

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?

An Action for Industry Subcommittee chaired by the Lebanon Section Action for Industry Ambassador was created. The subcommittee includes Industry representatives from Society Chapters and Affinity Groups of the Lebanon Section. A University Advisor has the role to advise and keep track of the subcommittee work and to maintain high benefits for IEEE Student members.

The objectives of this subcommittee is to fortify all MoU's with Industry already existing and to follow up on all tasks and events happening between the Industry in Lebanon and IEEE Lebanon (internships, seminars and etc...). The subcommittee will study all sponsorship requests (Financial, Technical and Non-Technical) and verify their eligibility before being sent to any industry as now the MoU's have been updated to include new terms and conditions, upon approval of the Section ExCom for each request. In addition this subcommittee, will work on adding more diverse MoU's that reflect the diversity of the Lebanese industry in order to benefit all IEEE members and membership types.

Achievements:

• Raise more than 20000 USD dollars of sponsorship for the support of MENACOMM'18 conference.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and YoungProfessionals? 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 is focusing on targeting young members and students with the support of the YP Affinity Group. Two new student branches were created, and we are now in the process of establishing another two or three student branches.

The section was present at two of the largest gatherings organized in Beirut:

- The ArabaNet forum which is one of the largest digital gatherings in the MENA region, ArabNet brings international speakers to discuss the latest topics in the field, and connects entrepreneurs and startups with funding and incubation.
- The Change maker festival that host students and youth from around the region. The festival features workshops, pitch competitions, drawing competition, photography competition, music, a food truck line-up, and some of the most inspiring speakers across industries.

IEEE must provide more membership benefits like free or reduced fee for accessing IEEE Xplore.

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

The section will continue targeting Young professionals and student members in order to maintain a sustainable growth in membership. Our financial position remains strong with the support of IEEE and 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?

Not engaged 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?

The office supports sections in Europe

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

None