

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 May 17, 2023: The third Section AdCom meeting of 2023 was held in the Lebanese International University in Beirut. First, a presentation from the LIU Student Branch chair on the held and projected activities of the branch was given. It was followed then by the Section Chair presentation that included a reminder of the tasks proposed for the 1st and 2nd quarters, approval of funding requests from student branches and chapters, IMCET'23 planning, Invitation to contribute to the IEEE Teaching Excellence Hub (THE) related to Climate Change, nomination of liaison officers for R8 Climate Change committee and R8 PEAC. The student's representative presents the students' past and future activities. The Student Activities officer presented the progress of the YESIST12 competition. The Professional Activities officer presented his activities and future plan.
- Meeting on July 12, 2023. The fourth Section AdCom meeting was held online. The Section Chair started his presentation with a reminder of tasks for the 2nd quarter of the year (April-June 2023). Funding requests from the local Ous were then approved by the committee. IMCET'23 planning update was then discussed. New events and awards for local chapters were announced. Top recommendations for SC2023 were presented and the AdCom members selected 3 of them by voting. A Section retreat project was discussed and will be planned in 2024. The Students Activities officer then gave an update about the YESIST12 competition and its results, the IEEE Day 2023, and the IEEEExtreme competition 17.0.

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

- Reminders have been sent by email to all Section members urging them to renew their membership.
- 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 result, the section reached 722 new members (631 student members, 61 members, 26 Graduate student members) and 89 first-year renewed members (65 student members, 21 members, 3 Graduate student members).

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
- STB99069 - University of Tripoli

- STB19001 - Arts, Sciences & Technology University in Lebanon AUL
- STB20128 - City University (CityU)

List of inactive Student Branches:

- Arab Open University
- Phoenicia University

Student Branch soon to be created:

- La Sagesse University

List of student meetings held:

- Section meeting with the LIU Student Branch on May 17, 2023.
- Month of April: 1 on 1 call with each chair of each SB to check if they are doing their activity.
- Month of June: call with all the chairs to discuss more updates.
- Month of July: 1 on 1 call with each chair to see their preparations for next year.

Section activities addressed to Students and Young Professionals:

- YESIST12 competition held on June 24, 2023.
- IEEE Grand Tech Lebanon, June 3, 2023.
- Arduino-based competition for schools, May 2023.
- IEEE Student and Young Professional Lebanon Congress (SYPLC), March 18, 2023.
- Robot Processing Automation Workshop, April 4, 2023.
- Robotic Process Automation Workshop, June 15, 2023.
- Easter Treasure Hunt, April 12, 2023.
- A Step Closer to your Career, April 1st, 2023.
- Build it Weekend 5.0, March 31 – April 2, 2023.
- 3D Printing Workshop, March 22, 2023.
- Raspberry Pi, June 24, 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:

- IEEE Grand Tech Lebanon held on June 3, 2023.
- Lebanese Electromagnetics Day 2023 with lectures and a student competition on June 16th.
- IEEE Student and Young Professional Lebanon Congress (SYPLC), March 18, 2023.

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: a total of 37 events, 31 reports for meetings and technical events

Some activities:

- Meetings
- Organization and sponsorship of local and regional conferences
- Competitions
- Event Title: Robocar 1 Competition, Friday May 12.
- Introduction to Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC), May 26th, 2023.
- Introducing high school students to the fascinating world of electromagnetic fields, Friday May 5th, 2023.
- Introducing high school students to the fascinating world of electromagnetic fields, Friday May 19th, 2023.
- DL: Optimal modulation and control for power electronic systems, Tuesday April 25th, 2023.
- Zahrani Power Plant Field Visit, May 22-24, 2023.
- A Step Closer to your Career, April 1st, 2023.
- 7th Int. Conf. on Advances in Biomedical Engineering (ICABME'23), October 2023.
- 1st Scientific Conference on Engineering Technology, October 2023.
- IEEE Grand Tech Lebanon, June 3, 2023.
- IEEE ComSoc Lebanon Chapter 2023 Workshop Series: Raspberry Pi, June 24, 2023.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Memberships: a total of 1091 members (767 Student Members, 43 Graduate Student Members, 211 Members, 55 Senior Members, 5 Life Members, 2 Fellow and 3 Associate Members), 722 new members (631 student members, 61 members, 26 Graduate student members), 89 first-year renewed members (65 student members, 21 members, 3 Graduate student members)

Gender: 41.15% Male, 20.35% Female, 38.50% Unknown

Geographical distribution: Beirut (625), Mount Lebanon (194), North Lebanon (181), Beqaa (16), Nabatiyeh (2), South Lebanon (62), Unknown (11)

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

- Encouraging members to renew their memberships, and trying to facilitate the payment of fees through group payments or the help of an executive committee member
- Encouraging female students through IEEE WIE-Lebanon
- Encouraging students from all over Lebanon to join IEEE by visiting universities, holding seminars and webinars about the benefits of IEEE
- Partners for various events such as Devfest 2022 and International Women's day IWD2023 in collaboration with Google developer groups coast Lebanon and Women Techmakers

- Officers (Chair/MD/student representatives/SB chairs) promoting IEEE by participating in different events (Introduction to IEEE, benefits of IEEE, success stories, motivational talks, technical seminars/webinars, workshops)
- IEEE General Assembly
- IEEE Lebanon Section in-person meetings at different universities, to promote IEEE and meet the student branch

Activities since the last report

- IEEE Student and Young Professional Lebanon Congress (SYPLC), March 18, 2023.
- Technical sponsorship for the 5th International Conference on Advances in Computational Tools for Engineering Applications (ACTEA'23), July 5-7, 2023.
- Technical sponsorship for the 6th International Conference on Renewable Energy for Developing Countries (REDEC'23), July 5-7, 2023.
- YESIST12 competition, June 24, 2023.
- IEEE Grand Tech Lebanon, June 3, 2023.

Planned activities

- International Multidisciplinary Conference on Engineering and Technology (IMCET'23), December 12-14, 2023.
- Section retreat, 2024.

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 90,000 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 exceeding 90,000 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.