

TO: IEEE Region 8 Committee, October 2022

FROM: Antonio Luque, Region 8 Director

SUBJECT: Director Report

1. Activities since April 2022

The new Region 8 Bylaws were approved by the MGA Board in June 2022 and are now fully in effect. During the same meeting, the formation of the Ethiopia Subsection and the Egypt Section joining the Africa Section were also approved. In addition, the study of a pilot program to allow members to pay dues in their local currency moved forward. The pilot will involve several Sections in the world, including Lebanon Section in R8.

At the end of August, membership grew YoY in all member grades. In addition to the large increase in student membership that we have experienced in the last years, we are also seeing a small but positive increase in higher-grade membership now. It will be very important to focus on the first-year experience of these new members, especially now that the FUTURE50 program is coming to an end.

During 5 days in August, students and young professionals from all over the Region attended in R8 SYP 2022, held for the first time in person since 2018. More than 200 attendees participated in workshops, keynote speeches, training and formation sessions, and social activities in Tunis, Tunisia. The organizers did a tremendous effort in organizing a successful event that will be unforgettable for those who were present. During 2023, cross-sectional Student and Young Professional congresses (xSYPs) will take place in different parts of the Region and bids for organizing them are welcome.

Regarding conferences, the 21st IEEE Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference (MELECON 2022) took place in Palermo, Italy, from 14 to 16 June, and the 7th Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry Innovation (RTSI) in Paris, France, from 24 to 26 August, both with notable success. It is worth noting that this edition of RTSI was the first under the new agreement, where Region 8 is actively participating in the decisions and organization of the conference and RTSI is part of the R8 portfolio of conferences.

Committee Chairs and other volunteers gathered together in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10 to 11 September, for the R8 Strategic Retreat. During one and a half days, these volunteers discussed ideas about the medium- and long-term planning for the Region, including student retention, volunteer pipeline, and additional funding sources.

2. OpCom meeting June 2022

Region 8 OpCom had a meeting in Palermo, Italy, on 11-12 June 2022.

The full agenda of the OpCom meeting included discussions on volunteer vitality, progress on the organization of SYP 2022, publications, organization of the strategic retreat and endorsement of the 2023 budget.

3. Recent recognitions to members and volunteers in R8

2023 IEEE Technical Field Awards

IEEE CLEDO BRUNETTI AWARD to **JOHN ROBERTSON** (FIEEE)—Professor, Cambridge University, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom

IEEE RAO R. TUMMALA ELECTRONICS PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY AWARD to **GUOQI (KOUCHI) ZHANG** (FIEEE)—Chair Professor, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands

IEEE RICHARD HAROLD KAUFMANN AWARD to **Ewald F. Fuchs** (LFIEEE)—Professor Emeritus of Electrical, Computer, and Energy Engineering, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, Colorado, USA

IEEE HERMAN HALPERIN ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION AWARD to **NIKOLAOS D. HATZIARGYRIOU** (LFIEEE)—Professor, National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece

IEEE PHOTONICS AWARD to **ROEL BAETS** (FIEEE)—Professor, Department of Information Technology, Ghent University - IMEC, Gent, Belgium

IEEE FRANK ROSENBLATT AWARD to **MARIOS POLYCARPOU** (FIEEE)—Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Director of the KIOS Center of Excellence, University of Cyprus, Aglantzia, Cyprus

IEEE KIYO TOMIYASU AWARD to **TIM BOESCKE** (non-member)—Senior Manager, OSRAM Opto Semiconductors, Regensburg, Germany

IEEE DONALD O. PEDERSON AWARD IN SOLID-STATE CIRCUITS to **INGRID VERBAUWHEDE** (FIEEE)—Professor, Research group COSIC (Computer Security and Industrial Cryptography group), KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

4. Region Realignment

The MGA AdHoc on Region Realignment recently finalized a proposal for reconsidering the IEEE regional structure that addresses the three main objectives set at the beginning of the year:

- Split of Region 10 into two new Regions
- Reducing US Regions to 5
- Consolidating the zone concept and representation

The proposal is currently under review and will be discussed for final approval during the November meeting series.

5. Region 8 Membership Data at the end of August 2022

As of 31 August 2022, Region 8 membership included 55,489 members. One year earlier (31 August 2021) membership was 52,836 (5.02% increase).

Distribution of membership by grade is as follows:

	Aug 2022	Aug 2021	Change	
Associate	1227	1260	-33	-2.62 %
Fellow	932	897	35	3.90 %
GSM	9210	7829	1381	7.13 %
Honorary	10	10	0	0 %
Life Fellow	451	421	30	7.13 %
Life Member	1472	1362	110	8.08 %
Life Senior	789	725	64	8.83 %
Member	35566	34940	626	1.79 %
Senior Member	9678	9317	361	3.87 %
Student Member	10839	8119	2720	33.50 %

6. Conclusion

This is my last report to the Region 8 Committee as Director. It has been my pleasure to serve in this position for the last two years, and I am deeply grateful to the wonderful volunteers that have contributed their time and effort to serve IEEE members in the Region.

In the coming years, the Region and IEEE will face significant challenges but I am completely sure that we will navigate them as a team, and that volunteers,

members, and staff, will continue working together to fulfill IEEE's mission and vision.

I would like to finish by wishing the best to Region 8 and to the individuals who will serve in the different volunteering roles and positions in the future. My best wishes for them.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonio Luque
Director, IEEE Region 8