IEEE Region8news

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Attending the third meeting of the Executive Committee of IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section, held in Belgrade during TELFOR 2015 are (from left): Mladen Koprivica, Aleksandar Nešković, Vladan Pantović, Boris Dumnić, Branimir Reljin, Gordana Velikić, Božidar Radenković, Vera Marković, Vladimir Katić, Zlatica Marinković, Zorica Bogdanović and Biljana Stošić.

2016 is to be a year of tributes as Serbia and Montenegro Section marks 45 years

IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section, the successor to the Yugoslav Section, celebrates a significant milestone this year: its 45th anniversary. The Section continues to be a driving force for spreading engineering spirit through knowledge dissemination, leadership in innovation, and experience exchange.

The Section has grown in this time to accommodate 12 Chapters, one Affinity Group, and four Student Branches, with almost 800 active members. The Section also organizes a range of high-value activities recognized by IEEE re-wards. Special effort is put into student activities, young professionals, women in engineering, and the development of industry relations.

The Serbia and Montenegro Section supports many conferences in the Balkan region, including ETRAN (etran.etf.rs), TELFOR (telfor.rs), TELSIKS (telsiks.org.rs), MIEL (miel.elfak.ni.ac.rs), NEUREL (neureletf.bg.ac.rs), ICEST (icestconf.org), PE (www.dee.uns.ac.rs), PES (pes2015.elfak.rs), and IEEESTEC (ieee.elfak.ni.ac.rs). In addition to these well-established conferences, with the aim of developing stronger ties between academia and industry, the Section will take part in industry-oriented conference ZINC (GoZinc.org).

To mark the anniversary, the Section will be organizing special tributes during each of the conferences with IEEE fingerprint. For the latest details on our plans, please visit the Section website: ieee.uns.ac.rs.

Gordana Velikic, Serbia and Montenegro Section CE Chapter Chair
Vera Markovic, IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section Chair

Message from the R8 director

Costas Stasopoulos

AS WE are now well into 2016, let us look at our key focus areas for the year and do a quick self-assessment about how well we have progressed.

1. Getting closer to Industry
As more than 50% of our members come from industry, we had taken the decision for more action and involvement in this area. To this end we set up a strong Action for Industry team and appointed Industry Ambassadors in the Sections.

The intention has been to move IEEE closer to industry, to restore the industrial roots of IEEE and thereby improve IEEE's service to industry. Members in industry were identified and surveys were conducted to better understand their needs. We are now in the next steps in terms of establishing a good and productive working relationship with each of these companies and finding ways for these to be beneficial in both directions. The first implementation stage has already started with Mentoring and Internship programs.

2. Students and Young Professionals
Since students and young professionals are in the heart of our Region and are the future not only of IEEE but also of our society, a lot of effort and resources have been directed towards their strengthening and encouragement.

Strong local teams were formed, an increased number of Student Branches and Student

Slovenia welcomes Region 8 Committee to Ljubljana

REGION 8 director Costas Stasopoulos re-affirmed his priorities for the Region during the 105th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting, which took place at the Grand Union Hotel in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 10-11 October 2015.

The three priorities comprise bringing the organization closer to industry, focusing on student and young professionals, and encouraging Section vitality. The vent was also an opportunity for Section Chairs and both committee and subcommittee members
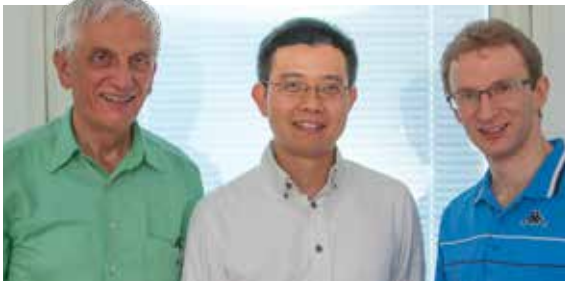
Your editors (from left): Roland Saam, Zhijia Huang and Bojan Nikolic.

Find out what these changes mean and why they matter

THROUGHOUT last year, there was a lot of discussion and news regarding the proposed amendment to the IEEE constitution. The *Region 8 News* team has also been busy gathering information from the director, MGA news and other IEEE volunteers regarding the effects on you, the grassroots IEEE member. We have more updates this issue. Please try to read and absorb the information about the changes.

We have learned from MGA news and from an article in *The Institute* that at its November 2015 meeting, the IEEE Board of Directors endorsed revisions to the IEEE Constitution. It will be sent to the IEEE membership for approval this year in the form of an amendment. You can find more detail in the article 'Proposed Amendment to the IEEE Constitution on 2016 Ballot' at http://theinstitute.ieee.org/ briefings/business/-proposed-amendment-to-the-ieee-constitution-on-2016-ballot

A public web page has also been posted containing information about the proposed IEEE Constitutional amendment: www.ieee. org/about/corporate/election/ 2016_constitutional_amendment.html

As a reminder for all volunteers, the deadline for 2015 annual reporting and rebate requirements is 15 March. Please submit the reports on time to get the rebate for this year's activities. You can also welcome new members in your Section and invite them to attend the orientation webinar simply search "orientation webinar" from IEEE.org.

Corrections

In our September 2015 issue, we published an article headed 'Uganda Subsection to focus on community projects to kick-start economic growth'. At the time of publication, Uganda Subsection was not yet officially approved. Please find further news about new Sections and Subsections at www.ieeer8.org.

Zhijia, Roland and Bojan

Calling all students and YPs! Register now for SYP Congress

THIS year's Region 8 Student and Young Professional Congress will be hosted by the IEEE Student Branches Regensburg and Passau in Regensburg, Germany, on 17–21 August.

Participants will have the opportunity to develop their technical and soft skills in a wide variety of workshops and lectures and to deal with topics in diverse technical fields, meet other IEEE members, and exchange ideas and experiences in a well-designed five-day programme.

