

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 April 6, 2024: The 2024 2nd Section AdCom meeting was held in the Azm Research Center in Tripoli, north of Lebanon. The Section Chair has presented the past Section events held during the previous 2 months, and the future planned events. Also, he reported the Section budget that was adjusted for each OU after receiving the rebates from IEEE. A reminder about the tasks for the 1st and 2nd quarters of the year (January to June 2024) was given. The Section chair also stressed all attendees and OU representatives to apply for the MGA and regional awards. Restrictions about the personal data use (GDPR) was also exposed and discussed.
- Meeting on June 6, 2024. The 2024 3rd Section AdCom meeting was held at the American University of Science & Technology (AUST), in the Beirut Campus. The Humanitarian Technology Board initiative was presented by the Section past-chair Prof. Imad Elhajj. Past and future events were presented by the Section Chair, who also reported the approved financial support to local OUs. The Chair also exposed the tasks requested for the 2nd of the year.
- Meeting on August 7, 2024: The 2024 4th Section AdCom meeting was held online on MS Teams. Mr. Tony Deeb, the invited guest, presented the newly formed Arab AI Alliance group, and invited the Section to future collaborations in the area of AI. The Section Chair exposed the list of local and regional conferences that get the technical co-sponsorship approval from the Section through a signed MoU. Approved financial requests were also presented, as well as the list of tasks for the 3rd quarter of the year. The Section Chair congratulated the IE/PE/CAS/PEL joint Chapter for being awarded the best small chapter certificate for 2024 by both PES and PELS.
- Meeting on October 16, 2024: The 2024 5th Section AdCom meeting is supposed to take place in the American University of Beirut. However, due to the dramatic situation the country is currently facing, the meeting will be held online on MS Teams.

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.
- Also, the Section have supported financially newly formed student branches in order to cover the registration fees of at least 12 of its members. The number of student branches has increased to 24.
- In February 2024, the membership rate in Lebanon has reached a new peak with a total of 1,517 members (334 regular members and 1,183 student members)

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
- STB60219658 – American University of Technology (AUT)

List of inactive Student Branches:

- Arab Open University

List of student meetings held:

- Meeting on June 6, 2024, with the AUST SB in Beirut Campus.
- First week of September 2024: call with all the chairs to discuss updates.
- September 14, 2024: Student officers training day.

Section activities addressed to Students and Young Professionals:

- Arduino workshop, Lebanese University, Faculty of Engineering – Branch I, Tripoli, January 8, 2024
- AI Engineer team lead at Doha institute for higher education, Lebanese University, Hadath, January 9, 2024
- IEEE Scientific Day, BAU Debbieh, February 7, 2024
- Home Automation Competition, LIU, February 23, 2024
- IEEE Lebanon Section General Assembly, Hamra, Beirut, February 24, 2024
- Impact the Future, UoB, Koura, March 2, 2024
- Engineering Day 2024, NDU North Campus, March 2, 2024
- Biomedical Electrophysiology Day, Tripoli, March 2, 2024
- Arduino Workshop Series 01, La Sagesse University, March 14 & 18, 2024
- IEEE presentation for USJ SB, Mar Roukoz, March 21, 2024
- Raspberry pi workshop, Lebanese University, Fanar, April 19, 2024
- TechX Lebanon, AUT, Fidar, April 27, 2024
- ICCO programming competition, AUB, April 27, 2024
- Middle East Clean Energy, 3rd Edition, Phoenicia Hotel, Beirut, May 8-10, 2024
- Expo 24, AUST, Achrafieh, May 22, 2024
- SYP Lebanon Congress, LUFÉ II, Roumieh, July 6, 2024
- Sanita Factory visit, Hosrayel, August 6, 2024
- Section student officers training day, LAU Byblos, September 14, 2024

Affinity Groups

List of Affinity Groups:

- WIE
- YP
- LM
- SIGHT

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:

- IEEE IMCET'23, December 12-14, 2023
- IEEE Lebanon Section General Assembly, Hamra, Beirut, February 24, 2024
- TechX Lebanon, AUT, Fidar, April 27, 2024
- Middle East Clean Energy, 3rd Edition, Phoenicia Hotel, Beirut, May 8-10, 2024
- SYP Lebanon Congress, LUFÉ II, Roumieh, July 6, 2024

