

Section Name: IEEE Lebanon Section

Reporting Officer Name: Hadi KANAAN

Section Vitality

Date of last Section elections: December 5, 2022

Date of next elections: December 2024

Practice: The section chair is elected by the section members. It is mandatory that the elected chair should have served as vice-chair in the preceded mandate.

Section ExCom meetings:

- Meeting on December 17, 2022: A welcome gathering after the elections where the election committee declared the election results and the new section chair presented the membership status and his leadership vision on the section, Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches levels.
- Meeting on January 26, 2023: A first official work meeting for the new elected Section Board and Officers. It included presentations from the hosting USJ student branch, the section chair (section update, statistics and points of concern, voting members motion, list of tasks for the 1st quarter, future visits to all university campuses, reminder of IEEE bylaws, code of ethics and code of conduct, announcement of IMCET'23 and all conferences sponsored by the section and/or Region 8, upcoming general assembly and award ceremony, multimedia presence, IEEE follow-up application), the treasurer (update of the financial situation of the section), the Membership Development Officer (membership status and renewal process, section support to all student branches for membership renewal), and the Student Activities Officer (YESIST12 and other upcoming events).
- General Assembly on March 1st, 2023: Presentations from the section chair (IEEE history, vision, hierarchy, membership benefits, awards, and brief presentation on the Lebanon Section), the Treasurer, the Chapters, Affinity Groups and the Student Branches Chairs about their activities. The gathering ended with the award ceremony for best Chapter or Joint Chapter, best Affinity Group and Best Student Branch.
- Meeting on March 15, 2023: A second official work meeting included presentations from the section chair (list of reminded tasks for the 1st quarter and new tasks for the 2nd quarter, motion for financial support process, approval of funding requests from the chapters and student branches, IMCET'23 planning, section reporting the Region 8 meeting in Bucharest, 2023 sections congress recommendations, nomination of a new Multimedia Coordinator for the section), the Conference Coordinator, and the Student Activities Officer (YESIST12 update and other upcoming student activities).

List the activities carried out to retain and recruit members and the results obtained:

- Reminders has been sent by email to all Section members urging them to renew their membership before February 28, 2023.
- A decision has been taken by the section to support each student branch with 200\$ max per branch. This sum managed by the Student Activities Officer helped the branches with financial difficulties in retaining most of their members.
- As a results, the membership renewal went from 28% on December 17, 2022, to reach 59.6% on March 1st, 2023.

Students

List of active Student Branches:

- STB05101 - American University-Beirut
- STB16941 - Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK)
- STB61091 - Notre Dame University-Lebanon
- STB00251 - Saint Joseph University School of Engineering
- STB07191 - American University of Science and Technology
- STB64288 - Lebanese University, Faculty of Sciences
- STB06091 - Rafik Hariri University
- STB17831 - University of Balamand
- STB13851 - Lebanese University Faculty of Engineering-Hadath
- STB05361 - Lebanese University Faculty of Engineering-Roumieh
- STB60231 - Lebanese American University
- STB17911 - Lebanese University – Tripoli
- STB17891 - Lebanese International University

- STB18521 - Islamic University of Lebanon (IUL)
- STB14007 - Beirut Arab University – Tripoli
- STB16581 - Beirut Arab University
- STB10149 - Antonine University
- STB19001 - Arts, Sciences & Technology University in Lebanon AUL
- STB20128 - City University (CityU)

List of dissolved Student Branches:

- Arab Open University
- University, of Sciences and Arts in Lebanon (USAL)

List of student meetings held:

- Section meeting with the USJ Student Branch on January 26, 2023.
- Section meeting with the La Sagesse University to form a new student branch, March 15, 2023.

Section activities addressed to Students and Young Professionals:

- General Assembly and Award Ceremony held on March 1st, 2023.
- Section support for the SYP Lebanon Congress held on March 18, 2023.

