November 2017 with Logidas
- The number of IEEE professional members from industry increased
- The section?s newsletter was sent to the local companies in order to present the IEEE Tunisia section activities

The section will continue to foster Industrial Relations by the following actions:

- Organize a networking meeting between industry stakeholders and IEEE student who will be graduated on 2018
- Organize challenges in cooperation with industry partners
- Sign more agreements between IEEE Tunisia section and companies

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?

To support our members, the section organized the following activities / programs / initiatives:

- IEEE Tunisian Students and YP congress
- IEEE Tunisian Engineering day for students to present their projects
- Helped students to participate in the IEEE competitions (IEEE Day, MTG, MadC, IEEEExtreme Programming, etc.)
- Helped members to develop projects and to search for IEEE foundation funds
- Helped students and YP to participate to the main IEEE events in Tunisia, including ME-SYP in Tunisia and IAS annual meeting
- Helped student branches, student chapters, and WIE student groups to organize their activities

To better support our members, the section need more financial support

Major successes since the last meeting: The section supported the following activities:

- TSYP 2017 attracts 700 IEEE members <http://tsyp.ieee.tn>
- World Robot Olympiad WRO Tunisian Qualifications <http://wro.ieee.tn>
- 3 International conferences
- 2 TISP workshops
- 5th ME Students and Young Professionals MESYP Congress
- Create 3 SB, 2 WIE student groups, 3 student chapters

The section will continue to foster Students and Young Professionals activities by supporting:

- Humanitarian SIGHT projects
- Entrepreneurship and soft skills activities
- Educational and Technical activities
- TSYP congress

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 section is:

- Ensuring prompt communications with our members by email, eNotice, IEEE Collabratec, and Facebook
- Following the MGA recommendations: the vice-chair will become the section chair on 2019-2020
- Nominating members with over 10 years of professional activities to apply for senior member grade
- Helping dormant chapters to organize an election and to find new active volunteers
- Attracting more members to become volunteers within IEEE
- Continually updating the section?s website <http://www.ieee.tn>

To improve Section vitality and sustainability, the section needs more incomes.

The major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality are the following:

- Reached the recruitment goal
- Organized section?s awards ceremony to recognize IEEE members and subunits who have given valuable achievements. 7 awards were presented.

- Loyalty pins and certificates presented to members with over 20 years of memberships

The section is trying to foster the Section Vitality by the following actions:

- Help members to renew their memberships with local payment
- Support the activities of the subunits
- Encourage the initiatives of volunteers

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?

- Further encouragements and support from IEEE to activities in African countries not represented by sections and subsections
- Sign partnership between IEEE and main African organizations
- Help subsections to organize IEEE activities in their countries. For example: inviting distinguished lecturers
- The Tunisia section can help to organize IEEE activities in other countries in Africa
- Establish IEEE Geographic Council in Africa

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?

- Help the sections to participate in European funded projects (H2020, Erasmus+, etc.)
- Help non-European IEEE members to receive visa in order to participate in IEEE activities in Europe
- Help the sections to contact European companies to find patrons for our IEEE activities

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- Plan to organize the 10th IEEE Tunisia section Anniversary on 28 June 2018
- Plan to organize the IEEE WIE Leadership Summit (WIELS) in Tunisia on 10-12 August 2018
- Tunisia section received the 2016 IEEE MGA Outstanding large section award
- The 2017 IEEE president and the 2017-2018 IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect participated in the ME-SYP congress in Tunisia and met with our IEEE members
- IEEE R8 EnergyCon 2020 will be organized in Tunisia <http://www.ieee-energycon2020.org>



Fig. 30. MESYP



Fig. 31. TSYP2017



Fig. 32. MGA Section Award 2016

Turkey Section

Murat Uysal

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?

In the Turkey Section, the Industry Relations Coordinator acts as a liaison between industry and the Section. The responsibilities of the Coordinator include leading fundraising activities for the Section, helping the Membership Development Coordinator increase the number of IEEE members from industry and supporting the Professional Development and Educational Activities Coordinator identify speakers/instructors from the industry. This coordinator position has been instrumental to foster industry relations. It has been particularly useful to secure some sponsorship from the industry for locally organized IEEE conferences as well as some donations for our award programmes.

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?

