

## Iran Section

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**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?**

- 1) The chair of the industrial activities has been appointed from industry. He is an entrepreneur who has worked for 40 years in industry. He knows the telecom industry in Iran very well and he is in the BOD of Telecom syndicate of Iran. Thus, he helped us get further in touch with the industry.
- 2) We started fund raising from industry to expand our activities. The past two general meetings that we had, i.e. the annual Iran section meeting and the counselors' meeting, were 80% financially sponsored by the funding from two companies.
- 3) We conducted two keynote speaks by CEOs of two successful companies for the students and counselors. These speeches helped a lot to motivate students and guide them toward their future directions in industry.
- 4) We conducted a discussion session between two leading universities and the telecom industry members on the "successful models of collaboration between industry and academia" topic. This was the first session of the discussion series between academia and industry on the successful models for collaboration. It ignited new ideas for collaboration.
- 5) We started white papers on methods for developing TRL-MRL. This would help the industry, and specially the startups to better decide their direction. We are almost to the end of the first version of method(s) for developing TRL-MRL road ahead documents.

The plan for the next 6 months:

- 1) We have planned to run a column in two leading magazines in telecom industry to introduce IEEE to the industry. We expect to better familiarize the industry with IEEE.
- 2) Conducting talks by members from industry on HR, future directions in industry, ... We expect to increase the collaboration between the industry and academia.
- 3) Conducting two more sessions on the "successful models of collaboration between industry and academia". We expect to play a key role in improving the relationship between the industry and academia.
- 4) Conducting industry visits for the students and faculty members to become more aware of the market and industry. We expect to highlight the industry demands of our members.
- 5) Developing internship portal/list to give students better access to industrial internships. This would be an added value for our members to increase the membership.

How can the region help?

- 1) Give us access to internships opportunities in the region and beyond so our students can get better in touch with the industry. It makes it easier for them to become a member of the international workforce.
- 2) Provide the faculty members, and specially the counselors, short time internships/visits to industry to better understand the industrial environment. This would help them to better guide and advise the students.
- 3) Help us find the best method/protocol for developing MRL-TRL so the industry and academia can plan their future direction. IEEE would show its capability to help in this regard through providing knowhow on these methods.
- 4) Provide the success models of collaboration between industry and academia to all so we can compare our models to the best practices in R8 or the world.
- 5) Help us invite influential and successful people from industry in R8 to our section, through conferences and meetings, to gain knowledge from them. This is especially important for our startups.

**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?**

We have done the following:

- 1) Provided better support for student travel to our annual meetings. It helped us to increase the number of attendees to these meetings
- 2) We started our own Spectrum type of blog in which the students prepare articles related to IEEE for the all the members and beyond.
- 3) Started a new competition for students on ideas toward cleaner world by recycling. We hope that it creates better awareness about recycling and better world.
- 4) Started a new competition for students on infographic for sustainable development. This would help students better understand the sustainable development while they learn how to develop infographic materials.
- 5) We started a discussion with the IEEE Turkey section for more interaction through student branches.

List the initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes:

- 1) We have planned to get several students help different committees. We expect that the students get better understanding of the volunteer work. Furthermore, they get the chance to work with high profile members and learn from them.
- 2) We have planned a new workshop on recommended/successful practices in voluntary activities by YP. We expect to help the students and YPs to get more involved and enjoy voluntary activities.
- 3) We have planned a new workshop on IEEE SIGHT for IEEE Iran Section student branches by SAC. This would increase their understanding of the IEEE slogan: "Technology for humanity".
- 4) In the next 6 months, we would try to pair student branches, one from the Iran section and one from the Turkey section, as sister branches. We hope to increase the student activities through this cooperation.

- 5) We have planned to have regional meetings with student branches within Iran. This would help to increase the interaction between the branches and the section. How can the Region help in your students and YP-related activities? \*
- 6) It would be great if R8 can provide support for our students to attend different activities at R8. Due to sudden exchange rate changes between our currency and foreign currencies, it has been very difficult for our students and YP to pay for their membership and participate in conferences and other activities outside Iran.

**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?**

We have prepared materials to show the importance of becoming a member or staying a member. Furthermore, we have asked our student branches to contact the old members to continue their membership. Moreover, we ask them to setup desks at their universities to recruit members.

We have formed a network of recruiters from our student branches all around the country and supplied them with the following materials:

- 1) An electronic booklet, in English and Farsi, containing information regarding global and local benefits of various IEEE membership grades.
- 2) An exclusive list, for each recruiter according to where she/he is based, of Iran Section members who are due to renew, along with a list of academics and professionals who may have an interest in joining IEEE. Each recruiter is expected to contact those on her/his respective list and encourage them to join IEEE or renew membership. Furthermore, recruiters are expected to set up desks at various events such as conferences, workshops, and exhibitions to recruit new members.

List the initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes.

We plan to enrich our recruiters' community by improving the MD materials. Furthermore, we have planned to build a platform to connect the recruiters. Finally, we have planned to find out viable ways to incentivize the recruiters. How can the Region help?

- 1) If R8 can convince the headquarters to provide lower dues for our members, we can keep them and attract new members. This is due to the sudden exchange rate changes between our currency and foreign currencies that has been very difficult for our students to pay for their membership.
- 2) To incentivize our recruiters, we wish to have them benefit from the IEEE Member-get-a-Member (MGM) program. R8 support can significantly help convince the headquarters not to exclude recruiters from our country from the MGM program.

**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?**

We supported the start of two new chapters in our section. The elections of the existing chapters have been conducted and the new chairs and directors have been elected. We have planned several technical talks and working with conferences to improve their qualities.

As mentioned in the above parts, we have planned to create sister branches between Iran and Turkey to increase the activities of our student branches. Our SAC is in touch with the Turkey section SAC to start the collaboration.

The main help from R8 can be providing speakers for our conferences and scientific gatherings. Furthermore, providing mentorship for our students and YP can help them better plan for the future.

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

Our main challenge at the moment is the membership renewal. Last year we had a decline of 60% from about 1700 to 800 members. This year does not look better. R8 can convince the headquarters to give better discount to our members.