Those attending will get to visit OTH Regensburg and companies and laboratories in and around the city, as well as the city itself, and take part in some great social activities.

The incredible atmosphere generated by more than 400 participants from more than 50 countries in our Region presents a unique opportunity to meet IEEE global leaders and representatives, influence the future of IEEE, exchange ideas with like-minded students and Young Professionals, and even find a future employer.

For more details, visit www. syp-regensburg.de and join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ syp2016.

How strong is the case for changing IEEE Constitution?

THE 'IEEE in 2030' Committee is proposing changes to the IEEE Constitution that would have a major impact on all IEEE members and volunteers, especially in the Regions outside the USA.

The present structure has served IEEE since 1963, so there would have to be a convincing case for making radical changes.

Here are some key questions that might help clarify the issue:

● Have IEEE volunteers been properly informed with arguments for and against a change in the Constitution as the new proposals were developed?

● Why is it necessary to change the Constitution at this time, and why is it judged to be an urgent priority? What would be lost by postponing any decisions until there has been full consultation with the Regional committees?

● Has the status of the elected regional representatives (delegates) under the new proposals been downgraded?

● Could improvements in the *modus operandi* of the Board be achieved without the need for a change in the Constitution?

● Will the new structure ensure that the interests of members residing outside the USA are adequately represented as at present?

● Why has so much of the governance been relegated to the Bylaws?

Charles Turner
Former Region 8 Director
and IEEE Secretary

Message from the R8 director

Chapters were formed or revived and many regional Student and Young professional Congress were organized, over the last year, including Iberian SYP in Madrid Spain (5 April); Central European SYP in Zagreb, Croatia (8-10 May); Western European SYP in Eindhoven, The Netherlands (20-24 May); Middle East SBC in Amman, Jordan (4-7 August); Egypt Engineering Day in Cairo, Egypt (4-7 August); Hellenic SYP in Thessaloniki, Greece (30 October-1 November); and Nordic SYP in Stockholm, Sweden (6-8 November). Hundreds of students and young professionals took part, gaining valuable experience and setting the foundations for the future.

IEEEXtreme, the worldwide 24-hour programming competition, saw more than 750 teams from Region 8 in 160 different schools take part, with Region 8 teams going on to win 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Way to go, Region 8!

This year, Region 8's main Student and Young Professional Congress will be held in Regensburg, Germany, on 17-21 August, where more than 400 people will meet, learn, interact, make connections and have fun.

3. Section Vitality

We want Sections, Branches and Affinity Groups to be alive and active, function properly and democratically; to organize events, involve members, co-operate in conferences and workshops, and engage and provide service to their members. Timely reporting is necessary to show vitality and to receive the Section rebate.

To support and strengthen our Sections, a task force was appointed to help them with functions and reporting. This has been quite challenging as Region 8 is a vast and diverse area with thousands of events and actions taking place every year. It has also been a rewarding task as it gave us opportunities to work as a team beyond national boarders and also the chance to give our best to achieve real progress for humanity.

I would like to say a big thank you to my hardworking team, to our members for their dedication, appreciation and trust, and not least to IEEE for its constant and unfailing support. It has been a super, remarkable and rewarding year. Let us use this as a strong foundation for new dreams, goals and plans for the future.

Costas Stasopoulos
Region 8 Director

Lynn Conway with (from left) Martin Bastiaans (2013-14 Region 8 director), Barry Shoop (incoming 2016 IEEE President) and Tariq Durrani (RSE VP International and 2010-11 IEEE VP, Educational Activities).

Mother of invention Lynn Conway receives top medal in Edinburgh

LYNN Conway, Professor Emerita at the University of Michigan, has received the 2015 IEEE/ RSE James Clerk Maxwell Medal "for contributions to and leadership in design methodology and pedagogy enabling rapid advances and dissemination of VLSI design tools and systems". The Award was presented in Edinburgh at the premises of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) on 12 November 2015.

This joint award was established in 2006 to recognise ground-breaking contributions that have had an exceptional impact on the development of electronics and electrical engineering or related field, and is sponsored by Cirrus Logic.

The James Clerk Maxwell Medal is one of the highest awards presented by IEEE. Previous recipients have included Oliver Jacobs and Andrew Viterbi of Qualcomm, Amal Bose of Bose Corporation, Tom Berners Lee of the World-Wide Web, and Sir David Payne of optoelectronics fame, among others.

Prof Conway's work was a major innovation to the field of microchip design that eventually made personal computers and smartphones possible.

Her textbook *Introduction to VLSI Systems*, co-authored with Carver Mead of Caltech in 1979, was an instant bestseller, which led to a design revolution that changed the face of the education of electronic systems design wordwide. It was central to the development of the microelectronics industry and the rapid growth of Silicon Valley.

The Oration at the medal ceremony was read by Barry Shoop, the incoming (2016) IEEE President, and the event was attended by Martin Bastiaans, immediate past director of IEEE Region 8.

The ceremony was followed by an erudite, informative and wide-ranging lecture delivered by Prof Conway on the topic of 'Our travels through time: Envisioning historical waves of technological innovation'.

The lecture was video-streamed live over **ieee.tv**, and we hope that it will be made available in due course at **ieee.tv** for downloading.

Have you ever thought about mentoring? Join our team!

WE are frequently challenged to justify to our younger members the cost of belonging to IEEE, especially after they graduate and begin to pay the full dues. A number of the most valuable benefits, such as technical publications, are readily available free of charge through the internet these days, while interaction with other professionals has been greatly facilitated through social networking.

The mentoring of younger members by experienced volunteers is a benefit that can be offered through a Section, Chapter, Affinity Group or Student Branch. It can provide an effective means of advising and helping those at the start of their career to improve their performance in their first employment in industry, for example.

