

TO: IEEE Region 8 Committee, November 2021

FROM: Antonio Luque, Region 8 Director

SUBJECT: Director Report

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## **1. Introduction**

The activities in the Region continue to be dominated by the pandemic situation. This situation is vastly different between different parts in the Region, which show varying vaccination and cases rates. However, in general the situation has improved significantly since the last R8 meeting in March 2021.

The coming months should allow us to see a return to face-to-face activities across the Region, especially within Sections, with traveling between Sections and Region-wide also slowly resuming.

## **2. OpCom meeting August 2020**

Region 8 OpCom had a hybrid meeting in Milan, Italy, on 21-22 August 2021. It was the first meeting with an in-person component in more than 2 years. During the meeting it was decided to survey Region volunteers about the possibility of an in-person R8 Committee meeting in Fall, which eventually led to the organization of the Fall 2021 meeting in Frankfurt am Main, Germany (more info below).

Taking into account the evolution of the pandemic situation in the Region, an updated 2021 budget was created, fulfilling the motion that was approved by the R8 Committee in March and that asked for such an update when pandemic conditions changed. This proposed budget will be presented to the Committee in November for approval.

The full agenda of the OpCom meeting included discussions on finances, awards and recognitions, industry outreach, governance updates, member activities, conferences, technical activities, membership development, publications, vitality, student activities, and SYP congresses, among other issues.

## **3. Organization of the R8 Fall 2021 meeting**

A decision was made to hold an R8 Committee meeting in November in hybrid mode, with people able and willing to travel attending the meeting in Frankfurt, and the rest attending and participating online.

In order to ensure the safety of all in-person participants and facilitate the logistics, everybody attending physically was required to be fully vaccinated with a vaccine approved in Germany. As of this writing, more than 90 volunteers had confirmed their willingness and ability to attend in person.

The arrangement of the meeting has been more challenging than usual, given the current circumstances and the shorter time for the organization. I would like to thank all volunteers involved in the preparation of the meeting, especially R8 Secretary Ljupco Karadinov, and R8 Treasurer Adam Jastrzebski, who did most of the work and the organization.

#### **4. Recent recognitions to members and volunteers in R8**

##### **2022 IEEE Technical Field Awards**

- **IEEE CLEDO BRUNETTI AWARD** to **SIMON DELEONIBUS** (FIEEE)—Former Chief Scientist, Science Director of Silicon Components and Technologies Divisions, Claix, France

- **IEEE JAMES L. FLANAGAN SPEECH AND AUDIO PROCESSING AWARD** to Co-Recipients

**NELSON MORGAN** (FIEEE)—Researcher, International Computer Science Institute, and Professor in Residence Emeritus, UC Berkeley, Phoenix, Arizona, USA, AND

**HERVE BOURLARD** (FIEEE)—Director and EPFL Professor, IDAP Research Institute, Martigny, Switzerland

- **IEEE FOURIER AWARD FOR SIGNAL PROCESSING** to **ALI SAYED** (FIEEE)—Professor and Dean of Engineering, Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

- **IEEE ANDREW S. GROVE AWARD** to **HEIKE RIEL** (SMIEEE)—Director, Science & Technology, IBM Research, Rueschlikon, Switzerland

- **IEEE GUSTAV ROBERT KIRCHHOFF AWARD** to **JOOS VANDEWALLE** (LFIEEE)—Professor Emeritus, University of Leuven, Blanden, Belgium

- **IEEE ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION AWARD** to **WOLFRAM BURGARD** (FIEEE)—Professor, University of Freiburg, Baden, Wurttemberg, Germany

- **IEEE ERIC E. SUMNER AWARD** to **LAJOS HANZO** (FIEEE)—Professor, Southampton University, Hampshire, United Kingdom

**MGA Awards**

2021 MGA Outstanding Small Section Award to Oman Section.

2021 Organizational Supporting Friend of IEEE MGA Award to Taif University, Saudi Arabia, "For supporting local IEEE activities including conferences and joint events."

**5. Milestone ceremonies in R8**

The dedication ceremony for the milestone "Multiple Silicon Technologies on a Chip, 1985". took place in Milan, Italy Section, and remotely on 18 May.

An IEEE Special Citation in History was awarded to the Heinz Nixdorf MuseumsForum in Paderborn, Germany. Dedication ceremony took place on Saturday 23 October.

**6. Region Realignment**

An MGA AdHoc committee on Region Realignment was formed in August. The Chair is Celia Desmond and the members are José Moura, Lawrence Wong, the 10 Region Directors, the 3 MGA Vice-Chairs, the MGA Treasurer and two professional staff.

The charter is to develop a model for Region Realignment to address the current imbalance in demographics with strong consideration for supporting future growth of MGA (IEEE) and other considerations as listed below.

Considerations include but are not limited by the following:

- Considerations previously stated:
  - Changes in membership demographics,
  - How to best serve the member and the community
  - Geographical compactness,
  - Cultural/language differences,
  - Membership growth trends and economic circumstances
  - Number of Regions will stay at 10 Regions and
  - Not require amendments to the IEEE Constitution.
- Development/determination of a 'trigger' to start the next region realignment process, which could be a time line plus demographics or other.
- For any region boundary changes affecting the regions in the USA, the process/recommendations should take into account any impact on IEEE-USA and optimize the process for the benefit of IEEE-USA, if that can be accommodated.

- The roles of geographic Areas and Councils: should the roles of Areas be strengthened? Councils versus Areas?
- Models/solutions will potentially be a combination of Region boundary changes and changes to the MGA Board or its committees.
- Possible introduction of the concept of a Super-Area or Sub-Region (with a new name) for particular geographic growth areas with a non-voting seat at the MGA Board – elected representative, non-voting.
- In case of 2 or more Regions being 'merged':
  - Should only entire Regions be merged?
  - Should Section boundaries stay intact except in special circumstances?

The AdHoc committee has held four meetings to date and is expected to bring a recommendation to the MGA Board in November.

### **7. Region 8 Membership Data at the end of September 2021**

As of 30 September 2021, Region 8 membership included 66,441 members. One year earlier (30 September 2020) membership was 64,936 (2.32% increase).

Distribution of membership by grade is as follows:

	<b>Sep 2021</b>	<b>Sep 2020</b>	<b>Change</b>	
Associate	1254	1324	-70	-5.29 %
Fellow	897	897	0	0 %
GSM	8410	8096	314	3.88 %
Honorary	10	10	0	0 %
Life Fellow	421	381	40	10.5 %
Life Member	1364	1262	102	8.08 %
Life Senior	725	678	47	6.93 %
Member	35238	36388	-1150	-3.16 %
Senior Member	9338	8928	410	4.59 %
Student Member	8784	6972	1812	25.99 %

Respectfully submitted,

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