R8 Entrepreneurship Committee   **Rawan El Jamal - Chairperson**

Committee Goals

The committee's overall mission is to promote and drive entrepreneurship activities in region 8. We do so through the following objectives

1. **Building a community and growing local entrepreneurship activities:** Create, encourage and support local (country and regional) entrepreneurship communities within IEEE and entrepreneurship activities.
2. **Strengthen entrepreneurship knowledge and skills**: create learning opportunities for aspiring or early-stage entrepreneurs within the IEEE community to learn about entrepreneurship and build the skills required to pursue entrepreneurship.
3. **Provide mentorship opportunities:** connect aspiring or early-stage entrepreneurs within the IEEE community to IEEE and non-IEEE mentors in the entrepreneurship space.
4. **Create and grow the network:** create a local (country and regional) entrepreneurship and investment network that the committee can tap into and extend to aspiring or early-stage entrepreneurs within the IEEE community.
5. **Push to action through competition:** create a regional competition platform / pitching competition to identify and encourage new startups from the IEEE community.

Committee KPIs

Objective	KPIs
Building a community and growing local entrepreneurship activities	# of local entrepreneurship activities hosted # of entrepreneurship week ambassadors # of local interest groups for entrepreneurship created
Strengthen entrepreneurship knowledge and skills	# workshops, or knowledge sharing session created by committee, in person or virtual
Provide mentorship opportunities	# of mentorship sessions / startups mentored
Create and grow the network	# of external conferences we partner with # of free / discounted tickets to external conferences we secure for our IEEE community $ value of benefits and sponsorship we create and receive from external conference partners. # of IEEE conferences we attend where we host an entrepreneurship workshop
Push to action through competition	# of startups that compete in our Region 8 Pitch Competition Geographic diversity of the startups

Progress against goals since the last report

Our progress and updates since last meeting in Bucharest mainly cover four topics.

1. Pitch Competition 2023

R8 Pitch Competition Semi-Finals took place on April 16th, 2023, with the following judges: Ali Saleh (MD at Avanz Capital, Egypt), Dina Shoman (Co-founder at Verity, UAE), Dr. Abdulla Al Shimmeri (Co-founder at HCMS, UAE), Leila Hurstel (Founder at AllStarsWomen DAO, UAE), and Omar Al Shaaban. (CEO and Co-founder at The Space, KSA). Three Finalist winners were selected.

Startup	Country	Additional information	Pitch video
DonaLeb	Lebanon	www.donaleb.com	https://youtu.be/sqdS7N6-rPg
Oracle Water Flow Meter (OWM)	Egypt	https://www.facebook.com/owm.oracle	https://youtu.be/uOoItQyRz2w
SimTrAi	Jordan	https://www.linkedin.com/company/simtrai/	https://youtu.be/JKdVbF_O5Pc

Pitch Final took place at GITEX Global in Dubai, on October 16th, 2023. Judges included Karl Naim - Founder of Purpl, Malak Al Akiely - CEO of Golden Wheat for Grain Trading, Mohammad El Dallal.

Awards included 1st place - 2000 USD: DonaLeb and 2nd place - 1000 USD: SimtrAI.

All three finalists received a travel grant to attend GITEX. GITEX acted as event sponsor as part of a bigger partnership and covered venue costs including stage, seating, audio video, and catering. Attendees fluctuated between 50 to 70 at any given time.

2. Conference partnerships

VivaTech, Paris - Secured ~12 free tickets. 7 IEEE members attended. Mention on website and appearance during event as "Ambassador Partner."

GITEX, Morocco - Secured promo-code for free tickets, but unfortunately it was advertised late, and no tickets were claimed.

Youth Energy Summit, Kenya - Secured free attendance tickets and discounts for startups.