IEEE MentorCentre is an online service that offers this kind of help to members, with Young Professionals especially in mind. However, the IEEE MentorCentre is not available to Student members. We plan to introduce a local mentoring service in Region 8 that focuses on Student/Graduate Student members as well as Young Professionals. A pilot mentoring program will be introduced in the UK and Ireland Section later this year.

We need volunteers willing to join the team of mentors, able to mentor for a few hours each month, either online or in-person, as circumstances allow.

We hope that this will encourage other Sections in the Region to organise a similar service for their younger members. Check the IEEE MentorCentre website for more information about mentoring.

Charles Turner
Chair UK & Ireland LMAG

Slovenia welcomes R8C to Ljubljana

to come together under one roof for the Region's autumn gathering.

During his address at the start of the meeting, the director touched on the issue of IEEE membership. Although there was a small decline in overall numbers, a few Sections –namely Bahrain, Iceland, Latvia and Lithuania Section – had done a great job in recruiting and retention of members. However, the 'electronic membership' category did not cover fixed membership costs and showed no signification improvement in retention in qualified countries. Further changes have been discussed in MGA meetings.

The director also shared information regarding the amendments proposed to the IEEE Constitution.

From the Saturday sessions we also learned that the Professional Activities team had been working to build and strengthen its network, promoting activities through the Distinguished Speaker program and reaching out to industry.

The Life Member Activities group raised the question regarding loss of members after their retirement and suggested that older members in the Section could represent a valuable volunteer resource since they have more time available to take on important tasks with many years of experience.

Young Professionals are setting their own goals but collaborating with Student Activities Committee. Together, they have organized Central European SYP, West European SYP and Middle East SBC in 2015. YP have also produced an industry newsletter and an event exchange program.

The Action for Industry team laid out its action plan with a pilot industry internship for IEEE student members, including initiatives to support technical activities, to educate volunteers and members, and to collaborate with industry.

Sunday's agenda began with the Secretary's report, followed by the Treasurer's summary. The goal of the Region's finance was to improve Section and Chapter reporting and to establish continuity in operations and projects.

The Student Activities Committee reported on a full range of projects and ideas. First of these will be the next Region 8 SYP Congress in Germany. The team set out goals to monitor Student Branch activities through a branch revitalization program and by engaging with industry relations. Cross-section congresses are being organized, as well as the 2016 Student Paper Contest, an Africa focus group and the Mind the Gap contest.

Delegates enjoyed the hospitality by the Slovenia Section and their local volunteers. It was a great pleasure to visit the city of Ljubljana and the spectacular Postojnska cave.

Costas Stasopoulos closed the meeting with an invitation to committee members to join the next meeting in March 2016, hosted in Monaco.

Zhijia Huang

Region 8 Clementina Saduwa Award 2015 received by Eman Alashwali

Student Activities Committee

IEEE holds special session at World Science Forum in Budapest, Hungary

THE World Science Forum in November 2015 attracted some 900 thought leaders and decision-makers on science and technology from over 100 countries, including several Nobel laureates, heads of state and ministers of science, technology and education.

The main theme was 'The Enabling Power of Science', reflecting on the way how science opens new paths for the improvement of human life, business innovation and policy making (**www.sciforum.hu**).

Recommendations from the Forum called upon joint actions and the use of science and technology advice to reach sustainable goals, address climate change and reduce our vulnerability to disasters.

Also at the Forum, IEEE presented a special session on 'New paradigms for integrating sustainable development into science and engineering education through IEEE educational activities'.

Tariq Durrani

121 discussions

Group breakout session

Honour society sets up in Johannesburg

IEEE-ETA Kappa Nu (IEEE-HKN), IEEE's honour society for those studying IEEE fields of interest, has installed a Chapter at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. It is the second such Chapter in Region 8.

Saurabh Sinha (HKN–Eta Chapter) – IEEE representative, Educational Activities vice president and executive dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment – installed the Chapter on 15 July 2015. Also present at the ceremony was IEEE president Howard Michel (HKN–Gamma Kappa Chapter) and Johan Meyer, head of the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Nancy Ostin, Director, IEEE-HKN
n.ostin@ieee.org

Photo gallery: highlights of the IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia

Region 8 Director, Costas Stasopoulos

Tea break for WIE

Discussions during tea break

Section Chairs during the meeting

Award time

Latvia and Lithuania focus on advances at AIEEE'2015

THE 3rd IEEE Workshop on Advances in Information, Electronic and Electrical Engineering –AIEEE' 2015, which took place on 13-14 November 2015 at Riga Technical University, Latvia, was a very successful event. It was jointly organized by Latvia and Lithuania Sections and was supported by Riga Technical University and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania. More than 60 participants from 11 countries joined the scientific conference and its social program on two days.

The workshop brought together young scientists and researchers from information, electronic and electrical engineering fields of science in an effort to encourage new ideas.

They came to discuss and present the latest advances in information and computer technologies, audio and image processing, automatic control, robotics, telecommunications, information systems, system security, modelling and performance, e-commerce and e-governance, cloud computing, cyber-physical systems, next generation computing, wireless sensor networks, internet and web applications, among other key topics.

Opening presentations were delivered by honorary chair of AIEEE'2015 Region 8 director-elect Margaretha Eriksson, IEEE Latvia Section chair Leonids Ribickis and AIEEE general co-chair Andrejs Romanovs. There followed many lively discussions over the two days, in an exciting and balanced programme comprising presentations that gave new insights into the latest innovations.

The workshop sessions were accompanied by a social programme, which included a gala dinner, discussions and guided tours in the heart of Riga Old Town and at Rundale Palace Museum.

At the closing ceremony, AIEEE general co-chair Dalius Navakauskas announced that a fourth workshop would be held in 2016 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Andrejs Romanovs
Latvia Section vice-chair
Dalius Navakauskas
Lithuania Section vice-chair

Sultan Qaboos University wins Oman Robotics Challenge

IN MUSCAT, Oman, seven teams from different colleges and universities in the Sultanate competed in this year's Oman Robotics Challenge. The event was held at the Modern College of Business and Science on 30 November 2015, organized by IEEE Oman Section.

