

114th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting Unapproved Minutes of the Meeting

Online, 21 of March 2020

The agenda and backup documentation are available at:

<https://tawapps.ieee.org/mpt/Agenda.aspx?eid=15575>

Items in these minutes are numbered according to the agenda.

1. Procedural – Call to Order

Region 8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma calls the committee to order and opens the 114th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting by welcoming all delegates.

2. Procedural – Roll Call / Introduction of New Officers / Representatives / Guests / Apologies for Absence

The IEEE support staff started the roll call by calling all the registered section representatives. After the roll call, Region 8 Director asked to the staff, if there is a quorum. The quorum was confirmed.

MEMBERS PRESENT:Abdullah Al Badi, Oman Section Chair; Adam Dabrowski, Poland Section Chair; Adam Jastrzebski, R8 Treasurer; Adeel Sultan, R8 Member Activities VC; Ahmed Youssef, Egypt Section Chair; Ana Maria Madureira, R8 Secretary; Andrej Trost, Slovenia Section Chair; Antonio Luque, R8 Director-Elect; Bachar Elhassan, Lebanon Section Chair; Bernardo Tellini, Italy Section Chair; Boris Dumnic, Serbia and Montenegro Section Chair; Catarina Silva, Portugal Section Chair; Conrad Attard, Malta Section Chair; Constandinos Mavromoustakis, Cyprus Section Chair; Dalius Navakauskas, Lithuania Section Chair; David Oyedokun, South Africa Section Chair; Dmitry Petrov, Finland Section Chair; Filippo Sanfilippo, Norway Section Chair; George Eduful, Ghana Section Chair; Hadi Moradi, Iran Section Chair; Hasam Fatih Ugurdag, Turkey Section Chair; Ingo Hahn, Germany Section Chair; Kiril Alexiev, Bulgaria Section Chair; Maciej Borówka, R8 Students Activities VC; Magdalena SalazarPalma, R8 Director; Maria-Alexandra Paun, Switzerland Section Chair; Mark Bentum, Benelux Section Chair; Mohamed Turki, Western Saudi Arabia Section Chair; Mona Ghassemian, UK and Ireland Section Chair; Nasser Assem, Morocco Section representative; Neecharl Ramprosand, Mauritius Section Chair; Óscar MartínezBonastre, Spain Section Chair; Pascal LORENZ, France Section Chair; Pero Latkoski, Macedonia Section Chair; Samarth Deo, Sweden Section Chair; Sergey Bankov, Russia Section Chair; Shmuel Auster, Israel Section Chair; Sohaib Sheikh, R8 Technical Activities VC; Vasilli Borisov, Russia Siberia Section Chair.

3. Procedural – Introductory Remarks

R8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma started thanking to the Poland section, to the IEEE R8 Secretary and her team for the work performed to host the 114th Committee Meeting Region 8.

After that, R8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma gave several instructions for the attendees and to the presenters.

4. Motion – Approval of the Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consists of the approval of the minutes of the 113th meeting in Valencia, Spain, as well as the approval of the OpCom member reports, the Sub Committee reports and the Section reports. The motion to accept the Consent Agenda was put forwarded by the Director Salazar Palma. It was approved unanimously.

5. Motion – Approval of the Action Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was put forwarded by the Director Salazar Palma. It was approved unanimously.

6. Discussion – IEEE Region 8 Director’s Address

R8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma made her address, reporting the most relevant activities since last committee meeting and some membership statistics. R8 Director referred that Region 8 membership has decreased by 2.2%. Nevertheless, the senior members and fellows has increased and some R8 sections met their recruitment and/or retention goals for the year.

R8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma made a summary of Region 8 Operational Units(OU) status, since last meeting, referring . The total R8 OUs, 1987 and the 7 potential new subsections.

