Sweden Section   Andrei Gurtov, Qinghua Wang

Section Vitality

We held the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in a hybrid format (online and in Linköping University) in March 2023. The signed minutes and other reports are available on our web site https://r8.ieee.org/sweden/archive/.

Traditionally, the Vice-Chair takes over the Chair role in Sweden section, but it also depends on the results from the voting. For 2023, the Chair is continuing but we have a new Vice-Chair (Dr. Qinghua Wang). The Vice-Chair needs training before he can take over the Chair role. The Nomination and Appointment Committee collected feedback and volunteers for Board positions for 2023 during 2022. According to the section's bylaw, the term, however, is only valid for one year. Therefore, a new voting has been made at the end of 2023, but this time only for the four most important executive positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary). According to the voting results, the same persons will continue these roles in 2024. During 2023, two board members for Industrial Relations and for Newsletter have resigned and new board members for these two positions are going to be assigned by the board in 2024.

A remarkable value-add during AGM 2023 is a technical lecture "Title: Secure networked control systems: Closing the loop over malicious networks" by IEEE Fellow Prof. Henrik Sandberg's: https://people.kth.se/~hsan/

The IEEE Sweden Section board was active in 2023 and held online meetings at every month (except the summer break). The IEEE Sweden Section also holds an annual workshop for all Chapter chairs affiliated with the section. The board meetings and chapter chair workshop have been reported as events in VTool.

The IEEE Sweden Section has regained its lost members during the pandemic, and the total number of members have reached almost 2000. To promote IEEE Sweden, the board and affinity chairs are wearing "IEEE Sweden" logo shirts on special occasions. We are also ordering IEEE merchandise to promote the Section and reward active members with certificates.

Students

The section has three active student branches (KTH, Chalmers and Linköping). New chairs and board members were actively recruited to all SBs. The new Student Activities coordinator was recently recruited and passed the R8 event training in Turkey in February 2023. The Section works to attract more student members via selected award memberships and form more SBs.

Affinity Groups

Young Professional and Women in Engineering Affinity Groups are present in the Section. WiE was quite active organizing several events, while YP got a new leader (shared with SAC). The Section has a strong potential to form a LM AG, and we are working to organize it.

Chapters

The Section has fifteen registered chapters. The largest and most active societies are: COMSOC/VT, Computer, Signal Processing, Power and Energy, Microwave theory, Antennas and Propagation (over 100 members each).

The Annual Chapter Chairs workshop (held October) is a forum for all chapter, affinity group, student branch chairs to discuss events that could be done in collaboration. The meeting has been tradition since 2016 and is one reason for successful operation of the chapters. During the meeting, chapters are also briefed about the budget process for the coming years, making sure the budget is submitted, approved at the right time and the section treasurer has all the input needed to submit to the IEEE HQ. The presentations from the 2024 workshop can be found at https://r8.ieee.org/sweden/archive/ .

VT/COM/IT Chapter received the 2023 Chapter of the Year Award from the IEEE Information Theory Society.

Industry

The link to industry was somehow weak in 2023, as the Industry Relations officer resigned from the board in the middle of the term. A new officer should be found in 2024.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

WiE is a very active affinity group in the Section. Several Chapters (SPS, PES/PELS, YP, WiE, Reliability) are led by female members.

Dr. Ming Xiao, Membership Officer keeps the statistics regarding gender balance, inclusion, etc.

Activities since the last report

The Annual Chapter Chairs Workshop has been held successfully as a hybrid event online and at Linköping University in October 2023. There were in total 16 presentations including three from the section board, and 13 from different chapter chairs. The workshop served as a communication platform between the section board and the chapters.

Optics and Photonics in Sweden (OPS-2023): October 17 @ 13:00 - October 19 @ 16:30

The Optics and Photonics in Sweden (OPS-2023) conference is organized by PhotonicSweden and the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH). The general chair is Prof. Mattias Hammar, Division of Electronics and Embedded Systems, KTH. The conference will give an overview of Optics and Photonics in Sweden and Scandinavia and offer a good platform for creating new collaborations. Keynote speakers will highlight European research and developments. A poster session will provide an additional opportunity to display to the most recent developments. An exhibition and a session with company presentations will be held in parallel to the technical sessions to provide industry, institutes and associations, an opportunity to display their products and services and bridge the gap between science and industry.

Women-in-STEM @ Photonics Global Conference (PGC-2023) August 23 @ 12:00 - 13:00

The Photonics Global Conference (PGC-2023)has been held at KTH AlbaNova Campus, Stockholm, Sweden, on 21-23 Aug, 2023. The aim of this conference is to foster interactions among broad disciplines in the photonics and optical communication family. This is going to be the biggest photonics and communication event this year in Sweden being an excellent platform to meet and share latest research work. Dr. Xiaodan Pang (KTH/IEEE) is one of the General Chairs and Dr. Rafael Puerta (Ericsson/IEEE) is one of the Program Chairs. A Women-in-STEM forum, organized and sponsored by IEEE-PS Sweden, is planned to be an event as a part of the conference.

The forum "More Women-in-STEM for a Greener World" is an IEEE event at PGC-2023 organized and chaired by Prof. Qin Wang (RISE/IEEE) and Dr. Shagufta Naureen (Coherent/IEEE) and sponsored by a grant from the IEEE Photonics Society. This forum will provide a platform for all PGC-2023 participants to share their thoughts on getting more work forces to face current climate change and environmental degradation that threat the world. Several invited panelists from Swedish government, RISE, KTH and companies will join the forum to have an open discussion with audience.

Swedish Communication Technologies Workshop (Swe-CTW) - September 27-28

The Swedish Communication Technologies Workshop (Swe-CTW) has been organized as a physical event, on September 27-28 in Stockholm. Swe-CTW started at KTH in 2011 and is now returning, this time to KTH Kista.

Swe-CTW 2023 brings together researchers and research students in the general areas of communication technologies.

The main goals are networking among Swedish scientists and students and sharing of research insights between people working in different fields.

Website: https://site.ieee.org/swe-ctw

Optopub event, Kista, Stockholm, December 14, 2023.

This event is organized by the IEEE Photonics Society. More info. On https://photonicsweden.org/wp-content/uploads/Optopub_2023-12-14-Optopub-at-RISE-Electrum-Kista-v3.pdf

Planned activities

The Sweden Section, in together with the affiliated Computer Society Chapter, are going to technically co-sponsor the 2024 9th International Conference on Fog and Mobile Edge Computing (FMEC) which will be held in Malmö, Sweden.

The Sweden Section is working actively to form a LM AG.

The Sweden Section is working actively to form more SB.

The Sweden Section are recruiting more volunteers to the board, especially for the Industry Relations.

AGM is planned for March 2024.

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

Provide early registration and visa support 6 months before R8 events, travel insurance and travel cancel compensation.

Sponsor an additional delegate to R8 meeting for training.

Provide a tool to recruit more volunteers to the Section board. Facilitate buying IEEE merchandise.