

Action for Industry Committee

Nihel Ben Youssef(Chair)

Structure and Goals

The committee started in January 2025 with definition of its overall goals and milestones for the current term by determination of key performance indicators (KPI) and development of an action plan for 2025.

IEEE Region 8 Action for Industry Subcommittee for **2025** is consisted of the following IEEE Region 8 volunteers:

Afi Website: <https://ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/action-for-industry/about-afi/committee-organisation/>

The main goal of Afi is to move IEEE closer to industry by creating platforms for delivering credible and sustainable value to industry.

The committee organized around the five key pillar activities/goals led by sub-teams of AFI.,

Action for Industry Committee 2025



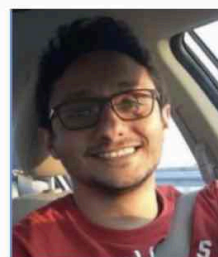
[Nihel Ben Youssef](#)
Chair
(Tunisia)



[Toni Mattila](#)
Past Chair
(Finland)



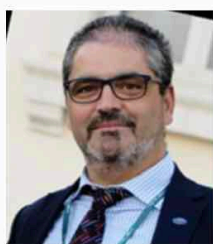
[Costas Stasopoulos](#)
Member
(Cyprus)



[Mohamed Galal Khafagy](#)
Member
(Egypt)



[Sohaib Qamar Sheikh](#)
C. Member
(UK&ireland)



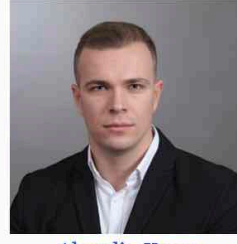
[Serge Dos Santos](#)
C.Member
(France)



[John Matogo](#)
C.Member
(Kenya)



[Aida Elsabban](#)
C.Member
(Egypt)



[Almedin Kavaz](#)
C.Member
(Switzerland)



[Maria Efthimiou](#)
Communication &
Liaison with Region8
(Cyprus)

- (i) Section industry Coordination (John,Aida)
- (ii) Networking/Mentorship/Internship (Almedin, Toni)
- (iii) Industry events & initiatives (*Mohamed,Sohaib*)
- (iv) Collaboration with other IEEE units and groups (*Costas, Serge*)
- (v) Communication via Website and Social Media (Maria,Nihel)

Afi committee holds regular meetings to discuss ongoing activities

Key Performance indicators (KPIs)

The committee has set the main KPIs as follows:

- ▶ *Online Meeting* with IA one per quarter (44 SIAs)
- ▶ Awards : 2 per year (R8 Afi IA award and R8 Afi section award for industry engament)
- ▶ Number of Industry events joined/participated (Panel discussion/In person SIA meeting) : 2 per year
 - ▶ Eurocon 4-6 June 2025 Poland
 - ▶ RTSI 24-26 August 2025 Tunisia
- ▶ Number of webinars initiated by IA on IEEE R8 Afi YouTube channel: 2 per year
- ▶ Number of IA participants in Collabratec Workspace: 10 per year
- ▶ Number of collaborations with other IEEE groups: 1 per year

Progress against goals since the last report [R8 Meeting - October 2024 - Bordeaux]

- **Industry Workshop organized by Afi and IEE Italy section - IEEE IHTC 28 November 2024 - Bari Italy**
- **Topic : Connecting the unconnected**

Agenda

- Welcome Note **Nihel Ben Youssef/Mohammad Galal Khafagy(remote)** – IEEE R8 Afi Committee
- **Mr Mohamed-Slim Alouini** (IEEE Fellow, Al-Khawarizmi Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering & Holder of UNESCO Chair on Education to Connect the Unconnected – KAUST)

Keynote Speech: **Towards Connecting the Remaining Unconnected (Virtual)**

- **Gabriele Elia** (Head of Standard and IPR function at TIM – Telecom Italia)

Industry Talk: **5G Satellite Integration: Development and Trends**

- **Paolo Volpato** (IEEE European Public Policy Committee (EPPC) Member & Chief Engineer and Senior Standardization Manager in the European Branch of Standardization and Industry Development (SID) at Huawei Technologies)

Talk: IEEE European Public Policy Committee (EPPC)- Analysis on the Gigabit Infrastructure Act (GIA)