Next, R8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma presented the summary of activities for 2020 and the progress made towards the goal’s achievement, namely:

- 7 R8 flagship conferences;
- More than 800 conferences 2019-2020;
- 3 WIE ILS 2019-2020;
- 7 Cross Sectional SYP Congresses;
- R8 SYP Congress;
- 2 Division Directors and 11 Society/Technical Council Presidents from R8;
- 5 History Milestones unveiled in R8 Sections;
- 3 IEEE Medals and Recognitions;
- 7 IEEE Technical Field Awards;
- TAB Hall of Honor: Vincenzo Piuri, Italy;
- 6 awards from IEEE MGAB;
- 2 honorable awards from IEEE WIE;
- 6 awards from IEEE Student Activities;
- New scope for Region Vitality Sub Committee. It was renamed to Section Vitality and Development Sub Committee;
- Finances: Ad Hoc Finance Committee established;
- Membership, Students, YP and WIE: SA SC and MA SCs have done an outstanding job in improving their activities;
- Technical Activities improved through the work of TA SCs;
- Alignment of the Strategic Planning SC with IEEE goals on a possible restructure of IEEE Regions;
- Africa Council elections held in December 2019;

R8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma presented and described her calendar since last meeting and reported also some of the topics dealt with during the IEEE BoD and MGA meetings attended.

Finally, R8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma made one last tribute to members that passed away, Elias Kyriakides, IEEE Cyprus Section Chair and Roberto Sorrentino, Past Chair of the Central and South Italy Section.

7. Discussion - IEEE President’s Address

IEEE President, Toshio Fukuda started his address with a brief biography and then he presented his vision for IEEE as a global network that provides unique opportunities and engaging technical experts from around the world.

President Fukuda made some considerations about:

- Simplifying IEEE Complex Governance Structures.
- Provide more value to our members.
- Lifelong Learning and Continuing Education.
- Value of a cooperative environment – Importance of working as a team.
- IEEE Volunteer Opportunities to impact the future success of the organization.

Finally, President Fukuda concluded his presentation thanking to all volunteers for what they do, day in and day out.

8. Procedural – Break

9. Discussion - SC2020 recommendations

IEEE R8 Section Congress Coordinator, Costas Stasopoulos, started his presentation by describing the Date (21/08 to 23/08) and Location (Ottawa, Canada, Shaw Center) for the 2020 Section Congress.

Then, Costas Stasopoulos conclude his presentation with the enumeration and description of the SC 2020 Recommendations sent by IEEE R8 Members. These recommendations will be presented in the SC 2020.

10. Discussion - Member Activities

Region 8 Member Activities (MA) Vice Chair, Adeel Sultan, started his report by revising Key Focus & Objectives, the scope of some interest groups from YP to LM (WIE, HuA and HA), and some achievements, since last meeting, were referred. Adeel Sultan presented the team, thanking to all, the collaboration and requested Sub Committees Chairs to present their report.

Young Professionals (YP)

Young Professionals sub-committee chair, Vinko Lesic, started his reporting by presenting some statistics of the YP AGs in R8, the subcommittee members and the sections allocated to each member of the team and their contacts.

Vinko Lesic described R8 AGs activities; YP budget and funded events in 2019 and YP programs (STEP, Meet Up and Local activity) financed in 2019; and various events and activities related with the R8YP co-organized events – XS SYPs and the R8YP co-organized events – YP Programs. Highlight some information related with New programs in 2019, namely the IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship Initiative. Some information about achievements to date in numbers since last meeting and YP Membership in 2019 distribution was also presented.

Vinko described some activities and events developed under the 3C, Communication, Cooperation & Collaboration strategy with local AGs & Sections, within and beyond Region 8.

Membership Development (MD)

Membership Development (MD) sub-committee chair, Ievgen Pichkalov presented the MD Sub Committee members, the MD SC main goals and identified some activities developed under the sub-goals, namely:

- IEEE R8 Volunteers Training workshop during the second part of 2019;
- New goals teleconference for all Sections MDO;
- Monthly MD Webinars;
- Monthly R8 MDSC Report; and Cooperation with all Section and subcommittees.

Then, Ievgen Pichkalov presented the 2020 goals and progress dashboard that is now available in OU analytics.