ORC 2015 aimed to inspire creativity and encourage team spirit, as young Omani students were given the opportunity to solve problems, transform abstract concepts to practical applications and to compete in a different environment.

The challenge consisted of six rounds with a two-hour window allocated for participants to build, program and test their robots before starting the actual competition. Hybrid-programmed and remote-controlled robots had to be designed using both open source and commercial platforms. The robots had also to be able to move and carry light objects and to drive them through different types of terrain and obstacles.

After the gruelling rounds, the team from Sultan Qaboos University was declared winner.

The winning team and coach received a US$400 cash prize, plaque and certificates of participation, plus the cost of travel to Kuwait, where the GCC Robotics Final Round was to be held in December 2015.

Arnold Santos
Secretary, Oman Section

Google director gives talk at KTH in celebration of Sweden's IEEE Day

MORE than 150 electrical engineers gathered to celebrate IEEE Day 2015 in Stockholm on 14 October 2015.

The event was organized by the Sweden Section's Women in Engineering Affinity Group, chaired by Nasim Farahini, along with contributions from the Student Branch and WIE Affinity Group at the Royal Insitute of Technology (KTH), chaired by Babak Taghavi and Elena Vasileva respectively.

During the event, Mats Edvinsson, Sweden Section chair, shared with participants the history of IEEE Day and the reasons for its celebration.

The second speaker was Serge Lachapelle, the director, product manager and Stockholm site lead at Google. He recounted the stories of several successful startups acquired by Google, and advised students on how to make a successful transition from college to career. He also referred to some of the efforts at Google to promote women in technology and science.

Nasim Farahini

Power electronics in industry: seminar by guest lecturer

DR MURALIDHAR from Higher College Technology, Oman, delivered an IEEE Guest Talk at Caledonian College of Engineering on the topic of 'Applications of Power Electronics in Various Industries'. It was a great opportunity for part-time students and IEEE Student Members in the college to broaden their view of the subject.

After a welcome speech by Pawar Dharmasa of CCE, Dr Muralidhar began by presenting applications of power electronics in different engineering sectors and the role power electronic devices in everyday life. Then he explained the development of practical models of power electric convertors and invertors. He also introduced a number of real-time examples and explained the effectiveness of services in various locomotives. Various electric drive manufacturing companies are also coming forward in Oman to provide smart power electronic-based control switches.

Towards the end of the seminar, Dr Muralidhar demonstrated a short video of his research: '(Five) multi-level invertor operation to control the speed of three-phase induction motors'. Participants were thrilled to see the control of shapes of voltage and current waves using active switches.

The talk was followed by an interactive Q&A session and a memento was presented to the guest speaker by the team of student participants.

Pawar Dharmasa

Region 8 to help promote Drones for Good Award

DUBAI Museum of the Future Foundation has signed a memorandum of understanding with IEEE, paving the way for the second year of their strategic partnership on the UAE Drones for Good Award. The tie-up with the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology comes as part of the Foundation's efforts to promote

the UAE's leading position in the field of advanced technologies at the regional and international levels.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by Saif Al Aleeli, chief executive officer of Dubai Museum of the Future Foundation and coordinator general of the UAE Drones for Good Award, and Nazih Khaddaj Mallat, chair of IEEE Region 8's Chapters Coordination Committee.

The Dubai Museum of the Future Foundation has been working

towards expanding the scope of the UAE Drones for Good Award, the most prominent award of its kind in the world, through cooperation efforts with government entities, private sector, international organisations and academic institutions. It has also enabled opportunities for direct communication between owners of innovative projects and businessmen, companies, organisations and business incubators interested in employing drones technology in civilian applications.

Based on the memorandum of understanding, IEEE will promote the second edition of the UAE Drones for Good Award during its various activities and events with the aim of raising awareness about the award at the local and international level.

IEEE will also encourage participation in the award, providing an opportunity for innovators to develop their projects with the support of IEEE's extensive network of more than 430,000 members from more than 160 countries around the world.

SIBIRCON examines the latest in biotech and cognitive networks

RUSSIA'S first International Conference on Biomedical Engineering and Computational Technologies (SIBIRCON) took place on 28-30 October 2015. The three-day agenda attracted more than 100 researchers from Russia, Greece, Egypt, India, Taiwan and the Netherlands, as well as representatives from some of the largest biological and healthcare information technology developers, including Thomson Reuters, Cisco Systems and Hewlett-Packard.

The issues discussed ranged from trends linking big data to personalized healthcare, in particular the analysis of data from mobile devices, which is the basis of the concept of electronic (e-health) or mobile (m-health) systems. A symposium on 'Ubiquitous public e-health computational and telecommunication technologies for rural and remote areas' was hosted by the chair of Russia Siberia Section, Alexander Markhasin.

Among the topics raised at the conference was the ability to create large healthcare cognitive networks. Chryssa Thermo-

lia from the Technical University of Crete (Greece) spoke about how distant cognitive monitoring made it possible to correct the behavior of a patient suffering from bipolar disorder. Ideally, a specialist can 'cut' in the cognitive networks that monitor patient's condition and provide prompt psychological support.

Also featured was a report from Mariya Timofeyeva of the SL Sobolev Institute of Mathematics, who presented a paper entitled 'A linguistic look at the Brain-Computer Interface'.

During SIBIRCON, the satellite young scientists school on 'Modern research approaches to the investigation of affective and cognitive functions in health and pathology in the focus of translational medicine' also took place. This comprised a series of lectures by leading experts and masterclasses on methods of experimental and clinical neuroscience.

Grigoriy Khazankin
Secretary-treasurer, Russia Siberia Section

Iran seminar on managing IT risk

NIROO Research Institute hosted a talk last June by Ali Hessami, director of R&D and Innovation at Vega Systems, on 'Assessing and Managing Risks in High Technology'. The talk covered the basic definitions, the meaning of risk, and how to assess and manage various risks in high technology systems.