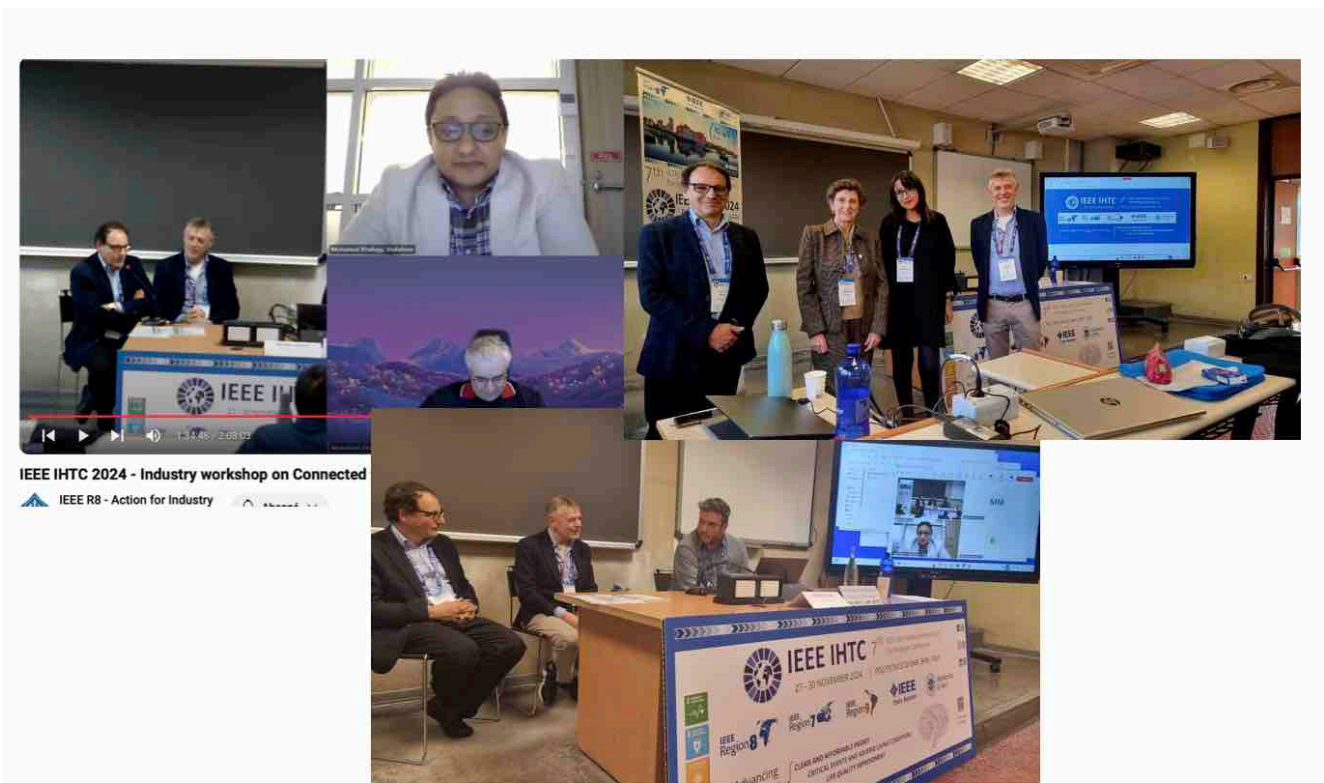
- **Panel Discussion « Connecting the Next Billion »**

– *Moderator*: **Nihel Ben Youssef**

Panelists: **Gabriele Elia (TIM), Paolo Volpato (IEEE EPPC), Mohamed-Slim Alouini (KAUST, Remote), Mohammad Galal Khafagy(remote)**

- **Q&A Session**

Youtube Link [IEEE R8 Action for Industry Channel]:



