Morocco Section   Nasser Massem

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

We have been trying to involve industry more, trying to land internships, and organizing IEEE MS in industry workshop, connect Academia-2-SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises), and other technical meetings and conferences to exchange the latest developments on specific topics. On the side of the MELECON'18 in Marrakech, on May 2018, for instance, a special panel session was held around the topic of digital transformation of local government. Several leaders and e-gov enthusiasts have actively participated in the panel. We have been planning some training in the context of continuing education for staff members, and some award program and competitions. Research and development projects were planned to be 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 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?

We sought to empower our existing members and enhance their visibility with a series of events and training sessions. We diversified some of our activities: technical, professional, social, humanitarian, networking, team building. Existing members are themselves attracting new members. We have also appointed more members, for Technical Activities, Section Newsletter... We have offered some training for our students and young professionals in IT and business areas, and technical English. We planned IEEE junior activities for pre-university students (gaming for learning, programming, mechatronics, and robotics), and encouraged more university students? branches. We have been encouraging actions for Women in Engineering: Tech & Tea, networking, soft and technical talks? We are organizing the WIE Leadership Summit in Marrakech in October 2018.

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?

In addition to technically sponsoring many local events, meetings and conferences, we organized the Melecon'18 on May 2018 in Marrakech, and the 3rd SEIT'18 - 5G: New Opportunities for Africa, 26 April 2018, INPT, Rabat, Morocco (Scientific Event on IT, 3rd ed). We are also organizing the 5th IEEE CiSt?18, Congress on Information Sciences and Technology, 22-24 October 2018, Marrakech (a flagship conference for our section). We have initiated some humanitarian actions, and organized meetings with some local national organizations to initiate common humanitarian projects. We are organizing the Humanitarian Success Stories in Africa summit in Marrakech in October 2018 (on the side of CiSt?18).

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?

In Africa, we have different and unique challenges. We need to drive more the vitality of our sections, and sustain membership. We need to improve our sections? relations with industry, encourage the creation of more technical societies? chapters, and support our affinity groups (WIE, YP?). We should seek to develop partnerships with national and international organizations, and engage in public policy. We need to develop English communication skills especially in non-English speaking countries. We also need to mutualize our African actions, exchange our experiences, improve our communication and awareness about opportunities, and increase African flagship conferences, workshops and meetings. An IEEE caravan in Africa involving members of the IEEE Africa Council may play an important role to understand better the nature of the above and other issues. More volunteers of the council need to be engaged to work as a team to address those issues. As mentioned above, and as part of engaging a dialogue with our friends in different African sections, we are organizing the Humanitarian Success Stories in Africa Summit in Marrakech in October 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?

We need to figure out how we can draw value from the IEEE Office in Vienna, probably through the IEEE Africa Council.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We are trying to add value from our previous initiatives, such as the new YP and WIE affinity groups, and the Morocco council of electronic design and automation, and build momentum on the outstanding achievement in member recruitment recognition that we received last year.