Prof Hessami referred to the sinking of the *Titanic* and the Concorde catastrophe, calling both of them "the results of ignoring risk management".

After proving the necessity of taking care of the risk in technology, he presented several models for risk assessment and risk management.

The principles are of relevance and value to all engineering and technology researchers and everyone who wishes to understand and tackle safety, security and many other forms of risks in complex technical systems.

Ali Tadaion
Iran Section newsletter

Successful IEEE Day in Bahrain will encourage similar events

THE Bahrain Society of Engineers, located in Juffair, celebrated IEEE Day on 6 October 2015 in a joint event between the Bahrain Section and UOB Student Branch.

The global event was celebrated through inspirational speeches, fun and skill-provoking games, and discussions about upcoming technologies. Speakers ranged from

undergraduate students to Senior Members.

It was very satisfying to get positive feedback from all participants and the UOB Student Branch was encouraged by Bahrain Section to organize more such activities and events in order to encourage dialogue between members willing to learn and benefit humanity.

YP COMMITTEE

YP: looking forward to a brand new year

IN MANY aspects, 2015 was a great year for Region 8 Young Professionals. We had two new Affinity Groups join the YP family in Ghana and Qatar, took part in five cross-section SYP congresses, and launched the very first issue of the Region 8 Young Professionals Industry Newsletter.

The beginning of the new year will be dedicated to tying loose ends, finalizing the last stages of the Event Exchange Program, where the platform is almost ready for release, as well as creating and updating a new set of useful materials and manuals for YP volunteers, to help them with organizing events, funding strategies, and managing AGs. These materials will be based on topics that volunteers have deemed to be most important and

require support with during last year's cross-section SYP congresses.

We have also started collaborating with the Students and Young Professionals Congress 2016 organizers, one of the highlight Regional events, which will take place in summer. In addition, a new approach to Young Professionals Affinity Group mentorship will be developed, which will enable both AGs and the R8 YP subcommittee to become closer and to increase our support towards local volunteers.

This year will see a shift in the award nomination process, as well as the traditional deadlines. More details about this can be found on the YP website.

The second issue of the Industry Newsletter is also being prepared, with improvements to make it more relevant and interesting to all readers, and if any volunteer or member who is involved in industry would like to contribute material, we can be contacted at **r8yp@ieee. org**. Your feedback and contributions are vital to the newsletter and allows it to meet the expectations and needs of the YP community, along with the larger IEEE community in the Region.

Finally, dormant AGs will be revived, and we aim to have all AGs in the Region in working order by the end of this year.

We wish everyone a wonderful and productive 2016!

Flavia Dinca
Region 8 Young Professionals Chair

Visitors get a feel for 2050 climate in Berlin

Euref Campus is home to companies working on projects concerning sustainability and environmental protection.

A VISIT to the multi-awarded smart urban quarter in Berlin which has already fulfilled the climate targets of the German federal government for 2050 was organized by the IEEE Young Professionals Network in Berlin on 28 October 2015. It included a visit to over five hectares large Euref Campus and to French corporation Schneider Electric.

Euref Campus, located near Gasometer in Berlin-Schöneberg, is an initiator of the energy transition in Germany and a home for many companies in the fields of energy, sustainability, environmental protection and mobility. It is a Federal Government research campus, known for CO_2-neutral energy supply provided by biogas

cogeneration plants as well as providing locally generated regenerative energy from photovoltaics, wind power and geothermics.

Also located in the Euref Campus, Schneider Electric specializes in electricity distribution, automation management and produces installation components for energy management. Participants had an opportunity to find out about the innovative solutions presented by the colleagues from Schneider Electric, explore the energy efficient building technologies of the Euref Campus and get information about some of its key features.

Ana Cigarán Romero
WIE chair and YP secretary,
Germany Section

Finnish Young Professionals focus on printed electronics

AN EVENT focused on Printed Intelligence was organized by Finnish Young Professionals together with members of OEM Laboratory, University of Oulu and Printocent Consortium at the end of 2015.

The aim of the event was to present current solutions to a broader audience, enabling students to have the opportunity to see new perspectives related to emerging technologies such as printed electronics. Guest speakers from various companies presented their projects and outlooks, focusing on large-scale fabrication

of electronics components and their implementation into flexible substrates.

The event also gathered many industry representatives related to printed electronics in the Oulu area, searching for talented students to do their masters theses and internships.

Participants also had a chance to familiarize themselves with IEEE activities and were encouraged to join, thereby growing their professional network and find a job of their dreams!

Rafal Sliz
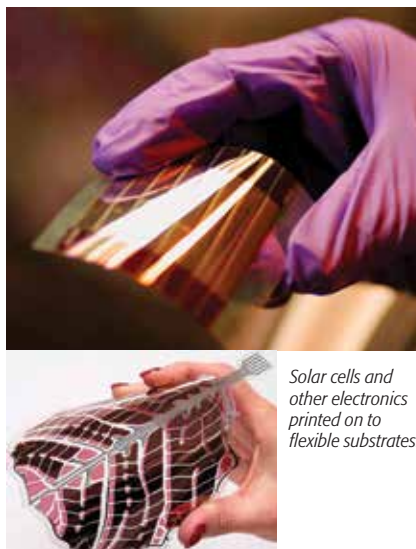
Solar cells and other electronics printed on to flexible substrates.

Workshop on developing your own Android apps

THE Student Branch, in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering, organized a workshop on Android Application development. Ali Mohamad, a graduate student, Student Branch member and Android developer, shared his experience by teaching attendees to build Android Applications from scratch.

Mobile programming has become one of the essential skills of tomorrow's engineers. Today, it can be integrated into every classroom. Mobile programming applications range from simple tools to the Internet of Things.