Industry event by IEEE R8 AfI - IEEE IHTC 28 Nov 2024

Section industry Coordination

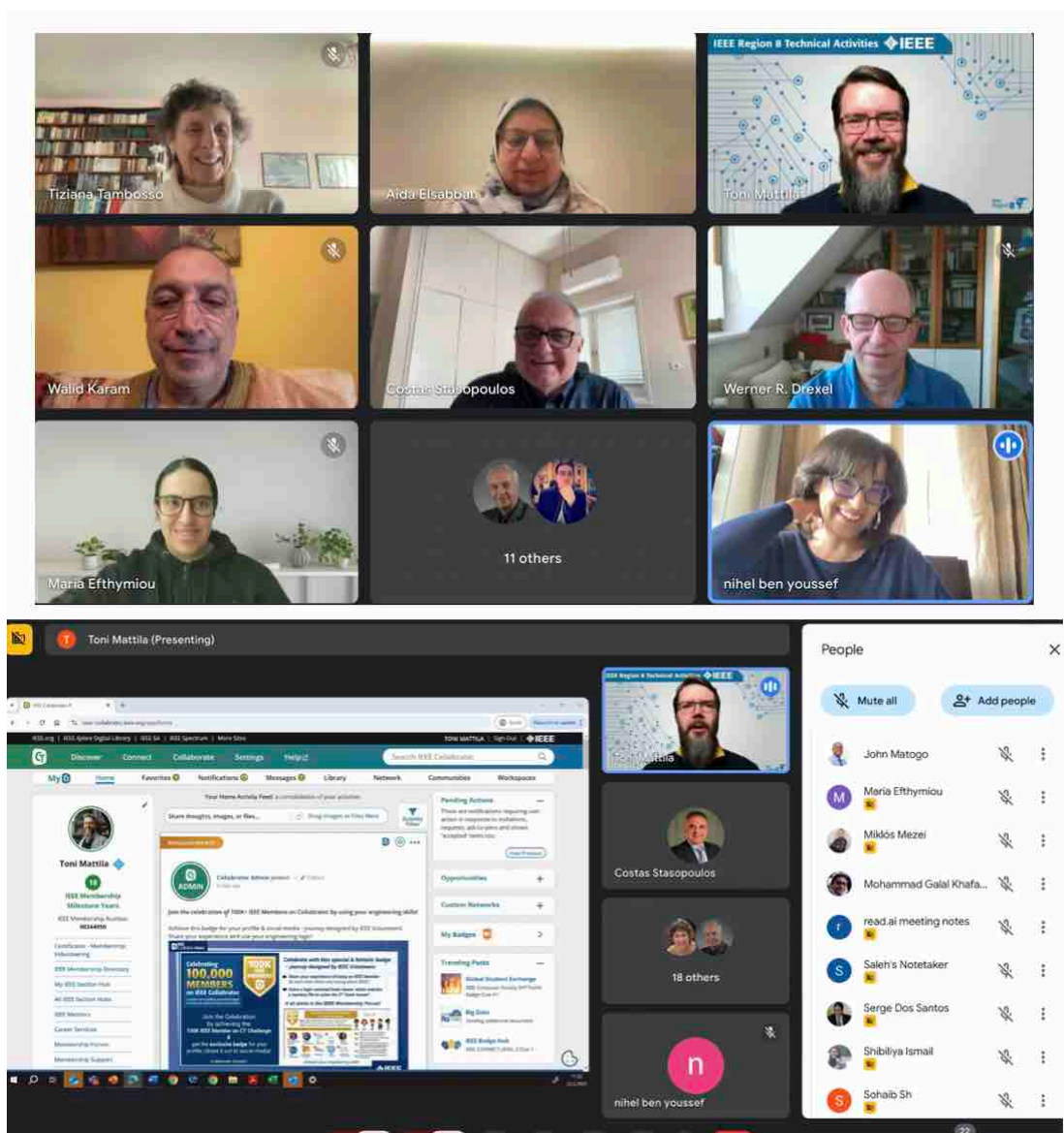
Each Section is asked to appoint an Industry Ambassador amongst their local members to liaise with the Afi SIA Coordination team. The Industry Ambassadors are local representatives of Afi and the primary contact point to the local industries. The purpose of the SIA Coordination program is to nurture the network of Industry Ambassadors by providing support for their work.

The SIA Coordination team maintains the report of SIAs, inducts new SIAs, supports SIA with their outreach to companies,

We have a plan to organize six SIA meeting per year, four virtually and two regional in-person meetings

Online SIA Meeting - 22 February 2025

22 Guests (R8 Section industry ambassadors and Afi) were present. We presented to the team the goals and KPIs, the calls for projects (reporting SIA activities and plan for 2025, participating in YouTube webinars and SIA regional in-person meetings), and an open discussion session where ambassadors share their thoughts with AFI.