Ievgen Pichkalov concludes his presentation with statistics that highlights the evolution of MD, IEEE membership year update and IEEE Societies Benefits for MD.

Women in Engineering (WIE)

WIE Sub-Committee Chair, Ana Cigaron, started by presenting WIE SC members and their task within the SC. Then, she described the statistics, activities, and achievements during the first quarter of 2020

After that she presented the mission objective and scope for WIE R8 for 2020. Then, Ana described in detail the goals and action plan and enumerated the planned tasks for 2020.

Ana Cigaron, concluded her reporting with the update on the status of WIE ILS activities performed in IEEE Region 8.

Publications and Communications (PnC)

Publications and Communications Sub-Committee chair, Christopher James, started by presenting PnC SC members and revised the goals, the plan & communication plan. The benefits of SC to effectively and

accurately communicate content and information for the benefit of Region 8 members (and beyond) are revised.

Then, he presented the new established PC Committee Editorial Board. Christopher James concluded his reporting with the identification of obtained achievements from October 2019- to date.

Humanitarian Activities Sub-Committee (HuASC)

John Funso-Adebayo, chair of R8 Humanitarian Activities Sub-Committee, started his presentation by presenting the team. After, John Funso-Adebayo revised the mission and **HuASC** Short Term (Tactical) / Long-Term (Strategic) goals and presented the achievements of since the last meeting.

John concluded his presentation with concerns related with the budget of SC and stating his happiness with the integration of Paul Cunningham as HuASC advisor.

Life Members Affinity Group (LMAG)

Victor Fouad, Life Members Affinity Group coordinator, started his presentation by describing the administrative status of R8 LMAGs at January 2020. Victor also presented R8 LMAG activities in 2019. Then, he described the efforts and initiatives done to increase the number of LMAGs in R8.

Victor Fouad reported the organization and results of the 3rd Meeting for Life Members Affinity Groups (LMAGs) of Region 8 held at Valencia, Spain, on October 11th 2019 in under the theme “Potentialities of Region 8 LMAGs activities in support of Sections' Operating Units“. Victor Fouad concluded his presentation with a LMAG strategy for 2020 and thanking to all in the meeting.

History Coordination Activities

Tony Davies, History Activities Coordinator, started his presentation by presenting the status of HISTELCON 2019, the actual goals and future milestones. The requests for HISTELCON 2021 and HISTELCON 2023 were already submitted to R8 Conference subcommittee. Tony, stated he gives invited talks on History of Technology from time to time.

Tony Davies, concluded his presentation with the information that the Scottish Tartan is available for IEEE use and thanks to everyone in the meeting.

11. Discussion - Technical Activities

Region 8 Technical Activities Vice Chair, Sohaib Sheikh, started his report by emphasizing the work developed by the SC team and making the context of the SC on technical activities and presenting what has been accomplished in 2019 and the focus for 2020 in the several TA Sub Committees.

Then, he revised what had been accomplished under the defined TA focus:

- On benefits for R8 members;
- Efficient and coordinated management;
- Revitalization of inactive programs/sub committees;
- Increased Collaboration between Sub Committees, with Boards and Sections.

Sohaib Sheikh presented new/improved programs or services, as opportunities for sections, related with: Standards speaker and workshops program; PEASC programs – Speaker program and the increased financial co-sponsorship of Conferences. Then, all SC chairs presented their report.

Chapters Coordination Sub Committee

Albert Lysko, Chair of Chapters Coordination Sub Committee (ChCSC) started by presenting the SC members. Then, Albert Lysko revised the SC goals and its progress (KPIs) and the plan for 2020, continuing addressing SC goals through existing activities. Then, he presented the ChCSC revitalization proposition. Albert Lysko concluded his presentation reporting the covid-19 restrictions in the organization of the SC activities.

Conference Coordinator Sub Committee

Ljupco Karadzinov, Chair of Conference Coordination Sub Committee (CoCSC) started by presenting the SC members. Ljupco also revised the Conference Coordination SC goals KPIs/Targets and the progress against defined goals referring the financially co-sponsored conferences and presented the call for future IEEE R8 flagship conferences 2023(call for host section will be send). Ljupco also highlights the 2020 conferences postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19 outbreak.