Affinity Groups

List of Affinity Groups:

- WIE
- YP
- LM

List of SB AGs:

- American University of Beirut, WIE
- Beirut Arab University, WIE
- Lebanese American University, WIE
- Notre-Dame University, WIE
- University of Balamand, WIE
- American University of Beirut, SIGHT

List the activities intended to support affinity groups:

- Section support for the SYP Lebanon Congress held on March 18, 2023.
- International Women’s Day – IEEE Arab WIE event with IEEE WIE Egypt, KSA, Jordan, Kuwait, Tunisia, and UAE
- International Women’s day – IWD2023 in collaboration with Google developer groups coast Lebanon and Women Techmakers.

Chapters

List of Chapters:

- COM19
- EMB18
- AP03/MTT17/MAG33
- C16
- RA24/IM09/CS23
- IE13/PE31/CAS04/PEL35

List of SB Chapters:

- Rafik Hariri University, EMB18
- Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), EMB18
- American University of Science and Technology, EMB18

- American University of Beirut, EMB18
- Lebanese American University, EMB18
- American University of Beirut, RA24
- Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), PE31
- University of Balamand, PE31
- Saint-Joseph University School of Engineering, C16
- University of Balamand, C16

On-time reporting: 9 meeting reports and 8 technical event reports

Activities:

- Meetings
- Organization and sponsorship of local and regional conferences
- Competitions
- Middle East Clean Energy (Exhibition & Conference), September 7-9, 2022
- Lecture on Drone Data Solutions in the Solar PV Sector, November 3rd, 2022
- Lecture on Learn the Basics of Raspberry PI, November 4, 2022
- International Conference on Smart Systems and Power Management (IC2SPM'22), November 10-12, 2022
- Matlab Workshop, November 12, 2022
- International Conference on Microelectronics (ICM'22), December 4-7, 2022
- International Conference on Computer and Applications (ICCA'22), December 20-22, 2022
- Trip to Sheni Hydropower Plant, November 12, 2022
- Matlab Workshop, February 17, 2023

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Total: 747 members (433 new members, 73 first year renewed)

Gender: 35.48% Male, 19.41% Female, 45.11% Unknown

Geographical distribution: Beirut (463), Mount Lebanon (160), North (85), Beqaa (12), South (22), Unknown (5)

Best practices and progress around diversity and inclusion happening in our Section:

- Encouraging female students through IEEE WIE-Lebanon
- Partners for events such as Devfest 2022, in collaboration with Google developer groups coast Lebanon and Women Techmakers.
- Officers (Chair/MD/student representatives/SB chairs) promoting IEEE by participating in different SB events (Introduction to IEEE, success stories, motivational talks, technical seminars/webinars)
- IEEE General Assembly
- Competitions

Activities since the last report

- SYPLC, March 18, 2023
- General Assembly and Award Ceremony, March 1st, 2023
- Founding a new student branch in La Sagesse University, March 15, 2023
- International Conference on Smart Systems and Power Management (IC2SPM'22), November 10-12, 2022

Planned activities

- International Conference on Renewable Energy for Developing Countries (REDEC'23), July 5-7, 2023
- International Conference on Advanced Computational Techniques for Engineering Applications (ACTEA'23), July 5-7, 2023
- International Multidisciplinary Conference on Engineering and Technology (IMCET'23), December 12-14, 2023

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

The major challenge that we are facing is the actual nonstable 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 led to the reception of many membership retention awards. During the last 2 years, the economic situation collapsed dramatically. A huge devaluation of the Lebanese Pound occurred. The price of one USD passed from 1,515 LBP to more than 100,000 LBP today. As a direct consequence, the banking system put very restrictive conditions 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 1,515 LBP/USD. In that case, people have to reply on exchange offices with rate an exceeding 100,000 LBP/USD
- Very big limitation or cancellation of the use of credit cards for online payments or payments outside Lebanon

We have received many requests 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. We are still hoping that IEEE will consider special rates for membership renewal to countries that are facing a similar crisis. IEEE Region 8 and IEEE MGA usually rely on the 3-year span financial report form the World Bank to take actions regarding fees reduction in some regions or countries. We hope that they will be able to help our section to retain their members for next year by taking appropriate measures.

Any other issues of interest

Region 8 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 partnerships with international companies due to a 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.