

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. Normally, the elected chair would have served as vice-chair in the preceded mandate, but it is not a mandatory condition.

Section ExCom meetings:

- Meeting on September 5, 2023: The fifth Section AdCom meeting of 2023 was held online using the MS Teams platform. The Section Chair presentation included a reminder of the tasks proposed for the 3rd quarter of the year (July to September 2023), the approval of funding requests from student branches and chapters, the industry ambassador appointment, a reminder for v-tools reporting, the IMCET'23 planning, and a discussion on upcoming events: Call for ambassadors for the IEEE Day, team registration for IEEEExtreme 17.0, IEEE Sectional Student Branch Officers meeting, participation in Beirut Energy Week, the ICABME conference, participation in GITEX Global DevSlam and in the MESYP. The student's representative presents the students' past and future activities. The Student Activities officer presented the YESIST'12 after event update, and the progress of the IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship Week, the IEEEExtreme competition, the IEEE Day preparations and the IEEE ComSoc Student competition.
- Meeting on November 23, 2023. The sixth Section AdCom meeting was held online on the MS Teams platform. The Section Chair started his presentation with a reminder of tasks for the 3rd and 4th quarters of the year. Funding requests from the local operational units were then approved by the committee. IMCET'23 planning update was then discussed. New events and awards for local chapters, a MoU signing with the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation, and new student branch formation were announced.

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 in 2023.
- As a result, the section reached in 2023 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).
- Concerning membership recruitment and retention for 2024, the Section decided to award 6 free memberships to regular members, 6 free memberships to graduate students and 20 free memberships to undergraduate students who registered or renewed before December 11, 2023. The awardees will be selected randomly during the closing ceremony of the Section flagship conference IMCET'23, on December 13, 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
- STB99069 – University of Tripoli
- STB19001 – Arts, Sciences & Technology University in Lebanon AUL
- STB20128 – City University (CityU)
- STB60217957 – University of La Sagesse
- STB60209966 – Phoenicia University

List of inactive Student Branches:

- Arab Open University

List of student meetings held:

- Month of September: call with all the chairs to discuss more updates.
- Month of October: call with all the chairs to discuss more updates.
- Month of November: 1 on 1 call with each chair to see their preparations for next year.

Section activities addressed to Students and Young Professionals:

- YESIST 12 Grand Finale, Alexandria, Egypt, September 2-3, 2023.
- IEEE Sectional Student Branch Officers Meeting, Byblos, September 9, 2023.
- Time Management, September 25, 2023.
- Seminar & Workshop on Artificial Intelligence, September 30 and October 6, 2023.
- IEEE DAY 2023, October 2023.
- Sunset social gathering, October 14, 2023.
- Beckhoff Automation Technology, October 23, 2023.
- IEEEExtreme 17.0, October 27-29, 2023.
- Eco Smart City, Genius House & City University, November 4-25, 2023.
- Tech Day: Where Innovation Thrives!, NDU, November 10, 2023.
- Magnetics at Adventist High School, November 24, 2023.
- Improve your skills in Arduino coding and circuit assembly, November 25, 2023.
- IEEE Day Mentor Meetup, December 2, 2023.
- IEEE Computer Society TECHX, December 9, 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:

- YESIST 12 Grand Finale, Alexandria, Egypt, September 2-3, 2023.
- IEEE Day Mentor Meetup, December 2, 2023.
- IEEE Computer Society TECHX, December 9, 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

Some activities:

- Meetings.
- Organization and sponsorship of local and regional conferences.
- Competitions.
- Beirut Energy Week, Dbayeh, September 20-22, 2023.
- IEEE DAY 2023, October 2023.
- IEEE Day Social events series, October 7, 2023.
- 7th International Conference on Advances in Biomedical Engineering (ICABME'23), La Sagesse University, October 12-13, 2023
- Eco Smart City, Genius House & City University, November 4-25, 2023.
- Tech Day: Where Innovation Thrives!, NDU, November 10, 2023.
- Magnetics at Adventist High School, November 24, 2023.
- IEEE Computer Society TECHX, December 9, 2023.
- IMCET'23, December 12-14.

Industry

- 2023 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) SIA meeting, Cairo, Egypt, August 26-27, 2023.
- MoU signing with the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC), September 22, 2023.
- MoU signing with the Lebanese Association for Digital Transformation (LADT), December 2, 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 Lebanon Section Retreat and General Assembly.
- IEEE Lebanon Section in-person meetings at different universities, to promote IEEE and meet the student branch.

Activities since the last report

- Region 8 meeting, Ottawa, Canada, August 11, 2023.
- Sections Congress, Ottawa, Canada, August 11-13, 2023.
- 2023 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) SIA meeting, Cairo, Egypt, August 26-27, 2023.
- YESIST 12 Grand Finale, Alexandria, Egypt, September 2-3, 2023.
- IEEE Sectional Student Branch Officers Meeting, Byblos, September 9, 2023.
- Beirut Energy Week, Dbayeh, September 20-22, 2023.
- IEEE DAY 2023, October 2023.
- IEEE Day Social events series, October 7, 2023.
- Technical sponsorship for the 7th International Conference on Advances in Biomedical Engineering (ICABME'23), La Sagesse University, October 12-13, 2023.
- GITEX Global DevSlam, Dubai, October 20, 2023.
- IEEEExtreme 17.0, October 27-29, 2023.
- IEEE Day Mentor Meetup, December 2, 2023.
- IEEE Computer Society TECHX, December 9, 2023.
- IMCET'23, December 12-14, 2023.

Planned activities

- Scientific Conference on Engineering Technology, January 30, 2024
- Section retreat and General Assembly, March 2024.
- MoU signing with the Order of Engineers and Architects (OEA) in Beirut.
- MoU signing with the Lebanese Solar Energy Society (LSES).

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 3 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 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.
- Very strict 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.