

**Director**

**Magdalena Salazar Palma**

**Goals**

1. As R8 Director, and Chair of the R8 Committee, the Director's goals are aligned with the goals of the VCs, SCs, and Africa Council. Concrete goals include:
  - Devise a financial plan which will support increased activities of the SCs.
  - Membership, including Students:
    - o Consolidated the growth trend,
    - o Increase the retention,
    - o Continue R8 focus on Students and YP,
    - o Support WIE SC,
    - o Focus on Humanitarian Activities.
  - Technical Activities:
    - o Continue to focus on becoming closer to industry with the scope of better serving practitioner members, and increasing the number of members from industry,
    - o Revitalize R8 chapters,
    - o Reinforce relations with IEEE Societies and Technical Councils.
  - Consolidate R8 flagship conferences and increase the portfolio of financially and technically cosponsored conferences.
  - Increase R8 visibility.
  - Increase R8 member and OU recognitions through IEEE level, MGAB and R8 awards.
  
2. As member of IEEE MGAB and IEEE BoD, to attend the various meetings of these Boards and support their strategies and operations. The Director is member of MGAB Strategic Planning Sub Committee and IEEE *Ad Hoc* Committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Professional Ethics. Concrete goals include:
  - Devising and supporting MGAB Strategic Plan, in particular for the future structure of Regions
  - Supporting IEEE BoD strategy on a new membership model,
  - Supporting IEEE BoD activities on diversity, inclusion and ethics.

She is the Chair also of IEEE Kiyo Tomiyasu Award Committee, one of the Technical Field Award Committees.

**Status**

1. R8 Statistics and Achievements

a) R8 membership:

We have just started the new Membership year. Thus, the more recent membership statistics (August 2019) show numbers below those corresponding to January 2019 shown during the 112th R8 Committee meeting. However the following positive outputs can be highlighted:

- 11 R8 Sections met both their recruitment and retention goals for the year and have earned the Gold recognition status (Algeria, Ukraine, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Macedonia, Romania, Kuwait, Bahrain, Estonia, Greece, Morocco Sections)
- 13 R8 Sections achieved their recruitment goal (Western Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Latvia, Ghana, Switzerland, Denmark, Tunisia, Malta, Sweden, Hungary, Germany, Benelux, UK & I Sections)
- 4 R8 Sections achieved their retention goal (Belarus, Lithuania, Austria, Lebanon Sections)

b) R8 OUs statistics:

- 59 Sections.
- 10 Subsections; there are plans for the elevation of one subsection to Section, and for the formation of new Subsections in Eastern Europe and Africa.
- Since the last R8 Committee meeting, 46 new Chapters have been formed, and 30 have been dissolved.
- Since the last meeting, 13 new Student Branches have been formed.
- Since the last meeting, 26 new Student Branch Chapters have been formed.
- Since the last meeting, 1 new YP AG has been formed, giving a total of 53 YP AGs!
- Since the last meeting, 3 new WIE AG have been formed.
- Since the last meeting, 6 new Student Branch WIE AG have been formed.
- Since the last meeting, 1 new LM AG has been formed.

c) R8 achievements:

- Since the last Committee meeting:
  - 3 R8 flagship Conferences have taken place: Eurocon 2019, in Novi Sad, Serbia, 1-4 July 2019; IEEE Histelcon 2019, in Glasgow, UK, 18-19 September 2019; and Africon, Accra, Ghana, 25-27 September 2019.
  - 12 Conferences cosponsored by the Region took place.
  - 1 WIE ILS was held in Porto (Portugal), 25-27 July 2019.
  - 2 Cross Sectional SYP Congresses have taken place: CEuSYP 2019, Novi Sad, Serbia, 2-4 July 2019; WESYP 2019, Glasgow, Scotland, UK, 20-21 September 2019;
- Since the last Committee meeting two History Milestones have been unveiled in R8 Sections:
  - Salvá's Electric Telegraph, Spain, 17 May 2019;
  - Standardisation of the Ohm, UK & I, 17 September 2019;
 Other milestones will be unveiled before the end of the year.
- Since the last Committee meeting:
  - 6 Region 8 individuals have been announced as recipients of 2020 IEEE Technical Field Awards (out of 31);
  - Two R8 Sections have been selected as recipients of MGA Outstanding Section Awards:
    - Medium Section: IEEE South Africa Section.
    - Small Section: IEEE Kenya Section

2. Director's calendar from 18 March 2019:

- Startup Olé, Salamanca, Spain, 26-27 March 2019
- Scouting Valencia Hotels for 113<sup>th</sup> R8 Committee meeting, 28-29 March 2019
- IEEE Vision, Innovation, and Challenges Summit, San Diego, CA, USA, 17 May 2019.
- R8 OpCom meeting, Brussels, Belgium, 31 May-2 June 2019
- IEEE Meeting Series, including MGAB, IEEE Assembly and IEEE BoD meetings, Atlanta, GA, USA, 19-24 June 2019
- Eurocon, Novi Sad, Serbia, 1-4 July 2019
- CEuSYP, Novi Sad, Serbia, 2-4 July 2019
- WIE ILS Porto, Portugal, 25-27 July 2019
- IEEE Convene, Washington Dc, USA, 31 July-2 August 2019
- R8 N&A Sub Committee meeting, Budapest, Hungary, 30-31 August 2019
- IEEE Histelcon, Glasgow, Scotland, UK, 18-19 September 2019
- WESYP 2019, Glasgow, Scotland, UK, 20-21 September 2019
- 113<sup>th</sup> R8 Committee meeting, Valencia, Spain, 11-13 October 2019

Attended also a number of WebEx meetings of IEEE BoD, MGA Strategic Planning Committee, IEEE *Ad Hoc* Committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Professional Ethics, R8 OpCom and other Committees.

3. Status of actions taken to achieve the goals:

- Finances: An *Ad Hoc* Finance Committee has been established.
- R8 membership, Students, YP and WIE: The corresponding SCs have done an outstanding job in improving their activities.
- LM AG Chairs are going to have a meeting in conjunction with the 113<sup>th</sup> R8 Committee meeting, which is expected to revitalize these AGs and create links with other OUs and members.
- Technical Activities in R8 are being improved through the work of the corresponding SCs.
- Africa Council is going to celebrate its fourth meeting during the 113<sup>th</sup> R8 Committee meeting.
- Alignment of the Strategic Planning SC with IEEE goals on new membership model, possible restructure of Regions and diversity, inclusion and professional ethics.
- Sections reports show a high level of activities and engagement. Sections vitality is good in the overall.

**Outlook**

Local activities at the Section and Subsection level are the basis of IEEE: Chapters, Student Branches, Student Branch Chapters, Affinity Groups (LM, YP, WIE), and Student Branch WIE Affinity Groups. The operation of all R8 Sub Committees is vital to increase the benefits offered to R8 members and make IEEE their professional home. R8 OpCom continues to oversee and try to help the operations of Sub Committees, Sections, Subsections, and Africa Council.

**Points of Concern**

The finance situation of the Region is a point of concern. The Finance Committee needs to look into ways of reducing expenses and increasing the income, in order to reach a healthy cash flow.

**Other issues to report**

None.