

**Section Name: IEEE Lebanon Section**

**Reporting Officer Name: Nazih MOUBAYED**

**Section Vitality**

Date of last Section elections: December 26, 2024

Date of next elections: December 2026

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 October 16, 2024: The 2024 5<sup>th</sup> Section AdCom meeting was supposed to take place in the American University of Beirut. However, due to the dramatic situation the country was facing, the meeting was finally held online on MS Teams. The Chair reminds all attendees to report on vTools all IEEE Day events, as requested by Region 8. Past and future events were displayed, and technical sponsorship of local conferences was discussed. The checklist of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year activities is reminded, and the financial funding requests from local IEEE OUs were presented (all requests were already voted on and approved online by the Section AdCom). In addition, the Section, Chapters and AGs elections were discussed: it is requested, upon IEEE and Region 8 requirements, that at least 2 candidates (but no more than 3) apply for the Section key positions. The elections date was set initially on December 7 but, due to the security issue in the country, it was postponed to December 26. Also, the Humanitarian Technology and R8 Climate Challenges initiatives were presented.
- Meeting on December 23, 2024. The 2024 6<sup>th</sup> Section AdCom meeting was held on hybrid mode at Notre-Dame University, Zouk Mosbeh. The Chair presented the past events and listed the future events for year 2025. The approved funding requests from local OUs were shown. 2 MoUs signed with InMind Academy and Rethinking Lebanon were mentioned. The aim is to strengthen the cooperation with these 2 institutions in terms of capacity building and youth events organization. The membership status was discussed, and the collected IEEE awards and recognitions received by the section, the chapters and individual volunteers were highlighted. At the end, the Chair thanked gratefully all members of the Section board for their efforts and their support that contribute to the achievements during the 2023-2024 mandate.
- Meeting on January 29, 2025: The 2025 1<sup>st</sup> Section AdCom meeting was held on Notre Dame University (NDU) in Louaize. The meeting reviewed past and future events, financial reports, and funding requests. Tasks for the first quarter of 2025 were outlined, along with plans for the Section Retreat and General Assembly & Gala Dinner.
- Meeting on March 15, 2025: The 2025 2<sup>nd</sup> Section AdCom meeting was held in the Azm Research Center in Tripoli, north of Lebanon. The meeting covered administrative approvals, membership updates, past events, and IEEE Lebanon Section guidelines for conference sponsorship. Discussions included technical support and funding requests, along with the process for financial approvals. Plans for the Section General Assembly & Gala Dinner were reviewed.

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.
- 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 were selected randomly during the closing ceremony of the Section flagship conference IMCET'23, on December 13, 2023, and during the Section General Assembly in February 2024.
- 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:

- First week of September 2024: call with all the chairs to discuss updates.
- September 14, 2024: Student officers training day.
- November 8, 2024: call with all the chairs to discuss more updates and check-in on them because there was the war.
- January 31, 2025: call with all the chairs to discuss more updates and further steps.
- First 2 weeks in March 2025: 1 on 1 call with each chair to see their preparations for the upcoming spring semester.

Section activities addressed to Students and Young Professionals:

- Section student officers training day, LAU Byblos, September 14, 2024
- IEEE Day, Octobre 3<sup>rd</sup>
- IEEEExtreme 18.0, October 26
- IC2SPM, LIU, Beirut, Nov. 28-29
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Digital Journalism and Innovative Media Industry, Al Maaref Univ., Beirut, Dec. 6-7
- ICM'24, Doha, Qatar, Dec. 14-17
- 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Control, Automation, and Instrumentation (IC2AI), Beirut, Lebanon, February 11, 2025
- 5<sup>th</sup> IEEE Middle East & North Africa COMMunications Conference (MENACOMM'25), Byblos, Lebanon, February 20-22, 2025
- IEEE presentation for USJ Student Branch, March 5, 2025

### 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 Day, October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ICAIGE'24, Hammamet, Tunisia, October 10-12
- IC2SPM, LIU, Beirut, November 28-29
- ICM'24, Doha, Qatar, December 14-17
- 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Control, Automation, and Instrumentation (IC2AI), Beirut, Lebanon, February 11, 2025
- 5<sup>th</sup> IEEE Middle East & North Africa COMMunications Conference (MENACOMM'25), Byblos, Lebanon, February 20-22, 2025

### Industry

- MoU signing with inmind Academy, on November 14, 2024
- MoU signing with Rethinking Lebanon, on December 20, 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 1013 members (800 Student Members, 40 Graduate Student Members, 96 Members, 64 Senior Members, 6 Life Senior Members, 3 Life Members, 1 Fellow, 3 Affiliates), 481 new members (462 student members, 6 members, 13 Graduate student members), and 231 first-year renewed members (217 student members, 9 members, 5 Graduate student member)

Gender: 36.074% Male, 31.04% Female, 332.886% Unknown

Geographical distribution: Akkar (11), Beirut (174), Beqaa (1), Mount Lebanon (152), North Lebanon (67), South Lebanon (3), Unknown (599)

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 Officers training day, LAU Byblos, September 14, 2024
- IEEE Day, October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ICAIGE'24, Hammamet, Tunisia, October 10-12
- Region 8 Fall meeting, Bordeaux, France, Oct. 18-20 (Report submitted)
- IEEEExtreme 18.0, October 26
- IC2SPM, LIU, Beirut, November 28-29
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Digital Journalism and Innovative Media Industry, Al Maaref University, Beirut, Dec. 6-7
- ICM'24, Doha, Qatar, December 14-17
- IEEE Lebanon Section elections, December 26, 2024
- 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Control, Automation, and Instrumentation (IC2AI), Beirut, Lebanon, February 11, 2025
- 5<sup>th</sup> IEEE Middle East & North Africa COMMunications Conference (MENACOMM'25), Byblos, Lebanon, February 20-22, 2025
- IEEE presentation for USJ Student Branch, March 5, 2025

### Planned activities

- Section General Assembly and Annual Gala Dinner, April 2025
- Open Day for Cyber Security (ODCS'25), Antonine University, April 4, 2025
- IEEE TechX'25, NDU Campus, April 12, 2025
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Region Conference on Power & Energy Sustainability (RCPES), Le Royal Hotel, Dbayeh, Lebanon, September 2025

- 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advances in Computational Tools for Engineering Applications (ACTEA), Notre-Dame University (NDU), Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon, September 24-26, 2025
- 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Renewable Energies for Developing Countries (REDEC), Notre-Dame University (NDU), Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon, September 24-26, 2025
- Section Retreat, October 2025
- 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advances in Biomedical Engineering, BAU, Debbieh Campus, Lebanon, October 9-10, 2025
- 3<sup>rd</sup> IEEE International Conference on Artificial Intelligence & Green Energy (ICAIGE'26), American University of the Middle East (AUM), Kuwait, January 2026
- 5<sup>th</sup> IEEE International Multidisciplinary Conference on Engineering Technology (IMCET), Beirut, Lebanon, July 2026

### **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.