Conference Coordination Committee (CoCC)   Tiziana Tambosso

2024 Team:

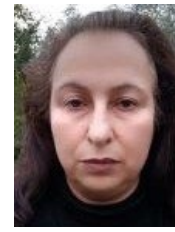|			
Tiziana Tambosso (Italy) Chair	**Habib M. Kammoun (Tunisia)** Past Chair	**Abdellah Kouzou (Algeria)** Member	**Shaun Kaplan (Germany)** Member
Nadezda Kunicina (Latvia) Member	**Robert Bierwolf (Benelux)** Member	**Sergio Rapuano (Italy)** Member	**Katerina Papanikolaou (Greece)** Member
Aleksandar Mastilovic (Serbia) Member	**Pascal Lorentz (France)** Member Finance Committee Liaison	**Paul M. Cunningham (Ireland)** Member Climate Change Committee liaison	

2024 Members – ex officio (Members of the IEEE Conferences Committee (ICC)):

Peter Nagy (Hungary)

Antonio Luque (Spain)

Maciej Ogorzalek (Poland)

Goals

In 2024 the following Goals and KPI were defined.

Goals	KPIs
Efficient management of the CoCC **[internal goal]**	1. CoCC meeting minutes 2. Reports for the R8 OpCom 3. Reports for the R8 meetings 4. CoCC webpages updated

Timely review of the financial and technical co-sponsorship (TCS/FCS) requests	Number of evaluated TCS/FCS requests in 2024
Ensure success of the R8 flagship conferences: call for bids, support, oversight	Define the Steering Committee for each R8 flagship and portfolio conferences Oversight the process from call for bids to conference closing Participation of at least one R8 CoCC representative to the conference
Ensure success of IEEE conferences TCS/FCS by R8	Oversight the process from Application form to final report and budget control Percentage of successful conferences (timely reporting, financial surplus, papers published in IEEE Xplore)
Increase IEEE R8 visibility through conferences	Number of activities for Region 8 in conferences 1. No. of conferences programs including R8 speech / presentation in opening or closing conferences 2. No. of special events in cooperation with R8 committees
New initiatives	Multi-region conference agreements No of conference upgrades (from TPC to FCS) from FCS to R8 portfolio
Support the sections' conference coordinators, section chairs and IEEE R8 TCS/FCS Conference organizers	1. Number of appointed section / subsection conference coordinator (59 sections + 10 subsections) 2. Number of webinars and training events
Ensure good relationship with MGA, MCE, and other regional conference coordinators	Number of meetings and workshops Participation to Convene 2024
Industry focused events and conferences	Incorporate industry panels/events in conference and organize conferences with strong industry involvement Number of industry panels/events and industry conferences.

Progress against goals since the last (March 2-3, 2024) **R8 Committee Meeting report**

1. Efficient management of the CoCC

5 CoCC meetings were held (March, Apr, May, June, Sept. 2024) with detailed minutes containing task distribution and reports on activities.

Two reports for the R8 OpCom of June 2024 and October. 2024 (Proposal for steering committees of IHTC 2025 and HISTELCON 2025, Revised R8 CoCC Operations Manual, Revised best practices and cookbook of the CoCC committee,).

Reports for VP_TA with summary of activities.

The committee webpages are periodically updated (see https://ieeer8.org/conference-coordination/).

All CoCC documents are available to all members and VC-TA in a dedicated google drive folder.

2. Timely review of the financial and technical co-sponsorship (TCS/FCS) requests and conc unit approval
From March 2024:
8 R8 Financial Co-Sponsorship requests have been approved, 1 declined
11 R8 Technical Co-Sponsorship have been approved, 1 declined, 1 in progress
15 requests of Conc. Unit. evaluation have been approved, 1 declined, 1 in progress

3. Ensure success of the R8 flagship conferences: call for bids, support, oversight

The organization process of each flagship/portfolio conference is supervised from the application form check list to the final report submission and budget control.
The R8 steering committees are working with the organizers to supervise and give support.
The steering committees of the conferences already held are still working with the organizers to close the pending actions (R8 final reports and final financial report, best practices and lessons learned documents).

The steering committees of 2025 R8 flagship and portfolio conferences (EUROFON 2025, RTSI 2025, HISTELCON 2025, AFRICON 2025) already started their meetings. The website of EUROCON 2025 (https://2025.ieee-eurocon.org/) and RTSI 2025 (https://2025.ieee-rtsi.org/) are online, HISTELCON 2025 is in progress.