Ljupco Karadzinov, concluded his reporting identifying some point of concerns related: with need to improve the R8 flagship conferences outlook; The COVID-19 outbreak impact in IEEE R8 conference organization and the mitigation measures taken by IEEE.

Professional and Educational Activities Sub Committee

Stamatis Dragoumanos, Chair of the Professional and Educational Activities Sub Committee (PEASC) started by presenting the SC members and the PEASC – Program Coordinators. Stamatis Dragoumanos concluded his reporting presenting the website and contacts of the SC.

Action for industry Afl Committee members

Marios Antonious, Chair of Action for industry Sub Committee(Afl) started his reporting by presenting Afl team members. Then, Marios revised the Afl goals for 2020, the KPIs and their progress, namely: expand Afl in more Sections; expand to new companies; secure new internships; the Mentoring initiative and the organization and participation in industry and entrepreneurship events.

Standards Coordination

David Law, Chair of Standards Coordination Sub Committee started by presenting the SC members. David Law also revised the 2020 SC goals and presented their progress mainly related with Standards speakers for events and conferences; Whole standards tracks at events and conferences; Section and student branch events; and Standards events.

David Law concluded his reporting by describing SC plans related with continue to progress current opportunities and to look for new opportunities. He stimulated sections to contact him in case of interest on Standard events.

12. Discussion - Student Activities

Region 8 Student Activities (SA) Vice Chair, Maciej Borówka, presented the members of the SA Sub Committee highlighting the regional diversity and the outstanding work developed by his team. Then, he described the defined points of the R8 SA agenda:

- Reviewed the goals of R8 SAC.
- Student paper contest (SPC) - the IEEE R8 Student Paper Contest is described namely defining What, Why and Who can apply to SPC. Some statistics were presented about MELECON 2020 submissions and the short list of five finalist.
- Awards and contests 2020 - the process of submission for the Awards Submission 2020 and the Awards Campaign 2020 was described. Committee members are stimulated to promote submissions.
- Student Branches&Chapters - Some statistics were presented to highlight the growth of Student Branches, Student Branch Affinity Groups, and Student Branch Chapters. Maciej Borówka made special request to sections chairs: stimulate the Students Brunches reporting in order to be eligible for rebate; encourages all section to appoint a SSR to deal with SB support; OU analytics provides some information to use to support this process.
- R8 SYP Congress – Presented some information about the organization of the SYP Congress 2020 that will be held on July in Gothenburg – Sweden.

13. Discussion – How can R8 Contribute to Sustainable Development?

IEEE Division VI Director-Elect, Paul Cunningham, started his presentation with several questions that R8 should answer to contribute to sustainable development goals. Paul also gave recommendations and suggestions for the identification and qualification of target communities for the application of SDG. Paul Cunningham concluded his presentation with the presentation of a project within SDG scope.

14. Procedural – Lunch

15. Discussion – MGA Chair Address

VP MGA, Kukjin Chun, started his presentation with the vision, mission and goals of MGA. After that, Kukjin presented IEEE statistics related with sections, societies and membership. Then, Kukjin Chun, presented the 2020 MGA challenges and priorities.

Kukjin Chun, concluded his presentation stating that MGA is focused on member, not in membership.

16. Discussion – MGA Managing Director Address

MGA Managing Director, Cecelia Jankowski, started her presentation with the title “What’s New in MGA for you?”. Cecelia Jankowski, presented several new or improved tools and tasks that exist in IEEE to improve the membership and volunteer experience, such as the Virtual Workflow Assistant, the CLE, IEEE OU Analytics, IEEE Collabratec, among others.

Cecelia Jankowski concluded her presentation with the topics of interest to new members in the first 5 weeks of membership.

17. Discussion – Sections Congress Update

IEEE R8 Section Congress Coordinator, Costas Stasopoulos, started his presentation by describing the updates from SC2020, such as agenda and SC committee. Costas explained that the section congress will have an Industry Engagement Competition and most of the topics and speakers are already confirmed. Costas concluded his presentation with the next steps for the R8 delegates and a Q&A session.