3. Workshops and events organized by committee.

Entrepreneurship session at Youth Energy Summit by Kithinji Muriungi

Entrepreneurship workshop at WESYP Lausanne on sept 16 by Rosa Delgado

GITEX Global, Dubai IEEE Entrepreneurship Deep Tech Summit, October 16th, 2023

- Three panels on entrepreneurship in deep tech, navigating investment landscape and semiconductors in the region.
- Speakers included Joanne Wong, Chair of IEEE Entrepreneurship, Jürgen Greil, CEO of FLyNow Aviation, Aya ElGebeely, Founder and CEO at Talents Arena, Hisham Haddara, Chairman at Si-Ware Systems
- The venue included stage, seating, audio video, and catering, all GITEX sponsored. Attendees fluctuated between 50 to 70 at any given time.

GITEX Global, Dubai IEEE Region 8 AI Symposium, October 20

- Event co-created with GITEX Global and AI Everything
- 6 PhD presenters from UAE, Norway, Spain, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia
- Judging panel included: Simon See, Executive Director of ASEAN Applied Research Centre - Global Head Nvidia AI Technology Centre NVIDIA. Christopher Abraham, CEO & Head - Dubai Campus, S P Jain School of Global Management. Wathiq Mansoor, Dean of College of Engineering & IT at University of Dubai. Omar Hatamleh, Chief Advisor, Artificial Intelligence & Innovation - NASA
- Awards were sponsored by GITEX and included 2000 USD 1st place, 1000 USD 2nd place, 700 USD 3rd place.
- The venue included stage, seating, audio video, and catering. Attendees fluctuated between 60 and 90.

GITEX Benefits - roughly worth 10x our expenses

Benefit	Unit price if purchased	Total benefit value
22 delegate tickets	163 USD	~3500 USD
86 free visitor tickets	136 USD	~11700 USD
5 Investor passes	No price - invite only	NA
1000 50% discounted visitor tickets	78 USD	NA - No view on total # of tickets used
Stage time for deep tech summit	~30,000 USD	~30,000 USD
Stage time for AI Symposium	~30,000 USD	~30,000 USD
Flights and hotel for 5 PhD presenters	~2,000 USD	10,000 USD
Awards for AI Symposium	~3,700 USD	~3,700 USD
Total		~122,200 USD
Total spend by IEEE R8 and IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship		~12,650 USD

Video to Deep tech summit and Pitch Final - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dtRLGwkZ2_YH0SWpN4l9DEpmBIiWddNk/view?resourcekey

Video to AI Symposium - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IOMR0nffFDBKfFUmT0evoKOYe2aTVfbF/view?resourcekey

4. The Entrepreneurship Week 2023 / 2024 events

This year, we extended the timeline to implement and report Entrepreneurship Week events to end of February to create more room for ambassadors. Reporting on events will conclude on March 3rd. Below is the full list of events we expect this year and the number of ambassadors per event. Selection of Best Entrepreneurship Week event will take place after reporting.

	Country	Event name	Number of ambassadors
1	Kenya	HealthTech and MedTech Startup Bootcamp:	1
2	Egypt	From Ideas to Impact: The Entrepreneur's Odyssey	4
3	Spain	ENGITREPRENEURSHIP 2023	1
4	Nigeria	TechFutures: Empowering Possibilities - A Technology Exploration Day	1
5	UK&I	Sheffield Entrepreneurship Event	3
6	Egypt	Zewail City Student Entrepreneurship Camp	1
7	Zambia	IEEE Entrepreneurship week startup pitch competition	9
8	Tunisia	InspireUP: Entrepreneurship Unleashed	2
9	Tunisia	IEEE Tunisian SYP congress 2023	4
10	KSA	Entrepreneurship under IEEE SYP Saudi arabia	1
11	Egypt	Gen-Start	1
12	Jordan	NETC- Nutrition Entrepreneurship Technical Competition	3
13	Jordan	IEEE PITCHINNO	5
14	Egypt	Port Said Engineering Entrepreneurship Week - PSEEW	4
15	Egypt	Let's Embark	2
16	Egypt	Innoventure	15
17	Egypt	Future Founders	1

5. Sponsorship and in-kind funding

Secured 5000 USD from IEEE Entrepreneurship Global. GITEX in kind sponsorship and benefits amounted to ~ 120,000 USD.

