

Conference Coordination Subcommittee (CoCSC)

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Goals

- 1) Regular and timely handling of the financial and technical co-sponsorship (TCS/FCS) and e-Notice requests.
- 2) Recruiting good candidates for R8 flagship conferences, supporting and steering the awarded conferences.
- 3) Reporting to MGA and MCE, good relation with other regional conference coordinators.
- 4) Explore options for new R8 flagship conferences on trending topics or new geographic areas.
- 5) Explore industry-focused events in collaboration with other R8 sub-committees.

Points of Concern

- 1) Low number of financial co-sponsorship (FCS) of conferences by R8 Sections and Chapters needs development of strategy for increased awareness of the benefits from Sections/Chapters FCS.
- 2) Monitor the quality of the IEEE R8 FCS and TCS sponsored events (plagiarism, pay-to-publish, paper stuffing) to avoid conference quantity to reduce IEEE reputation and ability papers to be indexed.
- 3) Assure the proper conduct of IEEE R8 FCS/TCS conferences and managing conflicts of interest in line with IEEE policies. Several cases were already noticed and co-sponsorship was not approved.
- 4) Need to improve the R8 flagship conferences outlook, especially the MELECON conference has lowest number of attendees.

Conferences approved since last meeting (list TCS and FCS separately)

Using the IEEE Conference Analytics for Volunteers (<https://tblanalytics.ieee.org>) the Region 8 has approved 24 TCS and 5 FCS conferences in 2019-2020.

Technically Co-Sponsored Conferences (TSC):

- 2019 IEEE International Conference on Design & Test of Integrated Micro & Nano-Systems (DTS), Gammarth-Tunis, Tunisia, 28-Apr-2019 to 1-May-2019
- 2019 IEEE International Conference on Microwaves, Antennas, Communications and Electronic Systems (COMCAS), Tel-Aviv, Israel, 04-Nov-2019 to 6-Nov-2019
- 2019 1st Global Power, Energy and Communication Conference (GPECOM), Nevsehir, Turkey, 12-Jun-2019 to 15-Jun-2019
- 2019 IEEE Jordan International Joint Conference on Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (JEEIT), Amman, Jordan, 09-Apr-2019 to 11-Apr-2019
- 2019 Federated Conference on Computer Science and Information Systems (FedCSIS), Leipzig, Germany, 01-Sep-2019 to 4-Sep-2019
- 2019 42nd International Convention on Information and Communication Technology, Electronics and Microelectronics (MIPRO), Opatija, Croatia, 20-May-2019 to 24-May-2019
- 2019 International Workshop on Fiber Optics in Access Networks (FOAN), Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 02-Sep-2019 to 4-Sep-2019
- 2019 2nd International Conference on Computer Applications & Information Security (ICCAIS), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 01-May-2019 to 3-May-2019
- 2019 International Conference on Cyber Security for Emerging Technologies (CSET), Doha, Qatar, 27-Oct-2019 to 29-Oct-2019
- 2019 42nd International Conference on Telecommunications and Signal Processing (TSP), Budapest, Hungary, 01-Jul-2019 to 3-Jul-2019
- 2019 IST-Africa Week Conference (IST-Africa), Nairobi, Kenya, 08-May-2019 to 10-May-2019
- 2019 14th International Conference on Advanced Technologies, Systems and Services in Telecommunications (TELSIKS) Nis Serbia 23-Oct-2019 25-Oct-2019
- 2019 22nd International Conference on Distributed Computer and Communication Networks: Control, Computation, Communications (DCCN), Moscow, Russia, 23-Sep-2019 to 27-Sep-2019
- 2020 6th Conference on Data Science and Machine Learning Applications (CDMA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 04-Mar-2020 to 5-Mar-2020
- 2019 International Symposium ELMAR, Zadar, Croatia, 23-Sep-2019 to 25-Sep-2019
- 2019 IEEE 5th International forum on Research and Technology for Society and Industry (RTSI), Florence, Italy, 09-Sep-2019 to 12-Sep-2019
- 2019 IEEE 13th International Conference on Application of Information and Communication Technologies (AICT) Baku Azerbaijan 23-Oct-2019 25-Oct-2019
- 2019 IEEE Global Conference on Internet of Things (GCIoT), Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 04-Dec-2019 to 7-Dec-2019
- 2020 International Workshop on Antenna Technology (iWAT), Bucharest, Romania, 25-Feb-2020 to 28-Feb-2020
- 2019 27th Telecommunications Forum (TELFOR), Belgrade, Serbia, 26-Nov-2019 to 27-Nov-2019
- 2020 IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for Industry 4.0 & IoT (MetroInd4.0&IoT), Roma, Italy, 03-Jun-2020 to 5-Jun-2020
- 2020 3rd International Colloquium on Intelligent Grid Metrology (SMAGRIMET), Cavtat, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 20-Oct-2020 to 23-Oct-2020
- 2020 3rd International Conference on Computer Applications & Information Security (ICCAIS), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 19-Mar-2020 to 21-Mar-2020