18. Discussion - Strategic Planning Committee

R8 Director elect, Antonio Luque, made a revision of the SPC Committee vision and mission. Then, he revised the geography of the world according to IEEE. The IEEE organization, members distribution by region and regional representation in IEEE governance was analyzed. Region alignment arose from the feeling that more geographical diversity is needed at the Board of Directors to increase representation of R8 and R10 membership at the Board. However, a constraint exists - to keep the number of Region Directors in 10. Different proposals were described referring that the split of R8 could be proposed by MGA. Then, Antonio gave an update of the topics discussed since the last R8 meeting, namely R8 presented two alternatives for splitting. An external consultant will be hired to create alternatives for the region splitting. The option A is to split Region 8 in 2, Europe (incl Russia) and then Middle East with Africa. The pros and cons of this option is also presented. The option B is to split Region 8 in 2, Europe (incl Russia) with Middle East and then Africa. The pros and cons of this option is also presented.

Antonio concluded his presentation with the next steps and with the key findings based on the R8 member survey.

19. Discussion – R8 Nominations and Appointments

N&A SC Chair, Margaretha Eriksson, started her presentation with the description of the procedures of nominations submission and gave an overview of the N&A process for the Region 8 elections for 2020 tasks:

- R8 Vice-Chairs (one-year commitment).
- R8 Treasurer (two-year commitment).
- R8 Secretary (two-year commitment).
- Subcommittee Members.

The nomination period will be between March 31 and May 15.

Margaretha concluded her presentation with presentation of the SC members

20. Discussion – R8 Awards & Recognitions

A&R SC Chair, Margaretha Eriksson, started her presentation showing the available awards in R8 for volunteers, sections and WIE (Clementina Saduwa Award). The student and YP award were also presented but they are handled by the YP and SA SC.

Margaretha also presented the available MGA Awards and the respective deadlines.

Margaretha concluded her presentation with presentation of A&R team and the deadlines for R8 awards.

21. Discussion – Special Interest Groups (SIG)

MGA VP, Costas Stasopoulos, started his presentation by describing what is a Special Interest Group and the goals of this groups. Costas, stated that SIGs were created to answer to problems inside IEEE, such as, declining membership mainly in Regions 1-6, lack of member engagement and the need to connect companies and follow new trends in technology and behavior. After that, Costas presented the opportunity inside IEEE for SIGs.

Costas described the necessary procedures to create and manage a SIG and what could constitute a SIG.

Costas finished his presentation with the main conclusions from his presentation and a Q&A session.

Discussion – IEEE Executive Director and COO Address

IEEE Executive Director and COO, Stephen Welby, started his address making an overview of IEEE membership, IEEE activities and IEEE Social Impact in 2020.

Then, Stephen Welby, described the IEEE Strategic Plan 2020-2025, the vision, the mission, the goals and the core values of this Strategic Plan.

After that, Stephen Welby, presented the new IEEE APP and encourages all the members to download and use the app.

Stephen also revisited the platform IEEE Learning Network (ILN) - the eLearning Library for continuing education, highlighting its advantages and identifying the traffic and usage of ILN by Region. After that, Stephen Welby, presented:

- New Concentration Banking Solution for Geo Units & Conferences;
- IEEE G-Suite & 2 stepp verification for members;
- IEEE response to COVID-19 pandemic;

Stephen Welby, conclude dhis presentation with the IEEE membership dues & assessment revenues in 2019, the IEEE membership growth, IEEE Higher Grade membership and IEEE Student Membership between 1963-2019. The layers of IEEE membership dues in 2019 were also presented.

22. Procedural – Break

23. Discussion – Membership dues in R8

R8 Director-elect, Antonio Luque, started his presentation explaining that the member dues are used for section rebates, among other things. The member dues for Higher Grade and Student Members in R8 are also presented.

After that, Antonio, continues his presentation with the question “What if dues were reduced?”. Antonio presented several assumptions.