The call for proposals for the following R8 flagship and portfolio conferences:

- 22nd IEEE EUROCON 2027
- 12th IEEE AFRICON 2027
- 11th IEEE RTSI 2027
- 9th IEEE IHTC 2027

has been circulated. The deadline for the submission of the letter of intent and the endorsement letter of the local Section/sub-section is November 30, 2024, the deadline for the final bid is December 31, 2024.

After March 2024 three flagship conferences were successfully held:

ENERGYCON 2024
(4-7 March 2024, Doha - Qatar)
website: https://ieee-energycon2024.com
R8 director has given a registered welcome message at the opening.
About 150 attendees, 72 papers were presented, with 13 technical sessions. 3 keynotes (2 physical and 1 virtual), 2 tutorials, 2 industry panels and 1 WIE panel

MELECON 2024
(25-27 June 2024, Porto - Portugal)
website: 2024.ieee-melecon.org
353 Attendees, a very good result for this conference.
Area of the conference attendees (Academia 77.90%, Industry 11.23%, Research Center 10.51%, Other 0.36%)
241 technical presentations of peer-reviewed papers, distributed across 40 technical sessions
R8 director has given a registered welcome message at the opening.
The IEEE President-Elect has given a keynote speech.
4 Keynotes, 4 Tutorials,
6 Technical Workshops exploring current industry trends and research breakthroughs
R8 special events and other initiatives are described in the next paragraph.

RTSI 2024
(18-20 September 2024, Lecco - Italy)
Website: 2024.ieee-rtsi.org
320 attendees the highest since the beginning (first edition in 2015).
25% from industry
35 Countries, 14 EU, the others from Africa, Asia, and North America
117 paper accepted for publication on IEEExplore
The IEEE President has given a remote speech at the industry workshop.
Two plenary speakers (Rakesh Kumar and Cecilia Metra) and 3 invited speakers.
R8 special events and other initiatives are described in the next paragraph.

The last R8 portfolio conference of 2024 is:

IHTC 2024
(27-30 November 2024, Bari - Italy)
Website: 2024.ieee-ihtc.org

The conference has the TCS of five societies (Education Society, GRSS, IAS, PES, OES), the IEEE HTB (that is also financial supporter), 10 Italian Chapters, Italy Section WIE AG and YP AG.

More than 220 papers were received within the DL of Sept. 10
The review of papers is in progress
the preliminary conference program is online.

Several corporate CEOs and government authorities, UN representatives already confirmed their participation in the program as keynote speakers, panelists, and special event organizers. See the list of plenary and keynote speakers (https://2024.ieee-ihtc.org/speakers-panelists/).

Thanks to the great work done by the conference general chair and his team this great result was possible. For the first time this conference will have the financial support of many industries and the involvement of many CEOs and Government representatives as speakers.

R8 special events and other initiatives organized in conjunction or as part of the program of these conferences are described in the next paragraph.

4. Increase IEEE R8 visibility through conferences and Industry focused events @ R8 flagship conferences

Many events involving R8 Committees (Entrepreneurship, Industry, WIE, YP, Students, Standard, Membership, …) were organized with great success during some R8 flagship/portfolio conferences of 2024.

Moreover, thanks to the approval of a new initiative funded by MGA: "Industry Tracks at R8 flagship/portfolio conferences and other projects supported by IEEE Foundation and IEEE HTB, special events involving industries and other competitions, meetings, workshops, and panels were organized during R8 flagship and portfolio conferences.

These projects/special funds were approved at the end of May 2024, therefore a great number of these special events have been held during the following three conferences:

MELECON 2024

7 IEEE events organized by IEEE Region 8 committees.

IEEE R8 student paper contest organized by R8 AdHoc Committee on Contests

Workshop on IEEE conference leadership organized by R8 Conference Coordination Committee in cooperation with IEEE CEE

Panel: "From Lab Bench to Launch Pad" organized by IEEE R8 Action for Industry Committee in cooperation with IEEE Portugal Section

Panel: " Glass Ceiling: Career Development & challenges" organized by IEEE Portugal Section in cooperation with IEEE R8 WIE

Workshop: "Student Branch Vitality – Administration, Programs and Recognition" organized by IEEE R8 SAC

"IEEE Young Professionals: IoT Innovations and their Impact on Urban Development" organized by Portugal Section in cooperation with IEEE R8 YP

Workshop: "Advancing Technology for Humanity in Action with IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Consortium
Organized by IEEE R8 HAC

RTSI 2024

An industry workshop: "AI in manufacturing" has been organized by IEEE R8 Action for Industry Committee in cooperation with IEEE Italy Section with three invited speakers. Two of them from ABB and ST Microelectronics.