- 2020 43rd International Convention on Information, Communication and Electronic Technology (MIPRO), Opatija, Croatia, 25-May-2020 to 29-May-2020

Financially Co- Sponsored Conferences (FCS):

- IEEE EUROCON 2019 -18th International Conference on Smart Technologies, Novi Sad, Serbia, 01-Jul-2019 to 4-Jul-2019, 15% FCS
- 2019 IEEE AFRICON, Accra, Ghana, 25-Sep-2019 to 27-Sep-2019, 15% FCS
- 2020 IEEE 20th Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference (MELECON), Palermo, Italy, 16-Jun-2020 to 18-Jun-2020, 15% FCS
- 2020 6th IEEE International Energy Conference (ENERGYCon), Gammarth, Tunis, Tunisia, 13-Apr-2020 to 16-Apr-2020, 15% FCS
- 2020 International Conference on Technology and Entrepreneurship (ICTE), Bologna, Italy, 19-Apr-2020 to 22-Apr-2020, 5% FCS

Progress against goals since the last report

IEEE R8 FLAGSHIP CONFERENCES 2019

IEEE EUROCON 2019 (<http://eurocon2019.org/>) has been held in Novi Sad, Serbia, 1-4 July 2019. The conference had 183 submitted papers and the reviewers selected 136 papers (74.32 %). Together with the 8 keynote plenary speaker lectures and 5 finalist papers from the 2019 R8 Student Paper Contest, a total of 149 papers were presented in 4 tracks and 7+1 special sessions. IEEE President José M.F. Moura and R8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma declared the conference open. The participants came from 30 different countries (almost all continents) with 506 authors in total. The conference included industry exhibition and industry panel session (15 industry and 2 government sponsors), as well as technical visit to the Schneider Electric company in Novi Sad and WiE meet-up.

IEEE R8 CEuSYP congress was organized in parallel to the EUROCON 2019, with 70 participants (plus 12 students in the organizing team and 15 volunteers) from 12 countries (Serbia, Croatia, North Macedonia, Poland, Slovenia, Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tunis, Kuwait, Ukraine, Germany and Lebanon). Participants at the CEuSYP could follow some of the EUROCON keynote plenary speakers and join some of the other social activities.

IEEE AFRICON 2019 (<http://africon2019.org/>) will be held in Accra, Ghana, from 25 to 27 Sep 2019. According to the organizers, 300 papers have been submitted, and reviewers accepted 239 papers to be presented. The preliminary program has already been prepared.

IEEE HISTELCON 2019 (<https://www.histelcon2019.org/>) will be held in Glasgow, UK, 18 to 19 Sep 2019. Details about these 2 conferences will be given in the report for the next meeting.

