Student volunteers
in Region 8........ page 9

◆IEEE

Costas Stasopoulos

Region 8 elects new officers and picks candidates

AT A meeting held on 14–15 October in Bucharest, Romania, chapter chairs and delegates voted Costas Stasopoulos for Secretary of Region 8. Costas is past chair and a founding member of Cyprus Section, where he has managed many successful IEEE events, and is chair of Communications & Computer joint chapter. Read about him on our R8 website.

The Nominations and Appointments committee also announced the IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect candidates, Marko Delimar and Gerhard Hancke. If their nominations are approved by the IEEE Board of Directors they will go forward to the IEEE 2008 annual election next year. Upon election the person serves as your Director-Elect in 2009/10 and Director in 2011/12. Full information on R8 website.

Africon 2007 was biggest ever

THE 8TH IEEE Africon Conference was successfully held on 26–28 September 2007, in Windhoek, Namibia.

With more than 200 accepted technical papers originating from 60 countries, and with 270 delegates from 35 countries attending, this was definitely the biggest Africon since the first one in Nairobi, back in 1983.

Africon is one of three major conferences held in IEEE Region 8, alongside Eurocon and Melecon. Previous Africon events have been held in Nairobi (1983), Abidjan (1987), Mbabane (1992), Stellenbosch (1996), Cape Town (1999), George (2002), and Gaborone (2004).

The conference was officially opened by the president of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba. In his opening address, he stressed the importance of quality education in the critical areas such as mathematics, science and technology for the economic well-being of the country.

The conference coincided well with Namibia's Vision 2030: to have Namibia positioned side by side with the developed world in terms of technological output by 2030.

Several high-profile figures attended the conference. These included the [continued on page 2]

Edward Chikuni (left), Local Organising Committee Chair, presents a gift to IEEE Region 8 Director, Jean-Gabriel Remy

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Glasgow puts focus on smart comms

THE IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC) 2007 was held on 24-28 June 2007 at the Scottish Exhibition & Conference Centre (SECC) in Glasgow, Scotland.

The Conference theme 'Smart Communications Technologies for Tomorrow (SCOTT)' provides a clear focus for the Conference that emphasises the growing importance of new developments in communications systems and technologies – developments that are central to the growth and success of global economies, business environments and social pursuits.

The Call for Papers elicited a response of over 2,600 submissions, reflecting the world-wide interest

Arun Sarin, CEO of Vodafone, addresses the plenary session of ICC 2007 on the topic 'The Future of Convergence in the Communications Industry'

in the event. The Technical Program Committee Chairs, under the leadership of John Thompson and Ivan Andonovic, prepared a programe of 900 technical papers spread over 10 key-note symposia and the general symposium. These symposia addressed all aspects of communications technologies, systems and practices. The Technical sessions were accompanied

by Industry-led Applications sessions and a commercial exhibition that showcased the latest developments and thinking in communication systems, products and services.

The conference also boasted an interesting and innovative tutorial programme addressing a combination of technical and business focused topics presented by

leading educators designed to inform and educate everyone from the graduate student to the seasoned professional.

A major innovation in the conference programme was the inclusion of a CEO Forum, organised by the General Chair of the Conference, Arun Sarin, Chief Executive of the Vodafone Group, where some of the world's leading industrialists gave us the benefit of their wisdom and experience, and shared with us their vision of the future, by making presentations on 'Convergence in the Communications industry'.

The CEO Forum was simply a not-to-be-missed event that was both enlightening and informative.

John Thompson
John.Thompson@ed.ac.uk

At the Africon banquet: (left to right) Leah Jamieson, Gerhard Hancke, Tjama Tjivikua

Left to right: Daniel Foty, Nico Beute, Leah Jamieson, Markus von Jeney, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, Tjama Tjivikua, Edward Chikuni, Saurabh Sinha, Roelf Sandenbergh

President of Namibia, Leah Jamieson (IEEE President), Roelf Sandenbergh (Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment, and Information Technology, University of Pretoria), Tjama Tjivikua (Rector, Polytechnic of Namibia), Jean-Gabriel Remy (IEEE Region 8 Director), and Baldomir Zajc (IEEE Region 8 Past Director).