Entrepreneurship Committee specific issues and points of concern

1. Limited diversity in startups competing in regional Pitch competition due to reliance on Entrepreneurship Week events only, creating a dependency of the success of one initiative on the other.

    a. To address this, this year, we will open the R8 Pitch Competition to startups in countries where no entrepreneurship week event took place. Startups from such countries in region 8 can apply, will go through the same judging criteria communicated to entrepreneurship week ambassadors. We will ensure that up to 3 startups are selected from each new country and qualify to the quarter final with the top 3 startups from entrepreneurship week events, to ensure fairness in the process and fair odds.

2. Decreasing engagement and need to provide additional added value to local ambassador groups.

    a. To address this, we provided mentorship to local ambassadors and remained in constant contact which was well received.

    b. We attempted to host information sessions with YP chairs but had little traction.

    c. This year we are piloting offering funding support in the form of reimbursement of event expense, a symbolic amount of under 300 USD per event.

    d. We will also focus on the following as additional means to increase engagement.

        i. Be more present in IEEE conference through info sessions and workshops, which should also advance our knowledge creating and strengthening goal.

ii. Refocusing on local interest groups and reaching out to alumni ambassadors

Proposals for improvements and new ideas for 2024 plan

Women Entrepreneurship Mentorship Network (new idea - program brief in progress)

- A mentorship network focused on women entrepreneurs by women entrepreneurs.

- Select a number of IEEE women members in entrepreneurship or looking to start a business and offer them a time bound mentorship program from IEEE and non-IEEE women founders \

Embed mentorship in Entrepreneurship Week events (new idea - program brief in progress)

- In Entrepreneurship Week 2024-2025, offer mentorship sessions to startups competing in local pitch competitions.

Pushing Local Interest Groups (one last attempt- program brief in progress)

- Work with previous and current ambassadors to create local interest groups in entrepreneurship.

High level plan to 2024 – Business as usual

Entrepreneurship Week 2023-2024

- Complete reporting on 2023-2024 edition in March 2024

- Select Best Entrepreneurship Week Event and ambassadors in March 2024

Entrepreneurship Week 2024-2025

- Launch 2024-2025 edition in July 2024

IEEE R8 Pitch Final 2024

- Host Pitch at R8 SYP 2024 in Grenoble in July

- Open up scope of competing startups. In addition to the top 3 startups from local entrepreneurship week events, startups based in countries where no entrepreneurship week event took place can still apply and will be considered under the same judging criteria.

- This year's Finals award for top team will be travel grant to attend an external, non-IEEE, tech and entrepreneurship conference, instead of monetary prizes, to expand exposure of startups and the committee in IEEE and external conferences.

GITEX Morocco: 29 to 31 May - Secure free tickets for IEEE attendance and potential workshop, panel, speaking slot.

Viva Tech Paris: 22 to 25 May - Secure free tickets for IEEE attendance and potential workshop, panel, speaking slot.

GITEX Dubai: 14 to 18 October

- GITEX team reached out and proposed a new partnership in 2024 after success and great feedback in 2023.

- Currently negotiating terms and setting the format for a three-day collaboration covering the following

- Deep tech and entrepreneurship summit: full day panels/workshops and a startup showcase

- Healthtech and entrepreneurship summit: full day panels/workshops and a startup showcase

- AI Symposium: similar to the AI Doctorate Symposium in 2023, with researchers presenting published work, and the aim to create a bigger scale, and additional content.

IEEE Conferences

- Identify 3 IEEE conferences to host Entrepreneurship Workshops or Panels (similar to workshop hosted at WESYP 2023)