In the Turkey Section, Student Activities Coordinator and Associate Coordinators act as an interface between the executive committee and student branches. These coordinators provide guidance to student branches, attend student branch meetings/congresses, and other related activities. Last year, we have organized the first edition of Annual Senior Thesis Project competition open to IEEE Student Members. In collaboration with some industrial sponsors, we have offered several prizes for the winners. Such activities aim to keep the student members engaged in our activities.

Our Section considers the Young Professionals Affinity Group as a key to continue the commitments of IEEE student volunteers after their graduation. Last year, a new Chair was elected for this Affinity Group. In collaboration with the new Chair and with financial support from the Section, we plan to re-energize this group and expand the Young Professionals membership base.

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?

IEEE Turkey Section executive committee encourages all Technical Chapter Chairs to increase their activity level by organizing short courses, seminars and workshops in their expertise areas. We further provide administrative and technical support in their activities if required. In parallel, we encourage the formation of new chapters. Most recently, in June 2017, the formation of Robotics and Automation and Industrial Electronics Joint Societies Chapter was approved.

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?

As Turkey Section, we will be happy to support IEEE Activities in Africa. For example, we could arrange speakers for their locally organized events.

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?

Local presence of IEEE within Europe would be particularly useful in membership recruitment. For example, the delivery of promotional material from IEEE headquarters takes several weeks. Such material can be directly shipped from Europe office. The office can also organize workshops on effective membership recruitment.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Last year, we have launched two new programmes: "IEEE Turkey Section Research Awards" and "IEEE Turkey Section Annual Senior Project Competition".

Ukraine Section

Ievgen Pichkalov

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?

- Planning collaboration with the largest professional associations.
- Organizing of Industry Tracks & Panels on Section supported conferences and events.

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?

- New events:
 - The first IEEE Ukraine Students, Young Professionals and Women in Engineering Congress was founded and will be organized in Kyiv, Ukraine in 2018.
 - IEEE Ukraine Microwave, Antennas and Radar Week was founded and will be organized in Kharkiv, Ukraine in 2020.
- Students: IEEE Ukraine Section continues to support students and establish new student branches and student branch chapters in Ukraine. We expect founded 2-3 new student branches in 2018.

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?

- We planning organized electronic elections for all IEEE Ukraine Section Chapters in 2018.
- Well organized team of volunteers for 2018 - 2019, continuously expanding with new blood.
- We planning organized more than 12 IEEE Conferences in 2018.
- Support students to participate in IEEE Region 8 SYP Congress 2018.
- Regular online ExCom meetings, planning Sections activities and special events.

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?

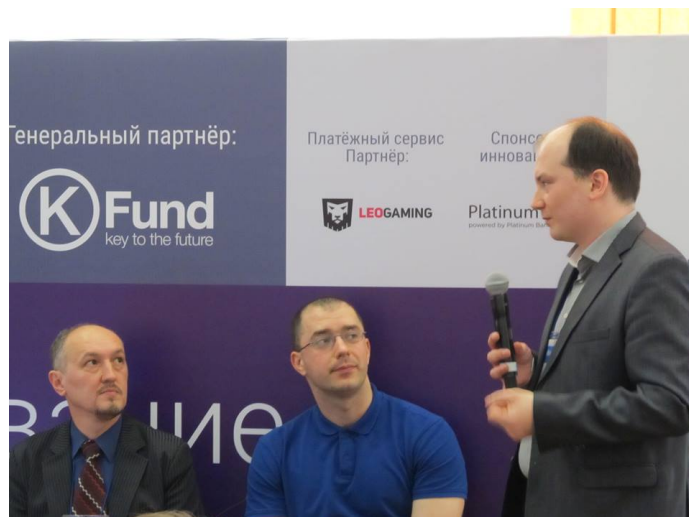
- We can share with IEEE in Africa our experience related to past and current co-operation with neighbor Sections, IEEE Societies and Region.
- We expect some recommendation from IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe about active IEEE volunteers and leaders from Africa. We would be pleased to invite these volunteers of the organizing committees of conferences and seminars.
- We would be glad to participate in IEEE events in Africa, for example, with a keynote speech at a scientific conference in corresponding field.

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?

Assistance with communication between IEEE and Public Union "IEEE Ukraine Section".

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- IEEE Ukraine Section founded IEEE flagship Conference in Ukraine - IEEE UKRCON. During the IEEE UKRCON-2017 conference, the first IEEE Milestone Ceremony in Ukraine has been held. As a part of the IEEE UKRCON-2017, the IEEE Ukraine Section 25th Anniversary Celebration was held. Next IEEE UKRCON we planning in 2019 in Lviv.
- IEEE Region 8 Central European Student and Young Professionals Congress - CEuSYP 2017 was held in Lviv, Ukraine.
- We planing founded IEEE Ukraine Section Journal.