Within the 2019 IEEE GCIoT (Global Conference on Internet of Things) in Dubai, UAE, 4 to 7 December 2019 (<https://gciot.org/>), as part of the industry track at the conference, a one-day focused Industry Summit on emerging technologies will be organized by Sohaib Qamar Sheikh (Industry Summit Co-Chair) and Khaled Mokhtar. The Industry Summit has separate agenda and registration fees from the conference and is scheduled on 5 December 2019. This experience will be invaluable for future R8 industry-focused events organized in collaboration with other R8 sub-committees.

IEEE R8 FLAGSHIP CONFERENCES 2020

IEEE ENERGYcon 2020 (<http://ieeee-energycon2020.org/>) will be held in in Gammarth, Tunisia from 13-16 April 2020. The organizers have announced the 6 keynotes and distinguished speakers, and have obtained technical co-sponsorship by several IEEE Societies (IEEE Power & Energy Society, IEEE Industry Applications Society, IEEE Industrial Electronics Society and IEEE Power Electronics Society) which promises big number of submitted papers and attendance. Paper submission is open and the deadline is 15 November 2019.

IEEE MELECON 2020 (<http://melecon2020.org/>) will be held in Palermo, Italy from 16 to 18 June 2020. Paper Submission deadline is 16 December 2019.

IEEE R8 FLAGSHIP CONFERENCES 2021 - Approved by the OpCom

The R8 Conference Coordination Subcommittee (CoCSC) has made detailed evaluation of the submitted documents (detailed presentation and detailed budget) and has submitted a proposal to the OpCom for a final decision. The OpCom approved the proposal for the organizers and site selection of the 2021 R8 flagship conferences:

(a) EUROCON 2021 to IEEE Ukraine Section, Lviv, Ukraine, 6-8 Jul 2021. (b) AFRICON 2021 to IEEE Tanzania Subsection, Arusha, Tanzania, 13-15 Sep 2021.

IEEE R8 FLAGSHIP CONFERENCES 2022 - Call for host Sections

The R8 CoCSC will soon be e-mailing all Section and Subsection Chairs that the bid is open for a host Section for each of the next R8 flagship conferences in 2022:

(a) IEEE ENERGYCON 2022 (b) IEEE MELECON 2022 (c) IEEE IHTC 2021 - International Humanitarian Technologies Conference, initially held in R7, will start to rotate in a 3 years cycle between Regions 7, 8 and 9. IHTC 2020 will be held in R9 and IHTC 2021 in R8.

There is information on R8 CoCSC website: <https://ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/conference-coordination> Sample proposals from previous organizers can be provided to interested applicants. The timeline for proposals is as follows: - Letter of intent: 1 December 2019 - Initial bid: 15 January 2019 - Final bid: 28 February 2020 - Results: after the next R8 OpCom meeting

Future flagship conferences already approved (progress reports). You can upload a maximum of 5. Each pdf file can have a maximum size of 1 MB

Motions to approve future editions, including venue, dates, general chairs, financial share (files to be attached). You can upload a maximum of 5 files. Each pdf file can have a maximum size of 1 MB.

For past conferences editions: preliminary report, or final report, including attendees, papers, acceptance rate, financial report. You can upload a maximum of 5 files. Each pdf file can have a maximum size of 1 MB.