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
- IEEE IMCET'23, December 12-14, 2023
- Technical Workshop on Renewable Energy by DEYE Lebanon, February 8, 2024
- TechX Lebanon, AUT, Fidar, April 27, 2024

Industry

- MoU signing with OEA Beirut, Bir Hassan, Beirut, March 22, 2024
- MoU signing with Zaka AI, TechX Lebanon, AUT, Fidar, April 27, 2024
- MoU signing with Beirut Expo, 3rd Middle East Clean Energy, Phoenicia Hotel, Beirut, May 10, 2024
- MoU signing with QIMA TECH EVENTS L.L.C., SYP Lebanon Congress, LUFÉ II, Roumieh, July 6, 2024
- Coordinate with industry for needs assessment and expectations
- Plan site visits, hands-on trainings, technical workshops, etc.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Memberships: a total of 1492 members (1062 Student Members, 27 Graduate Student Members, 302 Members, 75 Senior Members, 6 Life Senior, 3 Life Members, 1 Fellow, 13 Associate Members, 3 Affiliates), 53 new members (45 student members, 6 members, 2 Graduate student members), 5 first-year renewed members (3 student members, 1 member, 1 Graduate student member)

Gender: 38.94% Male, 21.25% Female, 39.81% Unknown

Geographical distribution: Akkar (2), Beirut (196), Mount Lebanon (148), North Lebanon (75), Beqaa (10), Nabatieh (1), South Lebanon (12), Unknown (1048)

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.
- 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

- IEEE Scientific Day, February 7, 2024
- IEEE Lebanon Section General Assembly, February 24, 2024
- IEEE Region 8 Spring meeting, Vienna, Austria, March 1-3, 2024
- IEEE presentation for USJ SB, March 21, 2024
- MoU signing with OEA Beirut, Bir Hassan, Beirut, March 22, 2024
- 2nd 2024 IEEE Lebanon Section AdCom meeting, Azm Center, Tripoli, April 6, 2024
- IEEE Education Week, April 14-20, 2024
- TechX Lebanon, AUT, Fidar, April 27, 2024
- Middle East Clean Energy, 3rd Edition, Phoenicia Hotel, Beirut, May 8-10, 2024
- Expo 24, AUST, May 22, 2024
- R8 Workshop on Fostering Diversity Equity and Inclusion, May 23, 2024
- MGA Geographic Unit Election Training, June 3, 2024
- IEEE MELECON'24, Porto, Portugal, June 25-27, 2024
- SYP Lebanon Congress, LUFE II, Roumieh, July 6, 2024
- Region 8 SYP biannual meeting, Grenoble, France, July 15-19, 2024
- Region 8 SIA meeting, Grenoble France, July 17-18, 2024
- R8 HTAC Capacity Building Webinars, July 2024
- IEEE Officers training day, LAU Byblos, September 14, 2024

Planned activities

- IEEE Day, Octobre 3rd, 2024
- ICAIGE'24, Hammamet, Tunisia, Oct. 10-12, 2024
- Region 8 Fall meeting, Bordeaux, France, Oct. 18-20, 2024
- IEEE MENACOMM'24, Byblos, Lebanon, Oct. 24-26, 2024
- IEEEExtreme 18.0, October 26, 2024
- Section Retreat, Beirut, November 16, 2024
- IC2SPM, LIU, Beirut, Nov. 28-29, 2024
- 3rd Int. Conference on Digital Journalism and Innovative Media Industry, Al Maaref Univ., Beirut, Dec. 6-7, 2024
- ICM'24, Doha, Qatar, Dec. 14-17, 2024

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 1,700 members in 2018 and more than 1,500 members in 2023, which led to the reception of many membership retention awards. During the last 5 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 89,000 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.

Added to the economic crisis, the country is facing years ago continuous and repetitive military conflicts with neighboring countries, which reach a peak during September–October 2024. These events put the country in an unstable path that affects all its economic and social entities (trading, banking, life insurance, education, infrastructure, etc.). Therefore, the IEEE Lebanon Section is seriously concerned about these tragic circumstances and is extremely worried about losing a big portion of its members due to the current crisis.

We are still hoping that IEEE will consider special support 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.