

**IEEE Lebanon Section****Bachar El Hassan****Section Vitality**

*Please provide information about the date of last Section elections, date of next elections, and do you have the practice of Vice-Chair becoming the next Section Chair. Section ExCom meetings (list them and provide brief summary if appropriate). List the activities carried out to retain and recruit members and the results obtained.*

\* The Last elections took place on Tuesday December 29, 2020. The next elections will take place in December 2022.

\* The vice chair is in general the favorite candidate to win the elections for the next chair position, but it not automatically done.

\* Four executive committee meetings have been held March 2021. In these meeting we planned the work to be done in 2021 and started its execution. The main event that have been discussed the most during these meetings is the section biannual conference : IMCET 2021 conference that will take place between 8 – 10 December 2021.

\* IEEE Lebanon section just got the gold award of the membership recruitment and retention performance for 2021. To retain regular members, we supported each member with about 25% of the membership fees and each student member with more than 50 % of the student's membership

\* Finally and even in the economic situation in Lebanon, many events took place in 2021 and this year also was very fruitful.

We are working on engaging our members in continuous education and life-long learning by cooperating with different communities. For instance, we are currently working on establishing a partnership with BeirutAI which is currently the largest applied Artificial Intelligence community in Lebanon. This partnership will empower our IEEE members and provide them with the needed expertise to apply AI in different fields. Our IEEE members got 15% discount on the Beirut AI Weekend event that was held last April 2021, which will include technical and business-driven workshops to help bridge the gap between theory and industry. We were also technical co-sponsor for their different events.

The IEEE- Lebanon Section MD is also representing the IEEE Lebanon Section in many events including webinars and IEEE day 2021 celebrations with different universities, and working towards recruiting new students to join the IEEE and empowering the student branches. Furthermore, the MD is working to collaborate with all the student b ranches and organize a series of events including technical and non-technical workshops to help our members gain and develop new skills and be active life-long learners.

To grow and attract new members, we are also regularly promoting IEEE in different events and workshops by giving a presentation about the importance of IEEE and the main benefits of becoming an IEEE member.

**Students**

*List of Student Branches (SB) in your Section, the newly formed or dissolved SBs, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2020). List the student meetings held and Section activities addressed to Students and Young Professionals.*

IEEE Lebanon section has 19 students Branches

- American University of Beirut
- Saint Joseph University School of Engineering
- University of Balamand

- Lebanese University – Tripoli
- Lebanese Univ Faculty Of Engineering-Hadath
- Lebanese University Faculty of Eng – Roumieh
- Lebanese University, Faculty of Sciences
- American University of Science and Tech
- Beirut Arab Univ – Dibbiyeh
- Beirut Arab University – Tripoli
- Holy Spirit University of Kaslik
- Notre Dame University-Lebanon
- Islamic University of Lebanon
- Lebanese American University
- Lebanese International University
- Rafik Hariri University
- Antonine University
- City University – Tripoli
- Arts, Sciences & Technology University in Lebanon AUL.

The majority of these student branches are very active. They organize many events per year. Each year 2 or 3 student's branches from Lebanon section are among the outstanding students branches of Region 8. All these branches organized IEEE Days during October 2021.

**The main problem** of this year and of the coming years is the membership renewal of students because of the economics col-lapse in Lebanon. Due to the unfortunate situation in Lebanon, we are facing compounded crises, one of which is the economic downfall that has severely affected the US Dollar to Lebanese Lira exchange rate. The IEEE Lebanon section stood by the student branches and tried to support them financially. We provided 325 fresh USD to each of our 19 student branches and helped in finding solutions for memberships renewal. This act allowed us to increase the number of IEEE student memberships and encourage new members to join. We are still investigating possible ways to support financially IEEE members and cooperating with IEEE to come up with solutions for paying the membership fees. We are also trying to contact IEEE and we really appreciate any kind of financial support.

### Affinity Groups

*List of Affinity Groups (YP, LM, WiE, SIGHT, etc.), list of SB AGs, newly formed or dissolved AGs/SB AGs, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2020). List the activities intended to support affinity groups.*

IEEE Lebanon section has 4 affinity groups:

- Young Professional Affinity Group
- Life Members Affinity Group
- Women In Engineering Affinity Group
- SIGHT.

