Africa Council Chair   Vincent Kaabunga

Goals

To enhance the value of membership for IEEE members is Africa, and to increase opportunities for IEEE and its members in Africa to participate in and contribute to the development of public policy in Science and Engineering in Africa.

Points of concern

There is currently a limited number of active IEEE members in Africa with the technical expertise to satisfy the needs of strategic partners that are seeking to draw local technical input and other contributions through IEEE.

Latest Africa Council Development figures

Local experts and researchers publishing through support with Africa Research Journal - the East Africa Special Issue was released in Sept 2020 (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d9KUQrg6wxLVUMnYCfPCRppA2e5Ecjmd/view)

The Africa Council negotiated and renewed the partnership with E4C to deliver technical content to IEEE members in Africa under the Virtual Conferences program. The program is restarting in Q4 2020.

The Council supported multiple conferences in Africa including Power Africa, IST Africa and Energycon. The relationships for this year's conferences are being renewed and additional ones are in development.

The Industry Engagement Subcommittee of the Africa Council was formed and is now in discussions with Omricon, a Power and Energy industry actor, on a long-term relationship with the AC.

The Young Professionals Subcommittee of the AC is developing a mentorship program that will enable YP members in Africa to be mentored by more experienced IEEE members from across the globe - over 70 mentors from industry have already signed up to participate in the program.

The Africa Council was appointed to membership of the Smart Africa Working Group on AI, which is developing the blueprint for advancing the development and deployment of AI in Africa - the AC is working with IEEE SA to provide IEEE's contributions on standards, ethics and governance in the development of the blueprint. The AC is crowdsourcing African volunteers that will be serving on the other working groups that IEEE has been invited to join including Big Data, Digital Libraries, Digital Academy and others.

Working with IEEE Corporate and the History Center, the Africa Council is collaborating with UNESCO to conduct a pilot for integrating the IEEE REACH Program into local curricula. It is envisaged that the pilot will form the basis for future activities under the Africa Engineering Week and the UNESCO associated Schools Network.

Trends

Support for Continuing Education to engineers in Africa is presenting as the biggest opportunity for IEEE in Africa.

Proposals for improvements

We need to increase awareness of the new opportunities that have been made available for authors researchers in Africa to publish. We need to provide more opportunities for IEEE members in Africa to educate themselves on the requirements and standards for getting their work published. We need to provide more opportunities for IEEE members in Africa to expand their technical capabilities.

Other Issues to report