Proposals for improvements

- Improving flagship conferences outlook: The R8 Conference Coordination Subcommittee (CoCSC) is communicating with the next R8 flagship conferences organizers the need to have diverse and hybrid topics/programs such as industry tracks, entrepreneurship sessions, humanitarian sessions, etc. so that the conference program becomes more attractive. This goal can be facilitated by involvement of R8 other subcommittees and incorporating their activities, like Professional and Educational Activities (PEA) and Action for Industry (AfI), as well as Students and Young Professionals (SYP), Standards and Women in Engineering (WiE). The other important way to increase the conference attendance is by inviting some of the big IEEE Societies to co-sponsor the flagship conference. An excellent example is the ENERGYCON conference having obtained technical co-sponsorship by IEEE Power & Energy Society, IEEE Industry Applications Society, IEEE Industrial Electronics Society and IEEE Power Electronics Society, and has highest number of submitted papers and attendance of all R8 flagship conferences. Having ENERGYCON as a topic specific conference, the next MELECON conferences can become more ICT focused. To investigate that possibility, the CoCSC (Ljupco and Peter) made initial contacts at CONVENE 2019 with Prof. Stefano Bregni, Vice-President for Conferences, IEEE Communications Society, to jointly organize MELECON 2020 with their first edition of MedCom conference planned for the first week of July 2020. However, both conferences have already selected the local organizers and the venue, MedCom 2020 in Athens, Greece and MELECON 2020 in Palermo, Italy. The contacts will continue for the next edition of MELECON 2022.
- To increase the low number of financial co-sponsorship (FCS) of conferences by R8 Sections and Chapters CoCSC shall organize informative sessions for Section Chairs during the R8 Committee meetings in order to increase the awareness of the benefits from Sections/Chapters FCS. R8 can support struggling sections with financial co-sponsorship providing conference seed funds. The new increased MGA TSC fees, as mentioned earlier in this report, will help conference organizers themselves to opt for FCS instead of TCS.
- There is also a need for increased awareness of Section Chairs on Region 8 Technical Co-Sponsorship Requirements. To have R8 FCS/TCS, the conference must have at the minimum, one R8 Section and one local Chapter as technical co-sponsor. Also at least 2 current or previous R8 committee members should be involved in the review process. It is important to understand that Section should not "just click Approve button" but have direct and substantial involvement in the technical program of the conference, and help organizers find and contact current or previous R8 committee members from the near region and motivate them to be involved. The CoCSC has several examples of requests for TCS from low quality conference organizers who do not comply with the requirements (given on the CoCSC web page <https://ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/conference-coordination>).

Other Issues to report

The OpCom abolished the IEEE Region 8 fee of \$500 for TCS conferences where there is no financial involvement of any IEEE entity (not necessarily IEEE Region 8). This was on a recommendation from the CoCSC since this fee was with the same purpose as the MGA TCS Fee of \$1000 per TCS conference and \$15 per paper sent to IEEE Xplore, introduced for all conference applications received 1 January 2018 or later.

The MGA proposes TCS fee increase that will start after 1 January 2021 and will cover all the MGA costs, not only a part of them. This fee for service includes copyright, plagiarism checks, articles published in Xplore and MCE overhead. MGA proposes 3 options that are still discussed and will be submitted for decision to the IEEE Conference Committee and MGA Board. Proposed options for increase of the MGA TCS Fee:

- Option 1: \$1,000/conf + \$27/paper = $\hat{=}$ Cost Split (Event : Paper) = (28% : 72%). Example: TCS conference with 100 papers \$1,000 + \$27 X 100 = \$3,700
- Option 2: \$2,100/conf + \$15/paper = $\hat{=}$ Cost Split (Event : Paper) = (59% : 41%) Example: TCS conference with 100 papers \$2,100 + \$15 X 100 = \$3,600
- Option 3: \$1,500/conf + \$21/paper = $\hat{=}$ Cost Split (Event : Paper) = (43% : 57%) Example: A TCS Conference with 100 papers \$1,500 + \$21 X 100 = \$3,600

Allocation options for geo units:

- Charge the TCS cost to MGA OU
- Charge to conference
- Hybrid charge to OU and conference (charge the conference fee to the OU and charge the paper fees to Conference)

Region 8 partnered with the IEEE Technology and Engineering Management Society (TEMS) in order to improve its portfolio in industry-focused events. The OpCom approved financial co-sponsorship (5%) of the TEMS flagship event, the 2020 International Conference on Technology and Entrepreneurship (ICTE), Bologna, Italy, 19-22 April 2020. Region 8 representatives will be Technical Program Co-chair Marios Antoniou and Co-Treasurer Peter Nagy.