Those 4 affinity groups are very active.

Young Professional Affinity Group is very dynamic and each year they held the IEEE Students and Young Professionals Lebanon Congress. In 2021, with the economic and politic crises happening in

Lebanon, students and YP activities focused on spreading the awareness, the motivation and the ability to plan and re-plan no matter what are our country's difficulties: technical and soft skills workshops and events were organized to empower university students and giving them the self-confidence to develop their competences and compete in the labor market under the "Compete to Complete" umbrella, compete to complete our country's needs and improve our lives... IEEE Lebanon section student branches regulate technical experts talks about trending topics such as: Power Electronics Systems, Future Trends In Sustainability AI in Renewables, and Artificial Intelligence Hackathon... Furthermore, soft skills workshops were organized to give students the right foundations in writing their CVs and their motivation letters, as well as developing their negotiation and public speaking skills. More than 50 events were organized by student branches and YP between march and October 2021. We also partnered with the Arab IoT & AI Challenge and co-organized a local Lebanon IoT and AI Challenge, which we believe will upskill our members and provide them the opportunity to reveal their innovative ideas in the areas of Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence.

- IEEE Women In Engineering (WIE) – Lebanon Affinity Group, organized the following virtual events:
  - International Women's Day on March 8, 2021: we celebrated Wise, Inspiring and Exceptional Lebanese Women. They were combining Engineering with Business and Community Services
  - Girls In ICT Day on April 22, 2021: We raised the question of Wondering about Information, and we addressed being Inspired by Communications and Empowered by Technology.
  - In collaboration with IEEE Wie – Turkey, we organized a webinar & panel about "Future Trends in Sustainability – AI in Renewables on May 21, 2021".
  - Technical Co-Sponsor of a Workshop on Deep-Learning @ The Lebanese University on May 29, 2021.
  - International Women in Engineering Day (INWED 2021) on June 23, 2021: We discussed Engineering field from both Academic, Professional and Business Perspectives.
  - Partner of the Arab IoT & AI Challenge – Lebanon on August 10&11, 2021.
  - In collaboration with IEEE Wie – Miami, we organized a webinar & panel about "Adjusting Our Sails - We are Resilient, WiE are Unstoppable", on October 12, 2021 to celebrate the IEEE Day and in commemoration of Ada Lovelace\* Day (\*1<sup>st</sup> Computer Programmer).
  - All these events can be watched on our Facebook Page: @wielebanon.
- Lebanon Section SIGHT was established in 2018. It was one of the first associations that worked on the ground after the fateful explosion in Beirut. SIGHT had a big role in recruiting volunteers from IEEE Lebanon Section to help those affected by this explosion.
- Life member affinity group is growing in Lebanon. They are also very active and got last year a grant of about 25K USD for renewable energy project in Lebanon that they are still working on it.

## Chapters

*List of Chapters and SB Chapters in your Section, the newly formed or dissolved Chapters, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2020). Indicate how many have reported on time and received rebate. Highlight some of the activities.*

IEEE Lebanon section has three chapters and three joint chapters:

- IEEE Communications Society Lebanon Chapter
- IEEE Computer Society Lebanon Chapter
- IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society Lebanon Chapter
- Joint Chapter, AP03/MTT17/MAG33 (CH08691)
  - Antennas and Propagation Society
  - Microwave Theory and Techniques Society
  - Magnetics Society
- Joint Chapter, IE13/PE31/CAS04/PEL35 (CH08625)
  - Industrial Electronics Society
  - Power and Energy Society
  - Circuits and Systems Society
- Power Electronics Society
  - Joint Chapter, RA24/IM09/CS23 (CH08807)
  - Robotics and Automation Society
  - Instrumentation and Measurement Society
  - Control Systems Society

\* EMBS Lebanon chapter has a flag conference that is held each 2 years: ICABME, The sixth edition of this conference took place in October 2021 and was very successful.

\* ComSoc organizes each year the IEEE Lebanon communications workshop (IEEE LCW) that took place more than 10 times and they are technical sponsor of MENACOM '22 the will take place in Morocco.

