

## Women in Engineering Coordinator

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### Goals

- Active and vibrant WIE AGs: Increase the vitality of Section and Student Branch Affinity Groups by getting closer to the active AGs, identifying and revitalizing dormant AGs, and creating AGs in the remaining sections with the help of Section Chairs.
- Awards: Increase the awareness about R8 WIE programs and awards, and engaging WIE members; and define clear and transparent selection criteria of awards
- Establish WIE participation and visibility in R8 flagship events
- Increase the WIE membership in R8 and continue the growing trend achieved in past years
- Identify women leaders in STEM and create a new program and award to encourage leaders in Technology, and rank them as experts or models to other IEEE Women in technology.
- Encourage IEEE STEM conferences in R8 to have Women as organizing members, scientific members and plenary talk speakers.
- Close cooperation with the IEEE R8 Young Professionals, IEEE R8 Action For Industry and IEEE R8 Humanitarian Activities Subcommittees.

### Progress against goals since the last report

- Awards: we have defined clear and transparent selection criteria of the R8 WIE Awards and also of the Clementina Saduwa Award.
- WIE R8 has actively participated in R8 flagship events of 2019 with an active role (being part of the plenary session, speech and/ or giving a workshop)
- Pilot project of combined sessions of IEEE R8 WIE and YPs (held in EUROCON and the IEEE R8 CEuSYP) has been a full success and there are further plans to continue with this initiative in 2020.
- There is a continuous cooperation taking place with the IEEE R8 Young Professionals, IEEE R8 Action For Industry and IEEE R8 Humanitarian Activities Subcommittees using the model of Corresponding Membership.
- Stronger collaboration with MGA WIE as well as a with societies

### WIE participation in conferences, meetings or other events

Please check the file ("190915\_WIE R8\_Participation in events\_Status of September") for Information about the events WIE has participated/ will participate in 2019.

### WIE activities/initiatives planned

- Combined sessions in IEEE flagship conferences/ events between IEEE R8 WIE and YPs in 2020
- Set an initiative together with the IEEE R8 HuAc SC to identify the reasons of lack of leadership opportunities of women engineers in the Middle East and Africa and, by this, set a program to support women engineers.
- Revitalize dormant AGs, find out what our members expectations and needs are, create programs that better serve the needs of our members
- Identify women leaders in STEM and create a new program and award to encourage leaders in Technology, and rank them as experts or models to other IEEE Women in technology
- Establish an efficient communication platform to support existing WIE AGs and guide the people who would like to create a new WIE AG via regular webinars to reach out members/chairs of WIE AGs and via a survey to establish communication channels and find out about expectations of members.
- Propose a new program in order to develop in young girls, during their first education life, the mind of engineer and guide their tendencies towards engineering passion and studies
- Further guide the organizers of the WIE ILS R8 in 2020 and ensure a higher number of participants for next year and more variety in the precedence of speakers.

### WIE activities/initiatives developed

- Get in touch with WIE section AG and WIE Std AG to promote WIE programs and awards
- Update the Roster of R8 WIE AGs and send messages to verify the vitality of existing groups
- Establish contact with Section Chairs for Sections with no AG to create one
- Encourage IEEE STEM conferences in R8 to have Women as organizing members, scientific members and plenary talk speakers
- Providing help for the WIE ILS hosts from the R8

### Proposals for improvements

- WIE ILS R8: ensure a higher number of participants for next year and more variety in the provenance of speakers.
- Establish a guide including criteria for the nomination of awards to increase the clarify for IEEE members wanting to apply

### **Proposals for improvements**

- Due to the large number of WIE Section and Student AGs, effective ways of establishing connection and most importantly keeping the exchange going regularly is a challenge for the limited number of WIE Subcommittee members
- WIE AGs do not have sources for funding within Region 8. The only funding is an amount of 300 USD that should be requested from MGA 3 months prior to the event
- Sections should be encouraged to financially support their WIE AG events
- It is preferable to have regional support in case the Section is not able to
- There is no support for WIE AG representatives to attend events such as the SYP or other conferences
- As a start, active Section WIE AGs could send a funded representative (who is also a Student member or a Young Professional) to the SYP, which will provide significant motivation
- Means of involving WIE officers in various trainings, especially with the lack of funding

### **Other Issues to report**