

## Morocco Section

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**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 running an IEEE initiative in our section called the "Industry.Connect" where we organize joint workshops with SMEs, public institutions and government offices to exchange latest development and collaboration for advancing technological projects. We are now working with some companies and governments on projects related to ERPs, Business Intelligence, Data Analytics and Digitalization. Our IEEE Young professionals are maintaining the Industry.Connect function and widen it to a larger audience;
- Internships for our IEEE student members in SMEs and companies is still an interesting formulae to engage with industry;
- R&D projects run by a mixed team from IEEE and SMEs;
- Our section offers training and continuing education for staff members who then become IEEE members.

**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 offer our members the possibility to initiate and develop new projects, organize events and network with communities worldwide to enhance their visibility and reach more opportunities. This is considered as a very attractive program for many students and professionals in Morocco;
- We run many types of activities and many join IEEE to be part of it. They can be technical, professional, social , humanitarian, networking, or team building activities. Reduced IEEE rates for attending high quality events encourage many students and professionals to join IEEE;
- Existing members are also very good ambassadors for 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?**

- Organizing the 19th MELECON 2018 Flagship Conference in Marrakech, Morocco. The event gathered about 80 participants from 25 countries was held on May 2018 in Marrakech and was considered as an intensive learning and capacity building event where a community composed of highly talented and distinguished researchers, professionals, and experts from Morocco and abroad got together to broaden their knowledge and share their experiences. The event was also an opportunity to reinforce networking and discuss innovative ideas and opportunities for synergies to start new projects and collaboration at various levels, within academia and between academia and industry. This is the spirit of the IEEE community and this is how we want it to work towards our human and socio-economic development, and for advancing our research work and maintain it at the required international academic standards.
- The 2018 IEEE WIE International Leadership Summit in Marrakech, Morocco On the 23rd of October 2018, in Marrakech, the WIE Affinity Group of the IEEE Morocco section celebrated the Women In Engineering International Leadership Summit. The event provided national and international networking opportunities to foster communication and collaboration between members of the WIE groups, empower and inspire them. The IEEE Women in Engineering Leadership Summit was an opportunity to provide a platform for women researchers, professionals, innovators and entrepreneurs working in ICT to learn from each other, share their knowledge and experience and create an inclusive community that commonly innovates to the benefit of the society; as well as promote the sense of collaboration, leadership, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit among attendees. A panel session under the topic "Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship: "What opportunities & challenges for women in Technology? and What perspectives for tomorrow" took place at the end of the event with speakers from academia/Research and IT industry to discuss the main challenges and benefits related to technological transfer and transformation of research innovation conducted at the university level into entrepreneurial project that benefits our societies.
- Plan and run high added value events and conferences with more members and volunteers, the smartest!
- Get more experts for our activities, support for training and certification
- Enhance the visibility of our Members, researchers and professionals by Internationalizing our activities
- Encourage members to Submit Innovative Projects

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

- Plan events where sections representatives in Africa can come together to share and discuss their latest project development and the challenges they are facing to do more.
- Our section successfully organized the 2018 IEEE Morocco HUMANITARIAN SUCCESS STORIES IN AFRICA SUMMIT, in October in Marrakech, Morocco With the goal to gather representatives from several IEEE AFRICAN SECTIONS to share their stories and experiences in conceiving and implementing humanitarian projects, the IEEE Morocco Section Held its first ever IEEE HAC event "HUMANITARIAN SUCCESS STORIES IN AFRICA SUMMIT" in Marrakech Ouarzazate the 24th and 25th of October 2018. During this summit, distinguished speakers from diverse backgrounds presented different Humanitarian projects, and discuss the problems and issues they encountered during the development of their ideas. During the first day, the summit brought together researchers working in the field of

children with learning disabilities, with the aim to present and understand solutions developed to support rehabilitation of children with Autism and Dyslexia for reading deficiencies. There have been also talks by Moroccan IEEE groups working on communities' projects, Sight and HAC projects leaders from Africa and the official talk about the ingredients for a successful humanitarian initiative by the HAC committee Chair, Paul Cunningham. During the exhibition, Tunisia and Egypt representatives presented their SIGHT projects and shared their experiences, as well as the Moroccan student branches who talked about humanitarian projects for Moroccan remote villages. Two final technical talks about HAC initiatives and SIGHT have enabled a constructive discussion between participants, and a fruitful sharing of ideas, vision and experiences. The second day of the summit was devoted to a visit of an important local ONG in Ouarzazate called "Horizon". The latest empowers individuals with disabilities by providing them with medical assistance and technical training. The visit was an opportunity to discuss how HAC initiatives can provide support to this kind of ONGs, and how sustainability can be ensured for the projects that can be launched in collaboration with this kind of nonprofit organization. This summit has allowed the initiation of a collaboration between Local ONGs, IEEE HAC, and other IEEE groups in Tunisia, Egypt and Uganda. Such actions help to create synergies and collaborate within IEEE groups to develop joint humanitarian initiatives that meet better the needs of the respective local communities, actions that can endure on a 100 years period.

**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 the Vienna office help us disseminating the events organized by our section.

**Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.**

- The launch of the IEEE Morocco Junior Innovators. This initiative targeted pre-university students interested to engage in new ways of learning. Our student Branches worked on a program called "Mechatronics engineering for innovative education" and they are offering tailored STEM training and competition challenges to our junior members using VEXIQ, Arduino and FABLab products.
- Award event for our IEEE Student Branches

**Photos and figures**