\*RAS is always an important partner of all robotics competitions that take place in Lebanon. Members of RAS serve always as co-organizers and Jury members of those competitions.

\* Computer Society started last month cooperation with Arab AI organization and will be the responsible of the competition of Arab AI in Lebanon.

\* Power Chapter got the award of most active chapter in Lebanon during 2020. They are also very active during 2021.

## Industry

*List the activities carried out to foster relations with Industry and the results obtained.*

IEEE Lebanon Section continues its deep cooperation with industry and maintains its previous relations established during the last years with many Lebanese industrial entities:

Alfa, Ericsson, Nokia, ZRE Lebanon, BDD, Foo, Arabnet and the order of engineers of Tripoli.

The IEEE cooperation with Lebanese industry has a positive effect on IEEE Lebanon section:

\* Internships for IEEE student members

\*Support of IEEE Lebanon Section activities.

\*Improve the knowledge of IEEE Members

\*Presentations about IEEE and its activities and benefit of being an IEEE Member are done. Thus big numbers of Lebanese Electrical engineers will have the opportunity to learn about IEEE.

It is worth mentioning that in order to improve the relation of all our affiliated chapters with the industry sector, a new subcommittee called the Industry Subcommittee was established. All chapters and affinity groups had a representative in this subcommittee and it is coordinated by the Section's industry Ambassador.

### **Activities since the last report**

*Highlight some of the activities in your Section, with special attention to the things that work well, and things that don't, so that your acquired know-how can be used by other Sections.*

The most important activities that took place in Lebanon section are:

- EMBS Students competition that took place in July 2021
- ICABME 2021, The sixth edition of EMBS conference that took place in October 2021
- A full day of IEEE CAS-IF SUMMER-I 2021: "Rapid Development of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Electronic Systems and IOT Technologies" which held hybrid in Tripoli-Lebanon jointly with CASS Egypt.
- A five days of IEEE CASS Seasonal School on "Domain Specific Accelerator Architectures" which help in Dubai jointly with The IEEE CASS Chapters of UAE, Lebanon, Egypt, Columbia, and Hyderabad.
- 7 events of WIE (Listed before)
- More than 40 events organized by student branches and Young professionals
- IEEE Days organized by different student Branches.

### **Planned activities**

*Highlight some of the future activities and initiatives in your Section.*

We are holding the third IEEE International Multidisciplinary Conference on Engineering Technology (IMCET 21) that focuses on regional and developing world aspects in electrical, communications, computer and biomedical engineering. The IMCET 21 will be a hybrid conference and it will be held from 8 to 10 December in Beirut, Lebanon.

IMCET is the flagship conference of the IEEE Lebanon Section with participants from all over the world. This is intended to be an international conference with focus on regional and developing world aspects in electrical, communications, computer and biomedical engineering. The objective of the conference is to provide high quality research and professional interactions for the advancement of science and technology.

The conference has 5 tracks. Each chapter in the section is in charge of one track.

We received 63 papers and we invited four Keynote speakers. The reviewing process is at its end and author will receive notifications during the week of October 25, 2021.

### **How Region 8 can be of help to your Section, members, and activities**

*List any challenges your Section is facing and what support is required from the Region 8. Please, also, give us your suggestions for agenda items that you want to be discussed during the R8 Committee meeting.*

The Region can play a very important role in fostering industry connections by helping local sections and chapters in establishing a network of connections with different international companies and entities within the Region itself. Local sections are usually unaware of potential partnership with international companies due to lack of information. The Region can therefore maintain and share a database

of potential companies working closely with IEEE and looking for new links with different local sections and chapters.

### **Any other issues of interest**

#### **I want to raise again the financial problem in Lebanon.**

The major challenge that we are facing is the actual non stable situation in Lebanon. We are afraid currently of not being able to maintain a proper membership renewal process, which would directly affect membership retention.

As it is known, IEEE Lebanon section has grown up quickly during the last years and has reached more than 1700 members in 2018 which lead to the reception of many membership retention awards.

