Morocco Section   Mohammed El Mohajir

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?

We continue running our "Industry.Connect" initiative by running joint workshops with companies from the private sector. We have therefore organized in October 2019 a "Virtual Reality" workshop with an SME from Tangier, and a "Smart Transportation" workshop in Casablanca animated by keynote speakers from both the public and the private sectors.

We have also run the "IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship Initiative" on November 2019. We had about 60 participants coming from all over Morocco coached for their startups by professionals from both Academia and the industry.

Our section will continue expanding its network to engage more professionals from the industry in their activities to offer training and continuing education for students and professionals, and also provide skilled resources to the SMEs and companies.

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 2019 IEEE day was celebrated by our student branches in Rabat (INPT, ENSIAS), Fez (USMBA, ENSA), Casablanca (UH2), Marrakech (UCA) and Tetouan (UAE, ENSA). It was a great opportunity to initiate and develop new projects, and provide real value to the communities, from both the technical and the humanitarian points of view.

Our section is also involved in the organization of a dozen of international conferences during 2020. Reduced IEEE rates are offered to encourage students and professionals to attend and get interested in IEEE.

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?

The events and workshops that our organizational units have organized helped their growth because new members have joined. A new Chapter on Computational Intelligence has been formed with more than 12 members following a workshop held in Marrakech during November 2019. A training on the EDAS platform will also be offered to program chairs of conferences to be able to manage efficiently submissions and the reviewing processes. This will help the organizers meet more easily the required standards and produce better quality proceedings.

And again, our Student Branch volunteers took advantage of the activities organized in various universities to attract and keep students interested in IEEE.

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?

As mentioned in other sections, our student branches have been active in attracting new students and recruiting new members. They organized and/or participated in workshops in different new areas of science and engineering like: Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, IoT, Big Data, Robotics, Virtual and Augmented Reality, Automotive safety, Intelligent Transportation, Information System Governance, entrepreneurship (Innopreneurship), and technology startup projects... Other partners like IBM, Google, KSF Space, NASA were involved in some of these workshops, trainings and certifications. Many of our members also participated in the IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship Initiative (as mentioned above).

Different meetings have been scheduled, in addition to organizing and participating in the usual IEEE Day, IEEEXtreme Programming Competition, Innovation Week, and other Hackathons... Our WIE affinity group has partnered with Afchix, a network of women in Technology, in some activities related to a project sponsored by USAID about gender-sensitive approaches to connect the unconnected (specially women in rural areas like some in Midelt region in the Middle Atlas) using community network models. Students from our INPT student branch were also invited to contribute to this activity. Our YP affinity group is planning the 1st Morocco SYP Congress in 2020. The goal is to connect all our YP and SBs nationwide and also invite volunteers from other sections to join and participate in this effort.

Our students/volunteers were encouraged to reach out to younger students and children:

- INPT SB volunteers organized a workshop on electronics for children from "Al Rayane" Association in Rabat, in collaboration with the INPT social club, letting them build circuits by themselves.
- UCA SB volunteers visited a high school in the Marrakech area and organized IT and entrepreneurship workshops, and animated some mind games' activities for the school's students.
- USMBA SB volunteers organized "Robotics for Children" with several robotics' events dedicated to children in Fez area. The purpose was to stimulate children's interest in, and strengthen their motivation for, the field of engineering:
- Introduction to Robotics workshops,
- Teamwork challenges,
- Robotics Competitions (local, regional, national.)

We will continue running our section vitality events and invite all our active volunteers to participate in brainstorming sessions and meetings to empower them and support them in developing and executing their action plan.

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

Support is needed for activities like the Morocco SYP Congress planned for 2020; the region may help by providing funding, keynotes and experts to support running seminars, trainings and workshops.

Support is also needed for other workshops aiming at strengthening the academia / industry relationship and collaboration. There is a need for more outreach actions to attract more members/volunteers from academia, but also specially from industry. Actions of our IEEE WIE affinity group undertaken with other women organization partners also can use some support.