

Women in Engineering Coordinator

Ana Cigarn Romero

Goals

- Active and vibrant WIE AGs: Increase the vitality of Section and Student Branch Affinity Groups by getting closer to the active AGs, identifying and revitalizing dormant AGs, and creating AGs in the remaining sections with the help of Section Chairs;
- Awards: Increase the awareness about R8 WIE programs and awards, and engaging WIE members; and define clear and transparent selection criteria of awards;
- Establish WIE participation and visibility in R8 flagship events;
- Increase the WIE membership in R8 and continue the growing trend achieved in past years;
- Identify women leaders in STEM and create a new program and award to encourage leaders in Technology, and rank them as experts or models to other IEEE Women in technology;
- Encourage IEEE STEM conferences in R8 to have Women as organizing members, scientific members and plenary talk speakers;
- Close cooperation with the IEEE R8 Young Professionals, IEEE R8 Action For Industry and IEEE R8 Humanitarian Activities Subcommittees;
- High visibility of the activities organized and of the initiatives planned by WIE R8 by putting special effort on ensuring a high social media presence.

Progress against goals since the last report

- Awards:
 - Nominations for R8 WIE Awards and Clementina Saduwa Award are being analysed. Winners will be announced in the next Awards Ceremony of Region 8.
 - Definition of clear and transparent selection criteria of the R8 WIE Awards and of the Clementina Saduwa Award by creating the WIE R8 Awards Guidelines. These include a section of FAQ to clarify the main questions raised by members wanting to apply to the awards.
- WIE R8 has actively participated in R8 flagship events of 2020 with an active role (being part of the plenary session, speech and/ or giving a workshop). This included the virtual R8 SYP and Energycon 2020.
- Industry relations: establishment of contact with the company Huawei with support of the IEEE Vienna Office.
- Active support towards the organizers of the WIE ILS in 2020 (including alternative plans due to the Covid-19 situation), setting at the same time some requirements to guarantee successful events.
- There is a continuous cooperation taking place with the IEEE R8 Young Professionals, IEEE R8 Action For Industry and IEEE R8 Humanitarian Activities Subcommittees using the model of Corresponding Membership.
- Stronger collaboration with MGA WIE as well as with societies (especially ComSoc).
- Social media: actively running the R8 WIE social media platforms to keep the followers updated with the latest news of the WIE R8 Sub-Committee.
- Provision of mentorship towards members interested in WIE both, via social media and via the participation in the different IEEE events.

WIE participation in conferences, meetings or other events

None.

WIE activities/initiatives planned

WIE ILS Uganda:

- Virtual event will take place on 15th- 16 th October;
- Event free for all IEEE members and Non-members;
- Theme "Lead Beyond Horizons: Creating space for vibrant women who positively impact the world";
- Preliminary program is already drafted and has been made available to WIE R8;
- Sites for information: <https://attend.ieee.org/wieils-uganda-2020/> and <https://www.facebook.com/ieeewieilsuganda2020>.

WIE ILS Genoa:

- Virtual seminar by Professor Maura Casadio in November (exact date TBD);
- WIE session during the 10th International IEEE EMBS Conference on Neural Engineering (NER, next April in Sorrento);
- WIE summit in July 2021, programmed as the one which was supposed to take place this year.

WIE activities/initiatives developed

- Establishment of the WIE R8 Awards Guidelines including criteria for the nomination of awards to increase the clarify for IEEE members wanting to apply;
- Encourage IEEE STEM conferences in R8 to have Women as organizing members, scientific members and plenary talk speakers;
- First yearly meeting held online with R8 WIE AG Chairs (13th May 2020);
- Active participation and cooperation with R8 YPs in IEEE Connecting Experts Program. The sessions held so far were: "Impact on Pandemics on the European Power Grid" (28th May 2020) by Ana Cigarán Romero and "Analysis and Modelling of Electronic Medical Devices" by Maria-Alexandra Paun (24th June 2020). ;
- Call for speakers launched to R8 WIE AG Chairs to widen the scope and increase membership engagement and visibility;
- Participation @ IEEE WIE Leaders Dialogue of Region 8 (18th May 2020);

- Call for hybrid meetings:
 - E-Mail to WIE AG Chairs announcing the possibility of hybrid meetings including the funding available from R8 and explaining the procedure to follow for this purpose;
 - WIE R8 SC has asked WIE AG Chairs to think about which events could be done in their WIE AG, in virtual manner and/or in physical manner.

Proposals for improvements

- Better coordination with the IEEE R8 Awards Committee to ensure that WIE R8 Awards are aligned with the general R8 process (so far, WIE R8 Awards are not part of the awards tool and do follow a separate process as being handled separated by R8 WIE SC).
- Establish an independent evaluation committee to improve the process of evaluation of the awards nominations for WIE Region 8.

Points of Concern

- It looks like the pandemic situation will continue and we should adapt to this and further proceed with our online events (not only in the form of webinar, but also as discussion forum to let members raise their voice);
- People in general are feeling down and discouraged due to the pandemic, priorities have been shifted as currently there are other topics to worry about (health, family, job). This is also affected the WIE R8 Subcommittee, most members are not so motivated and contributing to the work of the team.g

Other Issues to report