

TO: IEEE Region 8 Committee, March 2021

FROM: Antonio Luque, Region 8 Director

SUBJECT: Director Report

1. Region priorities for 2021

At the November 2020 Region 8 Committee meeting, the following priorities were identified for the Region:

- Provide a member experience that is valuable during all their professional life.
- Make sure everyone is welcome and find relevant services in IEEE.
- Bring new volunteers and engage them in a healthy pipeline.
- Improve our presence in underserved communities.

2. 2021 Standing and *AdHoc* Subcommittees and other appointments

There are 20 R8 Standing and *AdHoc* Subcommittees, which report to the OpCom through different officers. Six are under the Past Director, Director-Elect, and Treasurer; one is under the VC Student Activities, eight under the VC of Member Activities, and five under the VC Technical Activities. The composition of these committees for 2021 is summarized below.

- 1) Section Vitality and Development
 - Chair: Matej Zajc (Slovenia)
 - Members:
 - Matej Zajc (Slovenia)
 - Donia Amami (Tunisia)
 - Philippa Ngaju (Uganda)
 - Corresponding members
 - Andreas Koltes (Germany)
 - All Subsection Chairs
- 2) AdHoc on Publications & Communications
 - Chair: Adeel Sultan (UAE)
 - Members:
 - Christopher James (UK&Ireland)
 - George Michael (Cyprus)
 - Mohammad Hossein Babaei (Portugal)
 - Hazar Oklah (Jordan)
 - Catia Bandejas (UK&Ireland)

- Sara Barros (Benelux)
- 3) Nominations and Appointments
 - Chair: Magdalena Salazar Palma (Spain)
 - Members:
 - Antonio Luque (Spain) (*ex-officio*)
 - Vincenzo Piuri (Italy) (*ex-officio*)
 - Levente Kovacs (Hungary)
 - Ievgen Pichkaliov (Ukraine)
 - Tiziana Tambosso (Italy)
- 4) Strategic Planning
 - Chair: Magdalena Salazar Palma (Spain)
 - Members:
 - George Papadimitriou (Greece)
 - Sohaib Sheikh (UK&Ireland)
 - Vincenzo Piuri (Italy)
 - Neecharl Ramprosand (Mauritius)
- 5) Awards & Recognitions
 - Chair: Magdalena Salazar Palma (Spain)
 - Members:
 - Costas Stasopoulos (Cyprus)
 - Youmna El-bitar (Germany)
 - Almedin Kavaz (Germany)
 - Ana Cigaran (Germany)
 - Albert Lysko (South Africa)
 - Lee Crudgington (UK&Ireland)
- 6) Membership Development
 - Chair: Mike Hinchey (UK&Ireland)
 - Members:
 - Ievgen Pichkaliov (Ukraine)
 - Mohamed Sief El-Dien (Egypt)
 - Mohab Mangoud (Bahrain)
- 7) Young Professionals
 - Chair: Almedin Kavaz (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
 - Members:
 - Vinko Lesic (Croatia)
 - Rawane El-jamal (Lebanon)
 - Weizhi Meng (Denmark)
 - Gerard Duff (Sweden)
 - Ines Inacio (Benelux)
 - Seif Elhajjem (Tunisia)
- 8) Women in Engineering
 - Chair: Maria Alexandra Paun (Switzerland)
 - Members:
 - Ana Cigaran (Germany)
 - Ana Margarida Trigo (Portugal)