Topics covered during the conference were spread across several tracks in the electronic engineering, mathematics and IT fields. Overall, feedback from session chairpersons on presentations was positive, with a number of articles recommended to specific Journals.

Of course, the conference had a fun side as well. Several social activities were offered in and around Windhoek. The official banquet was initiated with some drum beatings, in a typical African style, at Iitumba – and ending towards midnight.

Our thanks go to all the attendees, reviewers, sponsors and organising volunteers that made this conference possible! Our deep appreciation is also extended to the two co-academic sponsors, the University of Pretoria, South Africa and the Polytechnic of Namibia. The 9th IEEE Africon is confirmed for 23–25 September 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Roelof Swanepoel
*IEEE Africon 2007
Publicity & Public Relations
Committee Chairman
roelofs@ieee.org*

Conference encourages co-operation in Baltic

THE SUCCESSFUL Baltic Cooperation Conference took place in Riga on 29–30 September 2007.

About 25 people from nine countries attended the conference, with participants coming from Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Denmark.

Germany and Russia NW sections were also invited, but unfortunately they were unable to attend.

The principal objective of the conference was to create a functioning cooperation between the Baltic area IEEE sections and to discuss and exchange experiences and best practices.

This in turn would make it possible to establish improved and common activities in important fields such as membership development, student activities, industry relations, section operation and section development.

Another important matter business at the conference was in offering help to Latvia IEEE members to form the IEEE Latvia Section.

The two-day conference was successful and resulted in more actions and activities within important fields such as:

■ Investigate foundation for creating joint cross-section chapters
■ Organise best practice seminars on section operation
■ Organise seminars on how to engage industry involvement
■ Coordinate e-learning activities
■ Strengthen and coordinate student activities
■ Strengthen and coordinate membership development activities
■ Coordinate distinguished lecturers visits in Baltic area
■ Set up a registry of local prominent Baltic area lecturers
■ Invite members of other sections to Section events
■ Help the formation of Latvia section and support them in starting activities
■ Mentor 'young' sections in the Baltic area and share best practices and experiences

The Baltic area sections will continue to meet regularly and new activities for 2008 have already been planned. The long-term goal is to develop the section operations, create new activities and ensure a further growth of IEEE in the Baltic area.

The conference in Riga received financial support from Region 8, from industry with support from the company Statkraft of Norway, and great contributions from the participating sections.

The organising committee comprising of Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland and Norway sections is grateful for this financial support, and is looking forward to organise new activities in 2008.

Terje Gjengedal
*IEEE Norway Section Chair
Terje.Gjengedal@
statkraft.com*

Iran Section launches its new web site

IEEE IRAN Section has unveiled a new website (*www.ieee.org.ir*) with information about the Section and its organisation and programmes. The Iran Section, founded in February 1970, will celebrate its 38th anniversary in February 2008. More information about the ceremony and other activities will be posted on the website.

Amir A Shishegar
*IEEE Iran Section
Newsletter Editor
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My trip to Eurocon – a member's view

I HAVE always considered conference trips as the opportunity to visit foreign educational institutions and promote IEEE membership and activities. Last September's Eurocon 2007 took place in Warsaw, Poland, so I thought it might be a good chance to visit not only WUT (Warsaw University of Technology, also called Politechnika Warszawska), but similar universities in Poznan and Wroclaw: Politechnika Poznanska and Politechnika Wroclawska.

For this conference trip I brought along some 20kg of my previously read IEEE publications which, in turn, partly exceeded my airflight luggage.

So, after Eurocon 2007 was finished, I continued my trip to the other cities in Poland, at first heading to Poznan by train. Although I had only 24 hours to explore that old city, the capital of Wielkopolska (the western part of the country), I managed to visit Politechnika Poznanska where I left a quantity of IEEE membership forms and brochures.

Besides that, I browsed through the city where I visited the main sights, including the grave of the first Polish king.

