Turkey 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?

Our point person in Turkey Section for relations with industry is "Industry Relations Coordinator". Our society chairs and student representative (i.e., head of student chapters) also have direct interaction with the Turkish industry. However, they turn to our Industry Relations Coordinator whenever they need extra support. The industry provides financial support for IEEE conferences held in Turkey as well as many meetings/seminars held by our chapters including student chapters. We, in Turkey, hold many training camps and job fairs as well as student conferences. The industry sends speakers and recruiters to these events. We have initiated what we call Career Chats, and we plan to organize them in as many universities as possible. In the next 6 months, we plan to continue what we are doing and to also hold some activities to bridge the gap between academia and industry. The current situation is that a significant portion of our engineering graduates cannot find jobs while also many positions in the industry go unfilled. This year, we will host Sohaib Qamar Sheikh, Region 8 Vice-Chair of Technical Activities. He will give us a talk about industry relations during the largest IEEE conference in Turkey, called SIU. With such interaction between Region 8 and Turkey Section, the professionals and students in Turkey can and will understand the combined high-tech ecosystem in Europe much better.

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 organize many training camps, job fairs, and student conferences. Especially, the student conferences attract a few thousand people. The best part of all this is that these few thousand students and young professionals not only participate in the respective events but they also compete with each other in helping to organize the events. Within the last year, Turkey Section sponsored IEEE Turkey YP and Student Conference and organized a graduation project competition. In addition, we gave thesis awards to PhD students and research excellence awards to young researchers. In our management, we have a Student Activities Coordinator and also a YP Representative dedicated to helping and supervising student chapters, their higher management, and young professionals' activities. Our student chapters also have society representation underneath them and in their national higher management. They also get support from our society chairs. Many of our students continue their involvement with the student chapters after graduation through the YP organization or directly with the student chapters. Note that within the last 12 months, we received many prizes within the following categories: The Darrel Chong Student Activity Award, IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award, and IEEE Outstanding Branch Counselor and Branch Chapter Advisor Award. Our YP started Mentor-Mentee Program last year. More than 100 mentors from the industry helped IEEE student members. Our student body plans to hold EMBS, CS, WIE, and ComSoc student conferences within the next 6 months. During the same period, they will hold 3 regional meetings. Between January and June, Fanuch will employ 50 interns within the scope of an agreement between them and our student chapters. Makers Turkey will offer free training to 30 students. They will also hold training sessions and competitions such as IEEExtreme, Game Jam, and RAS Competition. Our YP people, on the other hand, will hold seminars, webinars, and workshops in 11 different fields in the months to come. They are also setting up a web page currently. Region 8 can easily help out with webinars. We would be grateful if Region 8 also sent some speakers to some of our student and YP events.

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?

In Turkey, a significant number of IEEE sponsored conferences are organized. These conferences plus student conferences plus some IEEE competitions, they either require IEEE membership or extend discounts to IEEE members. Our student chapters as well as professional chapters promote and explain the benefits of IEEE membership in their respective events as well as society memberships. We plan to advertise the benefits of membership on our section web page as well as the web pages of our affiliate organizations. We are interested to find out from Region 8 management how we are doing in Turkey in terms of membership. We would welcome tips from countries that have success stories.

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?

I just got elected IEEE Turkey Section Chair. That was the beginning of January 2020. With that, most of the higher management of our section got replaced. Our PES chapter elected a new chair as well as YP. Our student chapter management always holds elections in August of every year. IEEE Sight Turkey has recently been established. Our student chapters organize many humanitarian activities. Our Educational Activities Coordinator with his team also holds events. We award prizes in the categories of Lifetime Achievement and Exemplary Service. We have a new slogan "Programming is the New Literacy" especially pushed forward by our IEEE Computer Society. We plan to hold activities that will offer computer programming education as early as 3rd grade. We are especially open to cooperation with the Region in our programming education drive.

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

Going forward, we would like to advertise our events within Region 8, and we would love to receive requests for attending these events from students, professors, and industry people within the Region as participants, speakers, educators, and recruiters. We are looking forward to cooperating with the Region's management in promoting our events.