

Finland Section

Dmitry Petrov

List the activities carried out to foster relations with Industry and the results obtained. List the initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes. How can the Region help your Section in your industry-related activities?

"Value for industry" is traditionally one of the focus themes of the Finland Section. Industrial member are well presented in the new Section board. Over the past few years the number of industrial contacts have been increasing substantially within the Finland Section. We always evaluate the values and require industry involvement for all activities (conferences, seminars etc.) that we provide support for. "Image Sensing and Processing" seminar arranged together with the Institute of Physics (IoP) on 20th of September 2019 is a good example of such events, where academic and industrial members can meet together on the same stage and discuss the latest technological trends. We are planning to arrange similar event in the future. Company visits always attract a lot of interest from the members in our section. For example, the latest annual Section meeting took place at Nokia and included presentations from industrial experts. IEEE is strongly present in the area of standardization, however this activity is not broadly known to all of our members. We would like to cover this gap and it would be important to get Region support and advice from other Sections in this direction.

List the activities addressed to Students and/or Young Professionals and the results obtained. List the initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes. How can the Region help in your students and YP-related activities?

The IEEE Nordic Student and Young Professional (SYP) Congress that took place in October 2019 between Finland and Sweden was a great success. This event promoted cooperation and gave the opportunity to share the ideas between the Nordic student branches, young professionals and women in engineering affinity groups and chapters. This was already the 3rd edition of the event. At the end of 2019 we introduced best conference and journal student paper award in our Section to praise high-quality publications of our members. Student/Young professionals activities in 2020 will be focusing on several directions. Firstly, we are arranging industry supported BSc thesis program with the target to bring closer teaching of power electronics and control theory to industry requirements. To support that, get together industry and graduating students event will be held in Tampere. Another IEEE day in Jyväskylä is under discussion. In addition, we also encourage our technical chapters to direct their activities to attract also student members within their technical field. Over the past year, these activities have been particularly worthwhile.

List the activities carried out to retain and recruit members and the results obtained. List the initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes. How can the Region help in your membership-related activities?

Even though we have been actively looking for new ways to provide value to our membership base, meetings, seminars and conferences seem to be the most effective way to do that. Finland Section actively engages and supports events that are of high quality and in the field relevant to our current and future members. In the future, we are planning to continue the practice of industrial visits for our members, that let them getting an inside look at technology development in companies. We also want to establish better connection between IEEE conferences held in Finland and our Section. Satellite event at one of the conference in autumn 2020 is under planning. We are constantly working on the improvement of communications between the section members. We are trying to use more actively our LinkedIn group and also are discussing the improvements to be made in the design of the section web site in the near future.

List the activities intended to support chapters, affinity groups, and student branches and the results obtained. List the related initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes. How can the Region help in your support to chapters, affinity groups, and student branches?

This year elections took place in the Section and we managed to get very active IEEE members into the Board. Finland Section is seeking to engage in collaborative relations with other societies with similar focus. One example of such activity is the collaboration with the local branch of the Institute of Physics (IOP) in organization of industry-academy seminars. Finland Section is also supporting its Technical Chapters to collaborate with their counterparts in other Sections in the Nordics. For instance, Chapters of the IEEE/EPS and IEEE/Educational societies merged to form a Nordics-wide joint chapters. For example, NordPac technical conference exhibition is traveling from one destination to another within the Nordic states. The latest edition of NordPac was organized in June 2019 in Denmark.

Finland Section also seeks to engage new members by inviting them to events and to participate in volunteering activities. We have been quite successful in engaging new members but this activity should be made continuous.

Challenges (with a focus on what support is required from Region 8)

It would good to get additional support from the Region for the events that involve participation of members from other sections and also for the visits of industrial experts (i.e. who are not distinguished lecturers) who could present areas where IEEE is actively involved (e.g. standardization).