

Director

Magdalena Salazar Palma

Goals

- 1) The Region 8 (R8) Director is the Chair of the R8 Committee, which consists of the Operating Committee or OpCom (which besides the Director includes the Past Director, Director Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and the three Vice Chairs for Student Activities, Member Activities, and Technical Activities), the Section Chairs, and the various Sub Committees (SC) under the purview of the Directors, Treasurer, Secretary, or Vice Chairs (VC). Special mention should be made of the Africa Council. As R8 Committee Chair the job of the Director is to support and oversee the Committee operations an also includes supporting Section Chairs, and strongly supporting the VCs, the various Sub Committees and the Africa Council in their strategy and goals.

The Director's goals are aligned with the goals of the Sections and Sub Sections, VCs, SCs, and Africa Council. Concrete goals include:

- Define a strategy to support Sections vitality and their daily operations and the development of Sub Sections under the Region.
- Devise a financial plan which will support increased activities of the SCs.
- Membership, including Students:
 - Review the strategies to increase membership in order to recover the previous year growth trend,
 - Increase the retention through programs like Senior Member elevation campaign, Students and Young Professionals retention strategies, and so on,
 - Continue R8 focus on Students and YP,
 - Support Women in Engineering (WIE) SC,
 - Focus on Humanitarian Activities.
- Technical Activities:
 - Continue to focus on becoming closer to industry with the scope of better serving practitioner members, and increasing the number of members from industry,
 - Revitalize R8 chapters,
 - 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 (Member and Geographic Activities Board) and R8 awards.

- 2) R8 Director serves as member of IEEE MGAB and as member of the IEEE Board of Directors (BoD). Besides attending the various meetings of the MGAB and BoD, this part of the job includes supporting their strategy and operations. Thus, the Director's goals are aligned with those of the MGAB and BoD. The Director is also member of IEEE Governance Committee, the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Professional Ethics, Chair of the IEEE Kiyo Tomiyasu Award Committee (one of the IEEE Technical Field Awards), member of the IEEE Technical Field Awards Council and of the IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Future-Proofing Healthy Volunteer Pipelines throughout the IEEE.

Concrete goals include:

- Devising and supporting MGAB Strategic Plan, in particular for the future structure of Regions
- Support IEEE BoD strategy, and in particular, for 2020, on Educational Activities,
- Support IEEE BoD activities on diversity, inclusion and ethics.
- Support the IEEE various Committees to achieve their goals in terms of reviewing the Governance Documents, and so on.

Status

- R8 Statistics and Achievements

- 1) Membership statistics:

As of January 2020 and comparing with January 2019, there is a decrease of 1,716 members, i.e., a 2.2% decrease, with a total of 76,900 members. By grade:

- 9 Honorary members (-1); 0.01% of total R8 members.
- 1,311 Fellows (+35); 16.6% of total R8 members.
- 9,411 Senior members (+716); 12.2% of total R8 members.
- 40,803 Members (-1,754); 53.1% of total R8 members.
- 1,417 Associates (-113); 1.8% of total R8 members.
- 11,671 Graduate Student members (+367); 15.2% of total R8 members.
- 12,278 Student members (-966); 16% of total R8 members.

At the IEEE level, there has been a global decrease of -0.9%. The only two Regions that have achieved a positive growth have been Region 9 (+3.8%) and Region 10 (+3.1%). All other Regions (1-7) had a decline between -2.3% and -4.4%.

- 2) R8 OUs statistics:

- 1 Council;
- 59 Sections;