Maged Najjar, chair of the Department of Computer Engineering and the Student Branch advisor,

stressed "The motivation for holding such workshops is the fact that mobile programming, especially on Android OS, continues to experience remarkable growth and advancement. So, in addition to teaching it to students in a classroom environment, we wanted it to share the benefits of such an experience with the whole UOB community."

The workshop took place over the course of November with a three-hour session each week. A relaxed atmosphere ensured easy and friendly interaction between participants, and a number of faculty members actively took part.

Participants showcased the applications they created and received certificates. Dr Najjar also awarded a token of appreciation on behalf of the faculty and the Student Branch to the workshop facilitator, Ali, to whom this was a great experience by his own words.

The organizers hope that this workshop is a small step towards greater endeavors in this respect.

Michael Salem

Al Ain University of Science and Technology (AAU)

NI field engineer leads hands-on tutorial workshop on LabVIEW

IN the framework of the keenness of Al Ain University of Science and Technology (AAU) on the students and their interests in the latest technologies, the College of Engineering and IT (CEIT) at AAU, in conjunction with the IEEE UAE MTT & IM Joint Chapter and the IEEE AAU Student Branch, organized a technical workshop about LabVIEW, the software developed by National Instruments (NI), on 19 January.

The speaker was Leen Adnan, an NI field engineer, and the workshop was attended by guests from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and a group of academic faculty and students of the college.

Ms Leen began with an introduction of LabVIEW, which is an advanced program used by engineering students, especially Networks and Communications Engineering Department. She also talked about the challenges in the field of software and stages of technology advances that have been access to such technologies, and explained the LabVIEW fundamentals, such as implementation of virtual instrument (VI), loop structures and data access. The participants

were able to directly access the LabVIEW software in the computer lab and apply the applications explained by the speaker.

Nazih Khaddaj Mallat (dean, College of Engineering and IT) said that LabVIEW will definitely help our students in their courses and particularly in their Capstone Project. He also added that the college, in collaboration with IEEE UAE units, will continue to organize similar technical events and provide an excellent opportunity to students, instructors and different UAE communities to learn about new technologies and advanced tools.

The end of the workshop was open for the students and the audience to ask questions and take part in discussion.

SYP Congress and much more to come in 2016

HEY, dear students! The time has come! 2016 is here, and as every even year, the biggest student event in our Region is taking place. This time, it is Germany and the city of Regensburg which are calling us all to meet together at the IEEE Region 8 Student and Young Professional Congress on 17-21 August. But R8 SAC has more news to share...

First of all, we would like to thank Heind El-Rawy for her contribution in 2015 as Electronic Communications Coordinator (ECC) and welcome Ruba Aburub as the 2016 ECC for SAC.

Also, we would like to thank all Section chairs who appointed a Student Activities coordinator and student representative for their Section. In 2015, we introduced the 'Survival Guide', a guideline for newly formed Student Branches as well as those that have been dormant but have been successfully revitalized. The reporting campaign led to a 72% increase in the number of reports submitted by Student Branch chairs and counselors: 246 reports were submitted in the 2014-2015 academic year compared to 143 reports during 2013-2014. This is a success for all Region 8 students and Student Branches!

The 2015 IEEE Xtreme Programming Competition results are tremendous for Region 8. From 2,468 teams, the top three winners were teams from our Region. 'Team Name' from Iran, 'EPFL1' from Switzerland and 'Powerhouse' from Romania were the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, respectively. Their backgrounds show that these achievements are not just pure luck. As Region 8 SAC, we're Xtremely happy to see these teams' achievements and congratulate them. For more information about the teams and their members, go to the Region 8 web site and clikc on the Student Activities link.

This year's surprise is the announcement of the winners of 'Mind that Gap!', Region 8's new student contest. 'Mind the Gap!' (or MtG) is a contest challenging IEEE students in the Region to come up with a project proposal that helps reduce the gap between generations and bring them together, using technology. Three winning proposals (submitted by three winning teams of 3 to 5 people) will be selected to win the first, second, and third prizes ($750, $500, and $250 respectively), and the winners will be announced during the Awards Ceremony at the R8 SYP Congress 2016 in Regensburg, Germany.

Stay tuned on Region 8's SAC and MtG social media channels (**www.facebook.com/ieee.r8sac** and **www.facebook.com/MtGR8SAC**) and get the chance to learn more about student news.

Your IEEE R8 SAC Team
www.ieeer8.org/category/student-activities

IEEEXtreme contest, Egypt

'Learn Compete Win' proves to be an unqualified success

IEEEXTREME Egypt Section Ambassadors came up with a new idea: to organize IEEEXtreme for all Egyptian teams at one place. They called this event 'LCW – Learn Compete Win' and introduced 'Code = Power' as this year's slogan.

As a kind of collaboration, IT-WORX hosted LCW and supplied competitors with needed meals and refreshments during the 24 hours of competition which was held on 24 October. ITWORX also provided a high-quality internet connection along with essential internet technical support during the competition.

For this edition of IEEEXtreme, 34 Egyptian teams registered and 28 teams participated, out of which nine were through LCW'15. Three teams from Egypt were ranked among the best 100 teams in the world. The LCW'15 closing video can be watched here: **https://goo.gl/FdL2WT**

Nine Egyptian teams came through the LCW'15 initiative, three ranking among the best in the world.

National Institute of Applied Science and Technology (INSAT), Tunisia

Tunisian SYPC'15 attracts more than 320 for learning and networking

INSAT Student Branch had the honour to host the 3rd Annual Tunisian Student and Young Professionals Congress in Sousse on 20-22 December 2015. More than 320 students and young professionals met together to network, learn more about benefits IEEE membership and to discuss present and future engineering challenges.

The two-day congress aimed to help participants to gain further insight, enabling exchange of knowledge and skills. The plenary sessions and workshops in this congress focused not only on research and technological developments but also on career issues and the importance of developing the necessary soft skills.