- SIA Reports(Current status and Plan for 2025)

Section Industry ambassadors were asked to prepare **2 slides report**: 1 slide for activities done during the previous year 2024 (MoUs, webinars etc) & 1 slide of their plan for 2025 (which MoUs you plan to sign, activities etc.)

Up to now, we have received 17 reports form following sections:

IEEE France Section

IEEE Greek Section

IEEE UK and Ireland Section

IEEE Cyprus Section

IEEE BeNeLux Section

IEEE Egypt Section

IEEE Tanzania Section

IEEE Austria Section

IEEE Oman Section

IEEE Croatia Section

IEEE Sweden Section

IEEE Lebanon Section

IEEE Italy Section

IEEE Hungary Section


IEEE Algeria Section

IEEE Portugal Section

IEEE Tunisia Section

2024 Activities


Date (2024)	Event	Event nature
March - April	Webinars in collaboration with IEEE Egypt Consultant Network	Online
April	Workshop at NRSC 2024	Hybrid
April	Technical partner & Judge in the preliminary phase of IEEE YESIS12 Competition	Physical
July	Electronics and Communication Engineering Summer camp for high-school students going to college in collaboration with InnovateX: Eng	Physical
August - November	Techtours	
November	MESR (Mentors)	
September - December	Indust	
December		




CYTA
led the 2024 IEEE Recruitment Performance volunteers at our section member recruitment for the

IEEE Oman - Industry Engagement & MoUs Plan for 2025


- Upcoming MoUs**
 - Establish MoUs with 3 major industry partners (Oil & Gas, Telecom, Finance).
 - Collaborate with government entities to support AI & digital transformation.
 - Strengthen partnerships with Omani universities to bridge academia-industry gap.
- Key Industry Engagement Initiatives**
 - Organize 2 Industry-Academia Forums.
 - Conduct quarterly networking sessions between IEEE members & industry.
 - Launch IEEE Oman Industry Mentorship Program to support young engineers.
- Planned Technical Activities & Webinars**
 - Host 4 AI & Emerging Tech webinars with IEEE R8 AFI & industry leaders.
 - Organize 1 IEEE Industry Innovation Hackathon for industry-driven problem-solving.
 - Conduct an Industrial Leadership & Soft Skills Training Program for IEEE members.




Aristotle University of Thessaloniki with more than 25 local and global companies.



National University of Athens presentation of Infineon.



Conference of Electrical and Computer Engineering 15 at Democritus University of Thrace with more than 20 companies



SIA reports (Status 2024-Plan for 2025)

- [R8 Afi YouTube Channel] Planned Co-organized Webinars by SIA (Section industry ambassador)

Afi Committee invited SIA to co-organize with Afi IEEE R8 AFI Youtube Monthly webinar on selected topic. The goals through this initiative is to highlight SIA activities, Bridge the gap between industry, IEEE and academia..

Webinar Format:

- Moderators (Afi member/R8 SIA)
- 1 Guest Speaker from industry(partner of Section)
- 1 Guest from IEEE(programs/research..).

Up to now, we received 4 proposals

- Saleh Obaid AL-Khaldi- IEEE Oman Section
- Maria Efthymiou- IEEE Cyprus Section
- Danilo Pietro Pau- IEEE Italy section
- Walid Philippe Karam- IEEE Lebanon Section

Scheduled Webinars:

- 29 March 2025 : IEEE Oman Section (Program)

- Moderator: Dr. Aida Elsabban /Dr. Nihel Ben Youssef(Afi)
 - Speakers:
 - Saleh Obaid AL-Khaldi- industry ambassador. IEEE Oman Section .
- Topic : AI & Digital Leadership: Transforming Organizations**

**IEEE R8 Action for Industry (Afi)
Section Industry Ambassador (SIA) Webinar
IEEE Oman Section**

**AI & Digital Leadership
IEEE PowerTalk Oman**



Nihel ben Youssef
IEEE R8 AFI committee
Chair.
IEEE Senior Member
Tunisia



Abdullah Al Wahaibi
CEO of Oman Company for
the Development of the
Special Economic Zone at
Duqm (Tatweer Duqm).
IEEE Senior Member
Oman