United Arab Emirates Section

Dr. Fatma Taher

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?

Engaging industry members to participate in the IEEE Student Day. Engaging industry members in the Section meetings and annual meeting. Increase our partnership with the industry through long term MoUs and partnership agreements. For further improvements, we suggest: Initiating Company Bulk Membership within IEEE. Hosting IEEE seminars and competitions. Visit the big companies with engineering background and invite them to join IEEE.

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?

To attract future members, the IEEE UAE Section has been trying to: Organize seminars and inviting distinguished speakers to talk about hot topics. Gather students for networking through the IEEE Student day and the annual meeting. Help new academic institutes to establish IEEE Student Branches. Visit different Universities and invite their members to join IEEE. In addition to that, we are currently trying to: Hold more regular meetings and networking events. Arrange more visits to different academic institutes and industry facilities. Happiness Meter to measure member satisfaction.

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?

To maintain section vitality, the following are considered: Arranging regular section meetings. Organizing the IEEE Student day and the annual meeting. Establish partnership with local and regional entities. We recommend: Capitalizing on opportunities to promote the values and benefits of IEEE. One way of doing so is to request an IEEE booth in all conferences and exhibitions that the IEEE UAE sponsors. Conducting professional activities to attract more members from the industry.

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?

IEEE in Africa To enhance the role of IEEE in Africa, we recommend: Sign MoUs with other sister sections in other IEEE regions. Provide online courses, webinars, and to live stream other events from all around the world. Publishing best practices for managing IEEE activities.

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?

Better financial and logistical support to organize events and conferences. Collection of payments for various activities and routing them to the local section. Access to support staff such as legal, branding, marketing, etc.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

IEEE UAE Retail Discount Program: we, at the UAE Section, are establishing a retail discount program to attract more members. IEEE UAE Partnership Program: we are also maintaining a program to increase our partnership with the industrial and academic institutes.

United Kingdom and Ireland Section

Ali Hessami

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?

Our Section has an Industry Relations Officer, and since the last meeting we have organised a number of industry related partnerships with some of the notable brands, such as ARM Holding, Rose Royce etc. in which we invited the past IEEE President Karen Bartleson. We are continuing to forge more alliances with industry and seek ways in which we can be of assistance to them.

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?

We have Education Affairs Committee and Chair, and through the EAC, we organise free quality webinars for our members, and this has proven a huge success. The webinars run in series against most of the topical disciplines in thematic areas, for example Cyber security, Innovation and Project and Time management have been scheduled and organised. We also have the ongoing Young Entrepreneurship programme which are organised and led for student members and Young Professional (YP) by their respective Student Activities and YP Chairs.

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?

We continue to provide a number of member value propositions ranging from professional registration to charter status, which may allow us to award Charter-level recognitions to our members, like those offered by the IET and IMechE.

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?

Our Section Vice Chair has recently kick starting SIGHT and Humanitarian activities including HAC funding opportunity which will allow the Section to assist and foster IEEE in Africa.

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?

We think that this new office can help us to foster industry relations, and to provide assistance around our professional registration. Although we are yet to approach Vienna, however, we are hoping to invite them to one of our online ExCom meetings this year.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The unveiling of the IEEE History Milestone Plaque "Evolution of Television from Baird to the Digital Age" on 26 January 2017 by the past IEEE President Karen Bartleson. Also, we have another Milestone event for the 5th April 2018 for the Unveiling of an IEEE Milestone Plaque to celebrate historic achievements in electro-technology and to recognise the research of Walter Spear and Peter LeComber at the Dundee, Scotland, UK.

Zambia Section

Simon Muwowo

V. Motions

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Approval of the minutes of the 109th Region 8 Committee meeting

CONSENT

TO: IEEE Region 8 Committee - March 2018
FROM: Jan Verveckken, Region 8 Secretary
SUBJECT: Approval of the minutes of the 109th Region 8 Committee meeting

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The minutes of the 109th Region 8 Committee meeting in Sydney, 10-11 August 2017, are attached for approval.

PROPOSED ACTION

Resolved that the minutes of the 109th Region 8 Committee meeting shall be, and are hereby, approved.

ΤΕΛΟΣ