During the last year, the economic situation collapsed dramatically. A huge devaluation of the Lebanese Lira occurred. The price of one USD passed from 1500 LBP to more than 20000 LBP today. As a direct consequence, the banking system put very restrictive condition on withdrawal and on online payment. To reduce bank runs and prevent the default of Lebanese banks, several restrictions were enforced including:

- Heavy limitations on cash withdrawals in Lebanese pound and in foreign currency (small to none)
- No exchange from Lebanese pound to US Dollar using the official rate of 1515 LBP/USD. In that case, people have to reply on exchange offices with rate a exceeding 20000 LBP/USD
- Very big Limitation or cancellation of the use of credit cards for online payments or payments outside Lebanon.

We have received many request from IEEE members to find a solution for the payment of their membership renewal fees. Other members especially students asked to waive them or alternatively help them with a reduction of the fees. The IEEE Lebanon Section is seriously concerned about losing a big portion of its members due to the current crisis.

Attached a presentation we made about this issue. We are still hoping that IEEE will reduce membership fees to IEEE Lebanon members.

We hope that IEEE Region 8 and IEEE MGA will be able to help our members in renewing the memberships for 2022!



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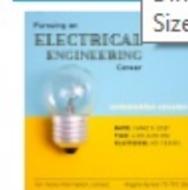
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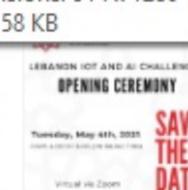
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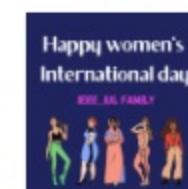
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# Call for Papers



## 3<sup>rd</sup> IEEE International Multidisciplinary Conference on Engineering Technology (IMCET) 8-10 December 2021 Beirut, Lebanon

**IMCET** is the flagship conference of the IEEE Lebanon Section with participants from all over the world. This is intended to be an international conference with focus on regional and developing world aspects in electrical, communications, computer and biomedical engineering. The objectives of the conference are to provide high quality research and professional interactions for the advancement of science and technology.

Topics of interest fall under the following tracks:

**Control Systems, Instrumentation and Robotics (Chairs: Naseem Daher, Flavia Khatounian)**

**Computer Systems and Applications (Chairs: Rony Darazi, Ismail Alsayad)**

**Communications and Information Systems (Chairs: Jacques Bou Abdo, Chadi Abou Rjeily)**

**Antennas, Microwave & Magnetics (Chairs: Walid Kamali, Ernst Huijjer)**

**Biomedical and Bio-informatics (Chairs: Mohammad Ayache, Mohamad Diab)**

**Power, Energy, Power Electronics, Industrial Electronics, Circuits and Systems (Chairs: Abdallah Kassem, Mohamad Arnaout)**

### Submission of Papers

Submission of full papers is to be done via EDAS (<https://edas.info/chair.php?c=28537>), with a limit of 6 pages (up to 2 additional pages at a fee), including paper title, authors and affiliations, figures and references. Authors are requested to prepare the manuscripts in the IEEE two-column format, using the template available at the conference website. Full papers will be double-blind reviewed by at least two reviewers.

All accepted and presented papers will be submitted to IEEE Xplore, publishing of the papers will be subject to IEEE approval of the form and the quality of the papers.

### Organizing Committee

#### **Honorary Chairs**

Mohamad Adnan Al-Alaoui  
Elias Nassar  
Ghassan Shaban  
Imad Elhajj  
Hadi Sawaya

#### **General Chair**

Bachar El-Hassan

#### **Technical Program Chairs**

Mohamad Awad  
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#### **Industrial Relations Chairs**

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#### **Publicity Chairs**

Nadine Abbas  
Sara Abou Chakra  
Walid Fahes

#### **Digital Media Committee**

Mohamad Kassab  
Anthony Sebaaly

#### **Awards Committee**

Usamah Farrukh  
Mohammad Khalil  
Nazih Moubayed

### Deadlines

<b>Regular Papers:</b>	<b>July 31, 2021</b>
<b>Notification of Acceptance:</b>	<b>September 30, 2021</b>
<b>Final Submissions Due:</b>	<b>November 15, 2021</b>
<b>Early Registration Closes:</b>	<b>November 15, 2021</b>

### Contact

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<https://r8.ieee.org/lebanon/imcet21/imcet-contact-us/>