Saleh Al-Khaldi
AI & Digital
Transformation Expert
| Leadership & Project
Management Trainer |
CTO & Industry
Consultant
IEEE Oman SIA
Oman



Aida Elsabban
IEEE R8 AFI committee
Corresponding Member.
2023 Excellence Award
Winner for Women in
Engineering Leadership
(FAEO) | IEEE Egypt SIA
IEEE Senior Member
Egypt



29 March 2025 at 10 am (CET)

<https://www.youtube.com/@IEEER8-ActionforIndustry>

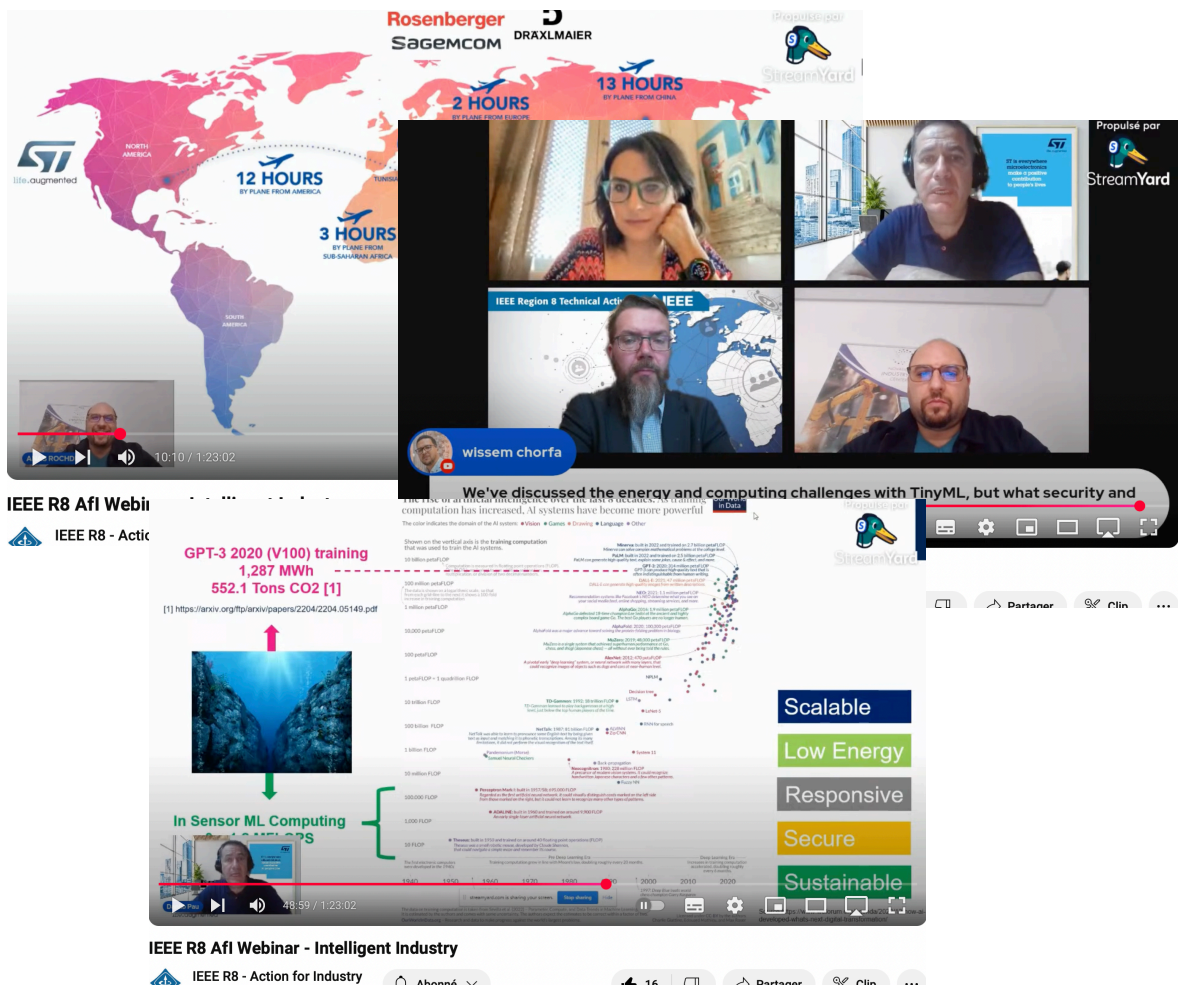



- Eng. Abdullah Al Wahaibi (SMIEEE)
Topic: PowerTalk Oman

- Q&A Session

- Week 21 April 2025 : IEEE Lebanon Section [Bridging the Gap: Industry-Academia Collaboration for Tech Innovation in Emerging Markets]
- Week of 26 May 2025 : IEEE Italy Section (Program)[Edge Solutions for the Generative AI Digital Divide]
- June 2025 : IEEE Cyprus Section [TBA]