- Wafa Ben-Hmida (UK&Ireland)
- Sally Musonye (Kenya)
- Corresponding members:
 - Dora Fourou (Greece)
- 9) Humanitarian Activities
 - Chair: Abduleeteef Aliyu (Nigeria)
 - Members:
 - John Funso Adebayo (Nigeria)
 - Lavender Ndunya (Kenya)
 - Fairouz Fattoum (Tunisia)
- 10) History Activities
 - Chair: Martin Bastiaans (Benelux)
 - Corresponding members:
 - Tony Davies (UK&Ireland)
- 11) Life Members
 - Chair: Peter Magyar (Germany)
 - Corresponding members:
 - Vinko Lesic (Croatia)
 - Victor Fouad Hannah (France)
 - Tony Davies (UK&Ireland)
- 12) Region 8 News
 - Editor-in-Chief: Catia Bandejas (UK&Ireland)
 - Co-editor-in-chief: Bernardo Tellini (Italy)
 - Editorial Board member: Margaretha Eriksson (Sweden)
- 13) Electronic Communications
 - Coordinator: Georme Michael (Cyprus)
 - Co-coordinator: Maria Efthymiou (Cyprus)
- 14) Conferences Coordination
 - Chair: Habib Kammoun (Tunisia)
 - Members:
 - Nadezda Kunicina (Latvia)
 - Robert Bierwolf (Benelux)
 - Corresponding members:
 - Ljupco Karadzinov (North Macedonia)
 - Eric Kuada (Ghana)
 - Albert Lysko (South Africa)
 - Nihal Sinnadurai (UK&Ireland)
- 15) Chapters coordination
 - Chair: Andrejs Romanovs (Latvia)
 - Members:
 - Albert Lysko (South Africa)
 - Aleksandar Mastilovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
 - Corresponding members:
 - Wynand Lambrechts (South Africa)
 - Matej Pacha (Czechoslovakia)

- Toni Mattila (Finland)
- Rawan El Jamal (Lebanon)
- 16) Professional and Educational Activities
 - Chair: Conrad Attard (Malta)
 - Members:
 - Stamatis Dragoumanos (Greece)
 - Nizar Rokbani (Tunisia)
 - Amith Khandakar (Oman)
- 17) Action for Industry
 - Chair: John Matogo (Kenya)
 - Members:
 - Marios Antoniou (Cyprus)
 - Frederique Vallee (France)
 - Corresponding members:
 - Danilo Pau (Italy)
 - Mohammed El Dallal (Egypt)
 - Kithinji Muriungi (Kenya)
 - Toni Mattila (Finland)
 - Maria Efthymiou (Cyprus)
- 18) AdHoc on Standards coordination
 - Chair: Tuncer Baykas (Turkey)
 - Corresponding members:
 - David Law (UK&Ireland)
 - Vikass Monebhurrin (France)
- 19) Student Activities
 - Chair: Simay Akar (Turkey)
 - Members:
 - Maciej Borowka (Poland)
 - Theodoros Chatzinikolaou (Greece)
 - Gerard Duff (Sweden)
 - Lee Crudgington (UK&Ireland)
 - Vera Markovic (Serbia)
 - Corresponding members:
 - Sally Musonye (Kenya)
 - Óscar M. Bonastre (Spain)
- 20) Finance
 - Chair: Adam Jastrzebski (UK&Ireland)
 - Members:
 - Margaretha Eriksson (Sweden)
 - Pascal Lorenz (France)
 - Magdalena Salazar Palma (Spain)
 - Andreas Koltes (Germany)
- 21) Other appointments
 - Assistant (past) Secretary: Ana Madureira (Portugal)

The Director has appointed an AdHoc Committee on **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**, with the goal of developing and recommending mechanisms to improve diversity and inclusion across Region 8 and Sections.

Three other AdHoc committees chartered with developing new initiatives on **industry, member careers, and student contests** have been appointed and will report to the R8 Committee on their progress in March.

3. OpCom meeting December 2020

On 12-13 December 2020, Region 8 held an OpCom meeting designed to facilitate **the handover from the 2019-2020 OpCom to the 2020-2021 OpCom**. The meeting was held online and was attended by:

- Magdalena Salazar Palma, 2019-2020 Director and 2021-2022 Past Director
- Antonio Luque, 2019-2020 Director-Elect and 2021-2022 Director
- Vincenzo Piuri, 2021-2022 Director-Elect
- Margaretha Eriksson, 2019-2020 Past Director
- Adam Jastrzebski, 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 Treasurer
- Maciej Borowka, 2019-2020 Vice Chair Student Activities
- Sohaib Sheikh, 2019-2020 Vice Chair Technical Activities
- Adeel Sultan, 2019-2020 Vice Chair Member Activities
- Simay Akar, 2021-2022 Vice Chair Student Activities
- Peter Nagy, 2021-2022 Vice Chair Technical Activities
- Sara Barros, 2021-2022 Vice Chair Member Activities
- Ana Madureira, 2019-2020 Secretary
- Ljupco Karadzinov, 2021-2022 Secretary

During the two day meeting, different sessions were focused in the descriptions of the jobs attached to each position, in presenting the plans for the 2021-2022 term and in brainstorming new ideas and initiatives for the Region.