An IEEE EPPC panel on Artificial Intelligence with three invited panelists

A workshop on - Advancing technology for humanity in action with IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Consortium organized by R8 HAC.

A special workshop - Humanoid Robotics organized by Tiziana Tambosso and Danilo Pau (ST Microelectronics) with participation of 11 invited panelists (7 form industry). The topic of this workshop has been suggested by ST Microelectronics. A way to involve more industries in IEEE conferences.

A workshop on entrepreneurship, organized by Tiziana Tambosso, has been successfully held with participation of IEEE Entrepreneurship chair and IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship representative. 9 speakers from IEEE FDC, two companies for venture capital, two professional business angels, IEEE P7000 standard, and more (see detailed program on the web <link>).

A panel organized by WIE (Italy WIE-AG with participation of R8 WIE and three executives from small and medium enterprises), a competition organized by YP (R8 YP and Italy YP-AG).

Other three special events involving industries were promoted by conference general chairs:

A panel with industries: "AI enabler for the manufacturing: challenges, success stories and future trends" (see <link>)

The workshop on "The role of AI in clinical engineering" organized by the IEEE Italy Section EMB Chapter.

The workshop (in Italian): "IA: macchine, servizi e comunicazione reputazionale" in cooperation with the local chamber of commerce.

In conjunction with RTSI 2024 the R8 SAC meeting of the R8 Student Branch Counselors has been held on September 17 and 18 with more than 30 Counselors.

RTSI 2024 is the R8 portfolio conference with a strong industry focus and this year, thanks to the extra fund and great co-operation among various IEEE R8 Committees, we were able to explore and test the potential of this model which has been highlighted in the increase in industry participation.

IHTC 2024

IHTC is a multi-region conference with the participation of three Regions as FCSs (R7, R8 and R9).
This year is organized by R8 (R8 55%, Italy Section 5%), R7 (20%) and R9 (20%).
A strong cooperation with other R8 Committees both from TA (Afi, CoCC) and MA (HAC, WIE, YP, …) and IEEE HTB has been established to organize many special events, panels, workshops and competitions.
- The R8 HAC Congress will be organized in parallel with the conference
- IEEE HTB is involved in the organization of two panels and one keynote speaker (IEEE HTB Chair). IEEE HTB is also a financial supporter of this conference and a technical co-sponsor.
- The R7 director will contribute with a special panel.
- IEEE R8 SAC is organizing the finals of a competition on "Climate change and Disaster Resilient Communication"
- IEEE Smart Village Initiative will organize a workshop
Another competition organized by the R8 HAC will take place during IHTC:
    - IEEE R8 Climate Challenge on AI in Enhanced Weather Forecasting
Other Competitions involving YP and young startups are already online.
- The R8 AfI Committee has organized an Industry Workshop on "Connecting the Unconnected"

Another panel has been organized by the General chair of IHTC in cooperation with IEEE and CoCC Chair.
"Future Environmental & Humanitarian Challenges" will see the participation of UNESCO, UNGSC, International Energy Agency, two representatives of R8 Climate Change Committee, a representative of the National Council of Economy and Occupation and a professor of Cornell University and representative of CEET UN Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition.

The panel: "Energy Regulation in Europe, Africa and Middle East" organized by GSE Spa (The Italian Energy Services Agency) see the participation of representatives of ten Energy Regulatory Authorities of Europe, Africa and Middle East.

The panel: "Research & Industry for the Energy Transition" with participation of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security and 6 executives from Energy big companies (Terna, Enel, ENI, Acquedotto Pugliese) and two Research Centers (RSE and ENEA).

Two panels: "Energy Poverty, Renewable Energy Communities, and Emerging Models of Energy Access" organized by RSE S.p.A.
and "Water and energy between efficiency and climate change challenges" sponsored and organized by Acquedotto Pugliese S.p.A.