Previous SIA webinars [IEEE Tunisia Section SIA Webinar(Industry partner:Novation City+ IEEE guest Danilo Pau/Logistics : Maria and Nihel] <https://www.youtube.com/live/8WW6a4BkKXg?si=pqajVncVgN6DO1le>



IEEE R8 Afi Webi
IEEE R8 - Acti

GPT-3 2020 (V100) training
1,287 MWh
552.1 Tons CO₂ [1]

[1] <https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/2204/2204.05149.pdf>

In Sensor ML Computing

We've discussed the energy and computing challenges with TinyML, but what security and

Scalable
Low Energy
Responsive
Secure
Sustainable

IEEE R8 Afi Webinar - Intelligent Industry
IEEE R8 - Action for Industry

Youtube Afi Channel[Previous Webinar (Format) co-organized by IEEE Tunisia Section Industry ambassador 2023

Networking/Mentorship/Internship

The Action for Industry (Afi) mentorship program is focused in bringing mentors (Senior and Fellow members of IEEE) and mentees from participating companies together. Match making is performed via an online program implemented in Collbratec. The Afi committee focuses on promoting this platform for companies engaged with IEEE for the purpose of establishing a mentor-mentee partnership.

The actions performed so far since January 2025 have included creating of **IEEE R8 AFI industry ambassadors workspace in Collbratec** inviting Section Industry Ambassadors to join, share experiences, activities and bring senior and fellow members to join the collaborate platform as mentors and promotion of the mentoring opportunity to IEEE members in industry. The activities within the workspace needs to be developed.

Up to Now, 5 SIA has joined the workspace:

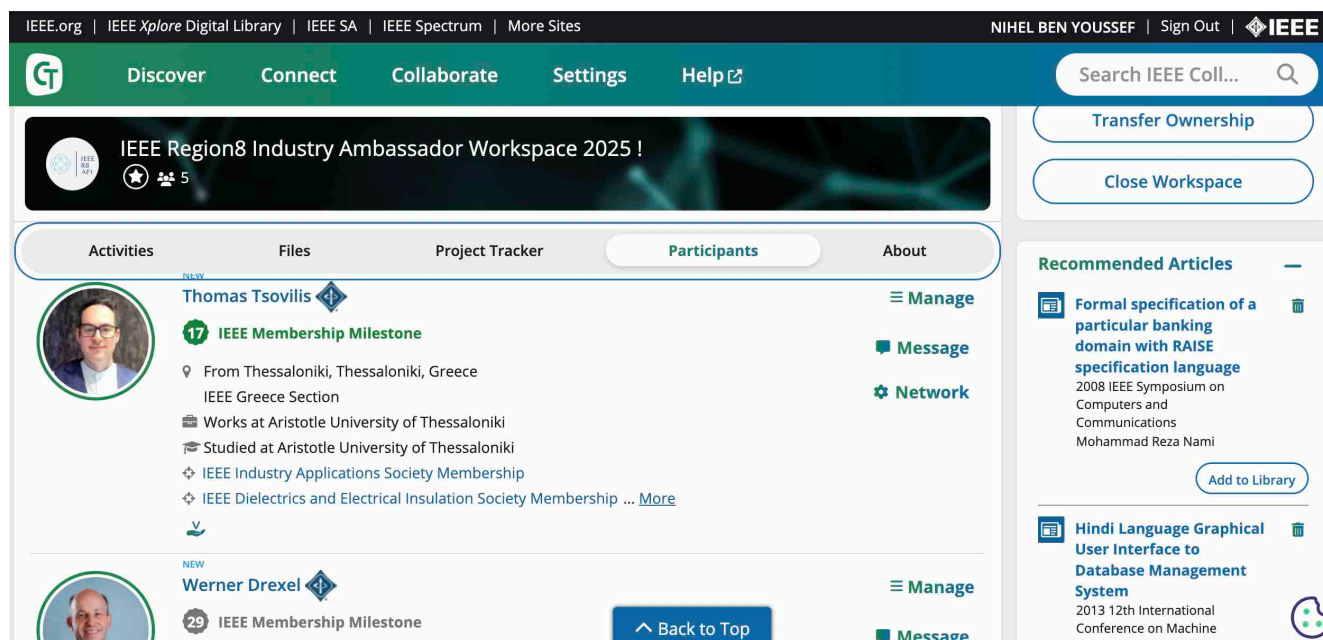
Chidimma Ibeh-Dimnwobi. **EEE Nigeria Section**

