

South Africa 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 finding that the chapter initiatives serve to increase the industry participation, most likely owing to the specialised nature of chapters. Thus we are making a concerted push to increase the number of chapters locally to help foster engagement from members and 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?

Our members are attracted to value-add for themselves. The conference fee discount etc. are not viewed as a high add for the majority of professionals as they can't afford either the time or money to attend these conferences. Note the majority of IEEE conferences occur relatively far away from SA, incurring a very large travel fee which combined with a relatively low exchange rate makes the travel far more expensive than the actual conference fee. Thus what has worked well are local value adds such as workshops and distinguished lecturers/speakers. Our membership has continued to grow, and we are working harder to local value-add.

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?

A large push towards increasing the number of chapters/ branches within the section to increase value for members. The specialised nature of chapters/branches allowed for focused value-add on an individual basis and increase the number of local conference hosts. On that note conferences have also been increasing and student branches are becoming more active with workshops and several events on IEEE Day pushed by the IEEE student branches. THIS course seems to work well for our members and thus we will continue to develop these types of activities.

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?

As South Africa, we would be excited to see increased African hosting of large conferences, as it reduces travel costs significantly. WE are currently apart of the African Area Council.

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?

Logistics and coordination. Not in a very noticeable way given the distance.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Once again awarded a gold medal recognition from IEEE for membership development and retention. Significant push towards increasing local chapters.