Tanzania Subsection   Dennis N. Mwighusa

Section Vitality

- The last Subsection elections was held on December 2023 and the next election process is expected to start from June 2024. The current section leaders will end their tenure on December 2024. Normally we do not have the practice of the Vice Chair to be elevated to the Chairman position during the election, but it is the practice that we are planning to adopt since it is always good for a Chair to have experience from leadership.

- The process was spearheaded by the Past Chair Eng. Prof. Zaipuna O. Yonah and it was done manually, this is because Subsections do not have access to the online election process. We had contacted the MGA committee and they informed that there is only an option for manual process.

- The newly elected members and current ExCom is as follows:
  - Subsection Chair – Eng. Dr. Dennis Mwighusa
  - Past Chair – Eng. Prof. Zaipuna O. Yonah
  - Secretary – Raymond Lugina
  - Past Secretary –
  - Treasurer – Eng. Godiana Hagile Philipo
  - Past Treasurer – Eng. Hellen Daniel
- The vacant positions in the ExCom include:
  - Vice Chair
  - Vice Secretary
  - Vice Treasurer
- Our Section Excom meeting happens 4 times a year.

Students

- We have the new student chapter: Nelson Mandela Africa Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)
- We finalised the registration process for another student chapter i.e., College of Information and Communication Technologies, University of Dar es Salaam (CoICT, UDSM) since October last year but we are yet to receive the registration approval.

Affinity Groups

- IEEE Tanzania Subsection have managed to register the Tanzania Subsection SIGHT Group (#23-012) and it is already approved since September 2023.

Chapters

- We do not have any chapter registered under our subsection

Industry

- We have partnership with Engineers Registration Board (ERB) so as to train courses and offer Professional Development Units (PDUs) to local engineering professionals.
- We have signed partnership with Institution of Engineers Tanzania (IET) to collaborate on issues related to career development, training and capacity building. The intention is to reach a number of people, visibility and creating impact to the community.
- We have partnered with Artificial Intelligence for Development Anglophone Lab (AI4D Anglophone Lab) a joint initiative of the two universities i.e., NM-AIST and UDOM and supported by IDRC, SIDA and AI4D Africa to organize a conference in November 2023 which was very successfully.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The subsection strictly believes and promotes "no discrimination policy" and strongly encourages "underrepresented" communities. In this regard, we have taken initiatives to invite and encourage "women" (being underrepresented in STEM fields) to play an active roles, in fact leading role, in our activities. For example, the core executive committee comprises two female colleagues, a treasurer and a chairman of SIGHT Group.

Activities since the last report

- As a way of recruiting more members IEEE professionals breakfast session which is being held on Tuesday of every week starting from 06:30 AM to 08:00 AM whereby experts from different professionals are invited to present on different topics has been an ongoing activity since last year. This is to make sure IEEE is live in the country but also the message is disseminated to a group number of people in the community so as to have awareness with IEEE activities. We have also extended the session to Dodoma which is a capital city of Tanzania at least once after every three months, this was due to the request that was   that came from IEEE members who resides in Dodoma.

- We have paid a visit to two Universities during the year 2023 i.e., University of Dodoma (UDOM) and Tanzania Institute of Accountancy (TIA) to talk to students about IEEE and the importance of one becoming a member. We are hoping that they will also establish IEEE branches in future.

- Subsection Chairman was invited as a Keynote speaker in two conferences of which one was 8ᵗʰ Tanzania Women Engineers Convention and Exhibitions (TAWECE) organized by Institute of Engineers Tanzania, Women Chapter and presented a topic on: Engineering Education and the Future of Work held at Golden Tulip Airport Hotel in Zanzibar.

- IEEE Tanzania Subsection also participated as the Technical Sponsor on the 2023 First International Conference on the Advancements of Artificial Intelligence in African Context (AAIAC) organised by Artificial Intelligence for Development African Anglophone Lab together with Nelson Mandela Africa Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) and University of Dodoma (UDOM).
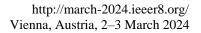

2023 First International Conference on the Advancements of Artificial Intelligence in African Context (AAIAC)

IET WC 8ᵗʰ Tanzania Women Engineers Convention and Exhibitions (TAWECE)

Planned activities

- Establishment of more SB chapters apart from the already established one, also making the present one more engaging and interactive.

- Partnering with IEEE Kenya Section to host the IEEE Tech East Africa Event which is expected to be conducted in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Initial processes have already started to secure the venue and accommodation for the participants.

- Continuation of an IEEE breakfast session to other regions in the country. We have a presence in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma so far, thinking of expanding to Arusha, Mwanza and Mbeya.
- Full section growth: We are planning to recruit more members but also relocate other Tanzanian IEEE members registered in other countries to Tanzania so that we meet the requirements to upgrade the subsection to the full section. We have already started communicating with members to relocate their memberships but also contacting the dormant members to renew their memberships.

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

We would real appreciate if we are allowed to file for the full section registration. Despite not meeting the membership base set by R8 which is 250 but our subsection is very active hence thinking that it should not be about numbers but more on the vibrancy of the subsection to be promoted, meanwhile we are proceeding to convince more members to join so that we can meet the number set by IEEE R8.

Any other issues of interest