Thomas Tsovilis . **IEEE Greece Section**

Werner Drexel **IEEE Austria Section**

Anas Dakkak. **IEEE Sweden Section**

Nihel Ben Youssef. **IEEE Tunisia Section**



IEEE Region8 Afi SIA Collbratec Workspace

Industry events & initiatives

The Afi committee is beginning to plan the 2025 Section Industry Ambassador (SIA) training workshops. :

Two regional in-person meetings, the first one of which will take place on **4-6 June 2025** in **IEEE EURCO-CON Portugal** (Led by Afi team: *Mohammad, John, Sohaieb*) and the second one on **24-26 August** in **IEEE RTSI Tunisia** (Led by Afi Team *Sohaib, Serge, Nihel*)

These workshops are designed to train new SIAs, share best practices between IEEE Sections, strengthen connections between Sections, Regions, and IEEE Headquarters with respect to industry engagement, and provide a platform for IEEE leadership to interact with the local industry of the organizing Section.

Other contributions of Afi during these events are to collaborate with Local sections as organizers to schedule other industry activities such as: **industry workshops/panel discussion** with local industry partners and **industry visits**.

Some selection criteria were set for in-person SIA participation (Due to limited budget , limited places could be provided).

Awards and Recognitions

The Action for Industry Committee is looking to introduce recognitions to highlight the outstanding work done by volunteers and Sections in relation to industry engagement.

Two awards were proposed(to be applied in 2026)

IEEE Region 8 - Outstanding Section Industry Ambassador Award
IEEE Region 8 - Outstanding Section Achievement Award in Industry Activities

The action was led by Sohaib (Afi) and Vincenzo Piuri(Awards and Recognition). We received approval from Opcom , the application will be presented during next R8 October Meeting and then to MGA for reviewing and endorsement by the MGA award committee and MGA board.

By December 2025, Most active SIA and Sections in Industry Activities will receive certificates of recognition

2025 MGA surplus Funds- Project proposal (Waiting for approval)

On March 6, Afi Committee submitted a project titled" **Reach out to Industry in Sub-Saharan Africa**" to request additional funding from MGA

Project Lead: Nihel Ben Youssef, Tiziana Tambosso, Costas Stasopoulos

Project Description:

The aim is to reach out to Sub-Saharan Africa which is an underserved area of the World regarding the presence and the penetration of IEEE. Sub-Saharan Africa is the area and regions of the continent of Africa that lie south of the Sahara. These include Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa. The total population of this area is 1,137,000,000.

The aim of the industry outreach is to bring together various industries and companies from these countries together in Nairobi Kenya for a two day event. In Kenya we have a strong and active IEEE Section with many volunteers and will be able and willing to organize an Industry event. Various local (Kenya) companies and other companies from around the area, will be invited to make presentations, show the current and future trends in their area, share career opportunities, discuss possible partnerships etc.

IEEE members and potential non-members from the area will be invited to participate and attend the presentations and workshops. This is indented to take place in October as a two day event and it will be organized with the lead of IEEE Region 8 Action for Industry Committee, the Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, Ghana, Uganda and South Africa Section. MGA leadership,

IEEE Region 8 leadership and the IEEE Industry Engagement Committee will also be invited to actively participate and engage with members. Also the Section Industry Ambassadors from these Sections will be invited to participate, bringing in their own perspective and attending a workshop.

Estimated start/completion dates:

October 2025, two days event

The project will be completed by the end of 2025 with final reports submission