4. R8 OpCom meetings in 2021

R8 OpCom is holding **monthly** meeting by WebEx, that so far took place on 14 January, 4 February and 3 March. It is our wish to restart face-to-face meetings as soon as practically possible.

5. Recognitions to members and volunteers in R8

2021 IEEE Medals, Service Awards, Honorary Membership, Young Professional Award, and Corporate Recognitions

IEEE MEDAL OF HONOR, to JACOB ZIV (LFIEEE)—Andrew and Erna Viterbi
Faculty of Electrical Engineering Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Technion,
Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel

2021 IEEE Technical Field Awards

Richard Harold Kaufmann Award for outstanding contributions in industrial systems engineering.

2021 – STEPHEN MCARTHUR Distinguished Professor, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Nikola Tesla Award 1975 for outstanding contributions to the generation and utilization of electric power.

2021-ZI-QIANG ZHU Professor, Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, United Kingdom

IEEE MGA Awards

MGA Achievement Award

Albert Lysko (R8), South Africa Section

For dedication and exemplary leadership in promoting, strengthening and proactively supporting IEEE activities and volunteerism at the local and global levels.

MGA Young Professionals Achievement Award

Shashank Gaur (R8), Portugal Section

For continuous hard work and dedication in making IEEE a better place for young engineers.

Weizhi Meng (R8), Denmark Section

For outstanding contributions in the formation of an IEEE Young Professional Affinity Group, and leading activities in Denmark and Region 8.

Other awards

2020 IEEE SIGHT Group of the Year

IEEE Nigeria Section SIGHT Group

Honorable Mention for the 2020 IEEE SIGHT Group of the Year Award

IEEE American University of Sharjah Student Branch SIGHT Group; and

IEEE Kyambogo University Student Branch SIGHT Group

6. Region 8 Membership Data as the end of 2020

As of 31 December 2020, Region 8 membership included 70,803 members. One year earlier (31 December 2019) membership was 75,814 (6,61% decrease).

Distribution of membership by grade is as follows:

	Dec 2020	Dec 2019	Change	
Associate	1266	1408	-142	-10,09 %
Fellow	894	891	3	0,34 %
GSM	10116	11103	-987	-8,89 %
Honorary	10	9	1	11,11 %
Life Fellow	389	359	30	8,36 %
Life Member	1272	1183	89	7,52 %
Life Senior	680	631	49	7,77 %
Member	36805	39428	-2623	-6,65 %
Senior Member	9217	8834	383	4,34 %
Student Member	10154	11968	-1814	-15,16 %

7. Milestone ceremonies in R8

During January and February two milestones were dedicated in R8:

- Galileo Ferraris (Italy Section). *Galileo Ferraris, professor at the Italian Industrial Museum (now Polytechnic) of Turin, conceived and demonstrated the principle of the rotating magnetic field. Ferraris' field, produced by two stationary coils with perpendicular axes, was driven by alternating currents phase-shifted by 90 degrees. Ferraris also constructed prototypes of two-phase AC motors. Rotating fields, polyphase currents, and their application to induction motors had a fundamental role in the electrification of the world.* The ceremony will take place on 21 January.
- Gravitational Wave Antennas LiGo-Virgo (Italy Section in R8). *Initially developed from 1979 to 1982, the Gravitational-Wave Antenna enabled the detection of ripples in space time propagated at the speed of light, as predicted by Albert Einstein's 1916 Theory of General Relativity. Construction of the Virgo Gravitational-Wave Observatory commenced in 1997. In 2007, Virgo and two antennas located in the U.S.A. launched the era of Multi-Messenger Astronomy with the coordinated detection of gravitational waves from a binary neutron star merger.* The ceremony will take place on 3 February at the different sites simultaneously.

Another milestone dedication is planned in Milan, Italy Section, on 18 May, for the milestone "Multiple Silicon Technologies on a Chip, 1985".

8. Section Anniversaries

Three Sections in R8 will celebrate their 50th anniversary on 21 June 2021:

- Croatia Section
- Serbia and Montenegro Section
- Slovenia Section

Respectfully submitted,