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?

The main driver for Industry collaboration which have proven to enhance industry participation in the Nigeria Section is the Action for Industry initiative. There have also been some workshops and seminars that have aided industry collaboration.

In order to improve industry relations, the possibility of collaboration agreements may be considered. Since the last meeting, there have been some initiatives regarding industry collaboration such as;

1) The Nigeria Section Industry Internship campaign. The initiative has seen almost 20 student placements in a number of organizations in Nigeria.
2) Industry partnership in seminars and workshops. The Nigeria section had industry presenters at the past 2 section meetings in 2018.
3) Appointment of an industry ambassador in the Nigeria Section (Adullateef Aliyu).

In order to continue to foster the industry collaboration, the Nigeria Section plans to expand the Industry internship program, invite more industry guest speakers for section programs and encourage and task the Section’s industry ambassador to work towards achieving more synergy with new Industry partners.

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?

Following the success of the Africa Students and Young Professional’s Congress held in Abuja, Nigeria in 2017, the Nigeria section has continued to inspire young professionals and students through many programs at the section.

In 2018, IEEE Nigeria Section had carried out numerous membership drives including those at Major events including the Digital Africa conference held in June 2018 and the Nigeria Energy Forum held in April 2018. There have been numerous membership development initiatives which including membership drives at Universities where a number of new student branches have been formed. The Nigeria Section Internship program has attracted many potential young professionals to join IEEE.

The Nigeria Section intends to increase membership drives by continuing to support the membership development initiatives that are already in place and also to discover and introduce IEEE to other potential members within our operational areas.

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?

For the Nigeria Section, the vitality continues to be based on Section programs and collaboration driven by the section EXCO and partner institutions within the country. These include the Section Meetings and a number of events which have proven to become converging points for members in the Section.

IEEE(R8) can support the Nigeria Section with more resources to reach out to potential members. Also, due to the low income for many professionals in the country, the need for rebates on membership continue to be emphasized by members and potential members.

In 2018 the IEEE Nigeria Section has successfully hosted 3 Section Meetings in Abuja (Nile Universality, March 2018), Port Harcourt (Rivers State University, May 2018) and Lagos (Victoria Island, September 2018). There have also been numerous activities in the Section which include Webinars, TISP Workshop, Virtual Conferences and more.

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?

It is recommended that Gloria be given the necessary support by Region 8 to be able to visit African Countries where there are IEEE Sections and Also those with potential Sections, in order to emphasize the presence of IEEE, develop potential new memberships and to see firsthand what the challenges may be as theses would be peculiar for every locality.

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 Vienna is expected to be an address and a resource center for the Region. The existence of the office has not yet sunk in yet. However a possible visit to the office and some direct contact over time may change the perception in the near future.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

In 2018, IEEE Nigeria Section will be 40 year old. This is a great milestone for the Section.

The IEEE Nigeria Section has also made a number of achievements in 2018 including those with the affinity groups like the PES, Computer Society, Communication Society and WIE.