An interesting mix of speeches was offered by national and international speakers from both academia and industry, including Ruba Aburub (Region 8 Student Activity Com-

mittee corresponding member) and Nadhem Beard (Region 8 Professional Speaker).

Mehdi Bouguerra, TSYP'15 chair, thanked the organizing committee and the audience for their remarkable engagement, and passed the torch to the IEEE ULT Student Branch who will be organizing the next Tunisian Student and Young Professional Congress.

Skander Mansouri
Chair, INSAT Student Branch

University of Thessaly, Greece

Lamia gets stuck in to IEEEXtreme

FOUR teams from the IEEE University of Thessaly (Lamia) Student Branch, consisting of nine students in total, participated in IEEEXtreme 9.0 programming competition held on 24 October 2015.

All participating teams – 'ChildrenOfTheC', 'RustyProgrammers ', 'Creal' and 'ThatCouldWork' – gathered on the Friday evening together with our proctor, Athanasios Kakarountas, waiting eagerly at our University for the competition to begin.

Unlimited amount of water, coffee and snacks were offered to the participating teams throughout the competition in order to help them to perform to the best of their ability. After 24 hours of fun, no sleep, lots of caffeine and a lot of coding, IEEEXtreme 9.0 came to an end.

Two teams made it to the 24-hour mark and the other two didn't head home until 20 hours after the competition began.

The event was conducted in a pleasant atmosphere and the students were fully concentrated on their work for the majority of the competition. The highest-ranked team in our Student Branch, 'ChildrenOfTheC', took the 660th position in the global ranking and the 242th in Region 8.

We are looking forward to participating in IEEEXtreme 10.0 when hopefully even more teams will take a part in this wonderful experience which combines knowledge and a team spirit.

Evangelia Kavrochorianou
Chair, Student Branch
Ilias Xanthopoulos
Secretary, Student Branch

Technological Educational Institute of Western Greece

Mastering web hosting techniques

TECHNOLOGICAL Educational Institute (TEI) of Western Greece is a young institution, having been established in 2013 after the merging of Technological Educational Institute of Patras with Technological Educational Institute of Messolonghi.

The Student Branch is hosted in the Computer and Informatics Engineering Department (CIED) located in Antirrion of Nafpaktos.

The Student Branch is planning to organize at least one event per calendar month in order to help the students to learn and study important technological topics, to socialize and get in touch with other university students from Greece and Europe and spend

creative time afterwards. Student projects such as IEEE Academics and participation in IEEE student conferences are high priority for our agenda this year.

Last April, the Student Branch organized a web hosting workshop. Six university students presented the basics about website hosting and then touched on in-depth techniques of hosting more efficiently. An interesting discussion with the audience about the topic followed the presentation, and useful opinions were exchanged about Student Branch activities.

More than 60 took part in the event.
Paris Kitsos
Student Branch counselor

Caledonian College of Engineering, Oman

'Smart appointments' poster wins student competition

SUMAIYA Saif Sultan Al Yarabi, a level 4 student of Telecommunications at Caledonian College of Engineering Sultanate of Oman, won 4th place in the international student poster competition organized jointly by the IEEE sections of Gulf Cooperation Council Countries. She won the award for her poster 'Smart Appointment System for Caledonian College of Engineering Faculty' supervised by Saleh Salim Al Araimi.

The student competition was organized within the Application Developments section of the 8th IEEE-GCC International Conference and Exhibition held at Sultanate of Oman Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman, last February. The immediate success of the conference launched it as a regional forum for electrical and electronics engineer-

ing with worldwide participants from industry and academy.

Appreciation certificates were distributed for the awarded posters to motivate students, increase their confidence, help them to identify their skills and encourage them to look for better solutions in different fields of engineering.

Some 280 participants attended the event in Izmir, one of the largest cities in Turkey..

IZMIR University Student Branch hosted 280 students from 42 universities at the University for the 13th annual IEEE Turkey Student and Young Professional Congress 24-28 August 2015, with the participation of many academics and speakers.

After opening speeches and sponsor sessions, Başak Yüksel, vice-chair of Turkey Section, presented information about the Section and about IEEE globally. Representatives from several IEEE Societies talked about their activi-

Izmir University, Turkey
Workshops and lectures bring students and YPs together

ties and projects, along with plans for the future. Microsoft's latest operating system, Windows 10, was promoted on the last day.

The congress ended with the closing speech made by the chairman of

Izmir University Student Branch and Turkey Section student representative. After the congress, many participants further engaged in social activities.

For 2016, the 14th Turkey SYP Congress will be hosted by Istanbul

Technical University Student Branch on 22-26 August. Participants will have an opportunity to network with their colleagues and people from industry, exchange ideas, share knowledge and develop their technical and soft skills through a wide range of workshops and lectures.

For the latest updates, you can follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ieeetrsb), Twitter (www.twitter.com/ieeetrsb) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/ieeetrsb).

Fayoum University, Egypt
Student Branch helps newcomers

ORIENTATION Day '16 brought more than 200 participants together at Fayoum University on 19 October. This event, organized for the third year in a row by IEEE Fayoum Student Branch, aims to introduce new students to their college and college staff, present them with career opportunities in chosen fields of engineering, and to inform them about recent technological advancements.

A short overview of Student Branch ac-

tivities was given at the beginning, followed by an intriguing session about emerging technologies in the next five years which could change the world, including IoT and autonomous vehicles.

All participants had opportunity to visit the stands of different engineering departments where senior students were available to provide information about departments and happy to answer newcomers' questions.

University of Thessaly, Greece
Thessaly SB organizes event to raise funds for refugees

MEMBERS of IEEE University of Thessaly Student Branch in Lamia gave a helping hand to the large number of refugees who have been coming to the Greek islands over the last few months in the hope of a better future.

In accordance with the motto of the French Revolution – 'Liberté, egalité, fraternité' (liberty, equality, fraternity) – they felt an obligation to help others in need.