- 10 Subsections; six African countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Lybia, Namibia, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe) and one Eastern European country (Georgia) are potential candidates for new Subsections (with total number of members between 23 and 64);
- 610 Chapters; +58 since March 2019;
- 102 Affinity Groups (AG); it should be highlighted that the first 2 Consultant Network Affinity Groups have been established in Nigeria Section first, and in Tunisia Section next.
- 663 Student Branches;
- 405 Student Branch Chapters;
- 137 Student Affinity Groups;
- 3) R8 achievements:
 - One WIE International Leadership Summit (ILS) held in R8 in 2019, Porto, Portugal; two WIE ILS to be held in 2020 in Kampala, Uganda, October 2020, and Genoa, Italy, November 2020.
 - Six R8 flagship conferences, usually organized in the span of two years (2019: Eurocon, Africon, Histelcon, and Educon; in 2020: Melecon, Educon and Energycon)
 - More than 800 Conferences took place or are planned to take place in R8 in 2019-2020, cosponsored by either R8, R8 Sections, R8 Chapters/AG or Societies/Councils
 - In 2019 there were 5 Milestones dedicated in R8:
 - Salvá's Electric Telegraph (Spain),
 - Standardisation of the Ohm (UK and Ireland),
 - Radar Predecessor (Germany),
 - WiFi Precursor (Benelux), and
 - Czochralski Process (Poland and Germany).
 - In 2020 there are 2 Division Directors and 11 Society/Technical Council Presidents from R8
 - Awards received by R8 teams or individuals during 2019:
 - Three IEEE Medals and Recognitions (out of 20):
 - * Edison Medal: Frede Blaabjerg, Denmark
 - * Medal in Power Engineering: Rik W. de Doncker, Germany
 - * Honorary Membership: Borys Paton, Ukraine
 - Seven IEEE Technical Field Awards (out of 31):
 - * Electronics Packaging Award: Peter Ramm (co-recipient), Germany
 - * Herman Halperin Electric Transmission and Distribution Award to Dusan Povh, Germany
 - * Masaru Ibuka Consumer Electronics Award: Eben C. Ipton, UK Ireland
 - * Joseph F. Keithley Award in Instrumentation and Measurement: Dario Petri, Italy
 - * Gustav Robert Kirchhoff Award: Martin Hasler, Switzerland
 - * Donald O. Pederson Award in Solid-State Circuits: Klaas Bult, Benelux
 - * Transportation Technologies Award: Markos Papageorgiou, Greece
 - One Joint SEE/IEEE Alain Glavieux Award: Jakob Hoydis, France
 - TAB Hall of Honor: Vincenzo Piuri, Italy
 - From IEEE MGAB, 6 awards:
 - * One Achievement Award (out of six): Carl James Debono, Malta
 - * One Leadership Award (out of three): Humpkrey M. Muhindi, Kenya
 - * Outstanding Medium Section Award: South Africa
 - * Outstanding Small Section Award: Kenya
 - * Friend of IEEE MGA Award: King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia
 - * Young Professionals Achievement Award (out of six): Abdullateef Aliyu, Nigeria
 - From IEEE Student Activities:
 - * Global Student Branch Website Contest: An-Najah National University, Pastine Sub Section
 - * Outstanding Branch Counselor Award: 5 awards:
 - * University of Zagreb, Croatia;
 - * American University Beirut, Lebanon;
 - * Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Nigeria;
 - * Istanbul Medipol University, Turkey;
 - * Easter Mediterranean University, Turkey.
 - From IEEE WIE:
 - * Honorable mention, WIE Inspiring Inspiring Member of the Year award: Chidimma Ijeoma Ibeh-Dimnwobi, Nigeria
 - * Honorable mention, WIE Inspiring Student Member of the Year award to Feryel Ksiksi, Tunisia
- Status of actions taken to achieve the goals:
 - In order to achieve the goal of helping Sections vitality and Sub Sections development, the previously called Region Vitality Sub Committee has been renamed to better reflect its scope. It has become Sections Vitality and Development Sub Committee (SVD SC). The team members include a new Chair, the previous Chair, who was willing to step down as Chair, one member from 2019, and a corresponding member from previous year. To better

cover the scope of the committee the team was extended with the Chairs of 8 Sub Sections having Region8 as their parent. The SC work has given excellent results in terms of the follow up of the Sections elections and rebates with nearly 100

- Finances: The Ad Hoc Finance Committee established in 2019 has proven to be very efficient for R8 finances. It has been reestablished for 2020.
- R8 membership, Students and YP: From the membership statistics, it may be concluded that the strategy followed in R8 with respect to membership is paying back. However there has been a decline in the number of members due mainly to the problems related to a given Section. In order to go back to the growth trend of the previous year strategies are being considered by the VC for Member Activities (MA) and the various Sub Committees under him, and the Student Activities (SA) Sub Committee.
 - Membership Development (MD) workshops are been planned
 - During the past five years R8 has been focusing on engaging and retaining Students and YPs. All the good practices are to be maintained and reinforced:
 - * Regional Student YP (SYP) Congresses on even years: the R8 SYP 2020 is under preparation,
 - * Cross Sectional SYP Congress on odd years (6 in 2019: Gulf Council Cooperation SYP, Africa SYP, Central European SYP, Hellenic SYP, Western European SYP, Nordic SYP and there are plans to hold the Middle East SYP in April 2020 if the pandemic situation allows it),
 - * Follow up of active Student Branches (SB), revitalize dormant SBs
 - * Follow up of active Affinity Groups (AG): YP, WIE and LF (Life Members)
 - * Follow up the two new Consultant Network AGs.
 - Training campaign of new volunteers for Humanitarian Activities is ongoing.
- Technical Activities:
 - Action for Industry program is being maintained and reinforced with plans for engaging more companies, internships, and so on.
 - Chapter Coordination Sub Committee is been revitalized. Corresponding members are all Division Directors and Society/Technical Council Presidents of R8.
 - Plans to improve flagship conferences and to increase the number of financial and technical cosponsored conferences are been analyzed.
- Africa Council celebrated its first elections in 2019. Its new ExCom has started working.
- R8 visibility: The Ad Hoc Publications and Communications SC established in 2019 continues its work towards the coordination an enhancement of existing publications (R8 News, R8 Today, Social Media, Webpage) and to analyze the opportunities of a R8 Technical Magazine.
- Campaign to nominate R8 members to the various awards will be started soon.
- The R8 Strategic Planning SC with IEEE goals has worked all year round on the possible restructure of Regions.
- All SCs have kept a high level of activity.
- Sections reports show a high level of activities and engagement. This Sections vitality is good in the overall.

Outlook

Local activities at the Section and Subsection level are the basis of IEEE. 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 will be overseeing and trying to help the operations of Sub Committees, Sections, Subsections, and Africa Council.

Points of Concern

The finance situation of the Region was a point of concern before. However, the situation has improved. In 2019 Region 8 spent less than it was planned. The Treasurer and the Finance Sub Committee have worked out a more realistic budget for 2020. However it is difficult to assess how the pandemic situation, and possible changes in the membership dues and assessments will impact R8 operations and finances.

Other Issues to report

None.