5. **Ensure success of IEEE conferences TCS/FCS by R8**

CoCC liaison members have been assigned for each R8 conference (FCS/TCS/conc. unit).
The task of the liaison member is the supervision of the entire process from the application form to the final report submission and budget control for R8 FCS conferences only.
In 2024 10 R8 TCS conferences have been held with success, other 4 will be organized within the end of the year. The complete list of the 2024-2025 R8 conferences is available on the R8 website, at this <link>.

Two 2024 R8 FCS conferences (EDUCON 2024 (10% R8 FCS) and 29th IEEE Symposium on Computers and Communications - ISCC 2024 (FCS 20% R8, 40% ComSoc, 40% Computer Society) were successfully held.

Another R8 FCS conference (TELFOR (5% R8 FCS) will be organized in a few weeks (26-27 November, 2024).
ISCC 2024 and TELFOR 2024 are two new R8 FCS conferences. The process of transformation of some selected conferences from R8 TCS to R8 FCS has been tested with these two conferences.

EDUCON 2024
(May 8-11 2024, Kos - Greece)
Website: 2024.ieee-educon.org

384 accepted papers
16 Workshops and tutorials
61 regular session and 11 special sessions, 2 virtual sessions
Authors (51% Europe, 26.1% Latin/America, 9% Asia/Pacific, 6.7% ME/Africa, 5.6% US, 1,6% Canada)

In the steering committee meeting, there were no objections for changing the FCS R8% to 30%.
The Education Society President will invite the founders of the conference for a meeting to discuss the proposal to transform EDUCON into a R8 portfolio conference, then he will move the discussion to an executive meeting of the Society. The next board meeting will be in October 2024.

EDUCON 2025 will be organized on 28 April - 1st May 2025, London (UK).
The budget of EDUCON 2025 has been approved.

6. New Initiatives/activities

- The R8 CoCC Operations Manual has been updated and a motion will be presented for approval at this R8 Committee Meeting (October 19-20).

- Other two documents: best practices and cookbook of the CoCC has been prepared for approval of the OpCom. These two documents will be used by the next CoCC chair and members and contain best practices and other operational advice for the CoCC activity management.

- A proposal for the 2024 MGA Surplus Funding has been prepared by CoCC Chair, VC-TA and VC-MA. The title of the proposal is: "New Initiative for Industry Tracks at R8 Flagship Conferences".
  The aims of this project is to increase the benefits and number of our industry members, as well as further engaging existing ones, by introducing dedicated content at wider-focus and wider-impact flagship/portfolio conferences in Region 8. Based on previous successful attempts and individual initiatives of industry forums, panels and exhibitions, Young Professionals meet ups, or student competitions, the project aims to utilize successful best practices and formalize a coordinated contribution from various R8 Committees and OUs to form dedicated industry tracks of high technical impact to conferences with emphasis on involvement of industry.
  The new initiative has been approved and funded for the period 1 June - 31 Dec 2024. See paragraph 4 for detailed description of the special events organized during MELECON 2024, RTSI 2024 and IHTC 2024.

7. Support the sections' conference coordinators, section chairs and IEEE R8 TCS/FCS Conference organizers

The updated list of the Section Conference Coordinators is available on the R8 CoCC website <link>.

The second training workshop of 2024 has been organized on June 25, 2024 in hybrid format, in conjunction with MELECON 2024. 20 participants in person and 15 participants online. The slides of the presentations are available for download on the IEEE R8 Conference website <link>.

A google form was circulated to the workshop attendees to collect their comments. Their feedback will be useful for the selection of the main topics of the next workshop.

A third "virtual" workshop will be organized by November 2024. Program is in progress and will be soon distributed to all interested R8 Section chairs, SCCs and other conference leaders.

8.   **Ensure good relationship with MGA, CEE, and other regional conference coordinators**

Weekly correspondence with IEEE CEE is maintained.

Participation in IEEE ICC in person meeting of July 31, 2024.

Participation in Convene 2024 of CoCC chair, R8 VC-TA and the three ex-officio members of the CoCC.

The CoCC chair has been invited to contribute as panelist at a panel organized by MGA during the first day of Convene. In the panel, moderated by Cecilia Jankowski (MGA Managing Director), the three speakers (Tiziana Tambosso - R8 CoCC Chair, Deepak Mathur - VP of MGA and Susana Lau - Panama Section chair) explored how strategically planning our events can help us accomplish even more by engaging new audiences, staying nimble, and advancing IEEE mission.