In order to secure the necessary money to purchase essential supplies for the refugees, a charity fundraiser was organized at the local cafeteria 'People Café – the house project' on 10 November 2015.

The event was well-attended by more than 110 participants supporting the idea, including students from the University of Thessaly and citizens of Lamia.

A pleasant atmosphere in the cafeteria helped to not only raise €150 but also collect donations of food and drink in the special bags strategically placed at the entrance of the venue.

These items included rice, pasta and milk, which was later delivered via the Greek Guiding Association (Soma Hellinikou Odigismou) to the Greek islands.

It was very encouraging to see young and older people present at philanthropic events such as this and that the spirit of volunteering, upon which our Student Branch is based, remains prevalent, even when our country faces a profound financial crisis.

Evangelia Kavrochorianou
Chair, Student Branch
Ilias Xanthopoulos
Secretary, Student Branch

TANTA Student Branch held its IEEE Day celebrations on 10-11 October 2015 at the campus of the Faculty of Engineering, Tanta University, to mark a start of the new school year. It was an opportunity to welcome new students, promote Student Branch activities, introduce IEEE and, eventually, recruit new volunteers.

Participants had a chance to register for a 'Made In University' competition dubbed 'MIU #8' because it was in its

Tanta University, Egypt
'MIU #8' launched during IEEE Day

eight edition this season. Several engineering and scientific concepts, such as the theory of relativity, were demonstrated and discussed at 'scientific booths', and brochures were distributed during the event.

The winners of 'MIU #7' showed off their projects and their prototypes

attracted the most attention. This really motivates students to participate and make their own projects even at early stages of their studies.

Some 200 attended the event, also entertaining themselves by taking part in photo sessions and a number of simple games.

Visitors were fascinated by last year's competition prototypes.

University College Of Science, Basrah, Iraq
Basrah students use IEEE Day to show the positives

IEEE Day was celebrated last October by Basrah Student Branch at the department of Information and Communication engineering, Basrah University College. As the first Student Branch in the south and middle of the Iraq region, we intended to send the world a message that, despite the war, we still have a passion for knowledge, especially the type that benefits humanity.

Our small town of Basrah has particularly suffered a long period of conflict, which has produced a negative image of our town and country. In the hope of helping to change this, we incorporated our town name into the Branch name.

The IEEE Day event was opened by Mohammed Kareem Sahan, an IEEE student member, followed by a presentation about IEEE in general given by Walid Hassan, Student Branch counselor. The event was attended by members from Basra including Ali Ahmad from the Department of Computer Engineering, Basrah University; Salam Yassier, general IT manager from Iraqi Drilling Company; and Issa Ahmad from the South Technical University in Basrah.

Sharing the IEEE Opening Day cake was a good opportunity to take a couple of photos!

All participants, IEEE members and non-members from the town of Basrah were very pleased to be present at this event, giving them the chance to be a part of the wonderful IEEE family celebration and meet invited senior members and others.

We are hoping to overcome and turn the negative image of our country into a positive one and thus, seeking peaceful and brighter future.

Walid A Hassan, Mohammed Kareem Sehen Al-Alajeel

Mansoura, Egypt
Crowds pack in to watch battling robots scrap it out in public

IEEE Mansoura Student Branch organized 'Robots' Cemetery', the first competition of its kind in Egypt. The audience witnessed violent battles between robots, assembled by participants of all ages, from various parts of the country.

The competition consisted of several bouts and each comprised three rounds. Two wirelessly controlled robots were set to fight each other, trying to avoid attacks from the other robot's weapons and win the battle, all in accordance with rules developed by a specialized jury.

Experts in the field of robotics were provided by the Student Branch to assist the competitors in increasing effectiveness of fighting. This was a great opportunity for 18 teams and more than 150 participants to gain some hand-on experience as that is the best way to develop innovative thinking.

A vision of the Mansoura Student Branch is to build an innovative, insightful and intellectually mature engineering society which is aware of the requirements of the labour market in order to contribute to development of the world.

'Besiege' team took 1st place, with 'Robonation' coming 2nd and 'Spark' nabbing 3rd. The best Technical Report award went to 'Besieg' and the best Mechanical Design award to 'Creativity'. All teams, mentors and judges were recognized for their participation by Mansoura Student Branch.

The event was sponsored by NTRA, ITIDA and Mansoura University. IEEE RAS Egypt Section was a technical sponsor and Al-Ahram Gate a media sponsor.

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
EPICS-in-IEEE workshop proves to be one of the highlights of Hellenic SYP

Participants had to prepare a 30-second elevator pitch for their ideas.

KEEPING up with the tradition of the Hellenic Student and Young Professional Congresses, after Patras, Greece, in 2012 and Nicosia, Cyprus, in 2013, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki IEEE Student Branch organized the 3rd HSYP Congress from 30 October to 1 November 2015 at the Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center. Students and Young Professionals from Greece and Cyprus Sections as well as Section and Region 8 representatives, in total 63 participants, attended the event.

The congress programme included a number of plenary sessions and workshops aiming to inform participants about the latest IEEE initiatives and programmes and to improve their technical and soft skills.

Ioannis Mousmoutis, corresponding member of Region 8 Educational Activities Subcommittee, led a workshop about Engineering Projects in Community Service in IEEE. EPICS-in-IEEE is a programme that brings together university and high-school students in order to collaborate and work on engineering-related projects for local humanitarian organizations.

Workshop participants were asked to work in teams of two or three people so that they could carry out the following: identify a problem in their local community, consider an Engineering-related solution, build a methodology for solving the problem, and present it in a 30-second elevator pitch. They had the chance to express their ideas and build the structure and timeline of future EPICS-in-IEEE projects.

After the high attendance and successful outcome, we are hopeful for future participation from Greece and Cyprus Section in the EPICS-in-IEEE programme.

For more details or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at r8puw@ieee.org.