Antonio concluded his presentation with the potential new rebate for each section if there is a reduction to 100\$ in IEEE membership dues in R8.

Some questions arise from the audience, namely related with the calculation process.

24. Discussion – IEEE President-Elect Candidates Q&A

2021 IEEE Presidential Candidates made their presentations, and then, the moderator, Christopher James, started the Q&A session, through the following questions:

- What is your best contribution for Advancing Technology through humanity?
- How do you plan to make IEEE more relevant for industry, for members and corporations?
- What are your plans and vision for WiE? What steps will you take to support Women in industry?
- What are you going to do to make IEEE less USA centric?
- What is the weakest link in IEEE? What would you do to improve it?

25. Discussion – R8 Director-Elect Candidates Q&A

Igor Kuzle and Vincenzo Piuri made their presentations, and then, the moderator, Christopher James, started the Q&A session formulating several questions to the candidates.

26. Discussion – AdHoc Committee on Education in Africa

Bruce Krogh, Co-Chair, Africa Education Initiative Task Force, started his presentation with the organization of the IEEE Working Group on Education in Africa, the vision and goals of this WG.

Then, Bruce, presented the project KPIs and tasks defined by the WG.

Bruce concluded his presentation with a proposal for Africa Council and R8 engagement in this WG.

27. Discussion – SYP 2020 Update

Gerard Duff started his presentation with a short description of the objective and goals of SYP 2020 and thanks to R8 Opcom for the trust in the team responsible for the event.

Then, Gerard goes through the following topics:

- R8SYP2020 Gothenburg – Short description of Gothenburg, the primary hall, the congress details and project schedule.
- Congress Progress – COVID-19 issues, budget balance, congress income and expenditures.
- Organization Team.

28. Discussion – IEEE HAC & SIGHT

Director, Public Imperatives and Corporate Development and HAC Staff Lead, Holly Schneider Brown, started her presentation with the value created by HAC to IEEE. Then, Holly presented some successful case studies performed by HAC among IEEE Regions. She also presented statistics related with social media discussions about HAC and revisiting how HAC fits into IEEE Strategic plan 2020-2025 and the 2020 deadlines for HAC activities.

Holly concluded her presentation with the presentation of a new HAC Education Forum and the Committee contacts.

29. Discussion – Treasurer and Finance Committee Report 2020 Budget Proposal

Region 8 Treasury, Adam Jastrzebski, started by defining the function and the role of Region 8 Treasurer and the Finance Sub-Committee. Then, Adam defined the main components of treasurer operations, referring the current status, challenges and achievements.

After that, Adam made a report about Region 8 Bank Accounts status, the results from 2018 and 2019 and presented the 2019 execution of Region 8 budget with a summary of the financial position (expected vs actual).

Adam Jastrzebski concluded his reporting by presenting the 2020 Budget and moving a motion for the 2020 Budget Proposal approval in the name of the Committee. The motion was voted and approved unanimously. The motion passed.

Some questions arise from the audience namely related with heavy losses, budget increase in 2020, procedures for section treasurers, HA 2020 budget and Student and YP Coordination Budget.

30. Motion – Motions Presentation, Discussion, and Voting

Director Salazar Palma stated that there were no motions to be presented and closed the motion presentation topic.

31. Discussion - New Business

Director Salazar Palm asked if there was New Business topics to be presented. Nobody raise the hand to present New Business topics and the presentation was closed.

32. Discussion – Call for Proposals for Incoming R8 Committee Meetings

R8 Director Elect, Antonio Luque, stated that the next R8 Committee meeting will be in Ottawa, Canada, referring that R8 OpCom plan to organize the 2021 March Meeting in Warsaw. Antonio concluded his presentation asking for section submissions to organize the next R8 Committee meetings.

33. Discussion - Closing Remarks

R8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma thanked to everybody for their collaboration during the meeting, specially MGA/MCE teams, R8 secretary and team, R8 electronic communication coordinator and all the speakers and attendees.

34. Procedural - Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by 6:00 pm.

End of Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Ana Maria Madureira
IEEE R8 Secretary