The next day, I took a train to Wroclaw. This city is bigger than Poznan, and besides the old Universitas Wratislawians (the University of Wroclaw), there is also Politechnika Wroclawska where I also distributed some IEEE publications. Unfortunately, my stay in Wroclaw was also limited to only 24 hours, so I spend my time in visiting the attractions in the capital of province Lower Silesia.

I found the Poles as friendly people, welcoming engineers from all around the world and in particular IEEE members from Region 8. It was an exciting conference trip to Poland which I can strongly suggest as a future visitors' destination.

Miroslav Skoric
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Bombardier hosts IAS/PELS/IES meeting

THE SECOND meeting of the IEEE Joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter in 2007 was held on 24–25 May in Kassel and Niestetal, Germany. The hosts of the meeting were Bombardier Transportation GmbH in Kassel and SMA Technologie AG in Niestetal.

On the first day of the meeting in Kassel, Bombardier was for the second time the host. After a short introduction of the history, activities and goals of Bombardier in Kassel by Markus Kratz and Thomas Dönges of Bombardier, the participants visited the locomotive production line. The steps of the production line were shown and the assembly procedures as well as Bombardier's methods of reducing the production time were explained.

After the visit to the locomotive production line, the participants were transported to SMA Technologie AG in Ni-

estetal, a town near Kassel, where they had their dinner after a short introduction to SMA by Dr Bernd Engel of SMA, head of the solar technology unit.

SMA was the host of the second day of the meeting, which began with a detailed introduction of SMA Technologie AG by Dr Engel. SMA was founded in 1981 as an independent company out of University of Kassel. SMA is engaged in the fields of communication and control, railway technology, innovative energy systems and solar technology. SMA is one of the leading companies in solar technology in Europe and

North America. SMA is engaged in design and production of inverters for renewable energy sources and particularly for solar technology.

After a coffee break, Dr Engel gave information about the economic aspects and the future growth of using solar energy. He introduced the history and milestones of inverter and system developments in SMA for grid-connected and off-grid photovoltaic (PV) power plants.

The meeting continued with the visit to the PV test facility in the site, test labs and the inverter production line for solar energy systems. The production line consists

of the manufacturing of electronic boards via Surface Mount Technology (SMT) and assembling of the inverter components in the cabinets. After the visit to the labs and the production line, Martin Rothert of SMA introduced the 'Sunny Backup System' developed by SMA.

In the afternoon Dr Matthias Victor and Dr Mike Meinhardt of SMA presented lectures on PV-inverter topologies and modifications to improve the efficiency of PV-inverters respectively.

The last part of the meeting concerned IEEE business, chaired by Heinz van der Broeck. A report was

given by Chapter Vice-Chair Dr Ingo Hahn.

The next chapter meeting is planned to be in Denmark together with IEEE Joint IAS/PELS/IES Danish Chapter and IEEE PES German Chapter during the 12th European Conference on Power Electronics and Applications (EPE 2007) in Aalborg, Denmark. For more details please visit our website at: *www.ewh.ieee.org/r8/germany/ias-pels*.

Dr Omid Forati Kashani
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IEEE Joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter Public Relations Chair
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PES congress in Lausanne maintains a wide scope

IEEE PES Region 8 took the opportunity to the recent PowerTech Conference in Lausanne to organise its bi-annual Chapter Chairs Congress on 5 July in EPFL's premises.

The congress was chaired by Bruno Meyer, IEEE PES Region 8 Representative, and was honoured by the presence of IEEE PES staff members: John Mc Donald (President), Enrique Tejera (Vice President Membership and Chapter Activities), and Patrick Ryan (Vice President and Executive Director). The congress enjoyed a large at-

tendance: the four Chapter Representatives of Region 8 and 17 Chapter Chairs.

The agenda covered a large scope of items including activities and upcoming conferences, membership evolution, PES organisation, reports, what's new with PES, its structure and trends, IEEE Expert Now educational program, services available from the PES Executive Office, High Performing Chapter Program, website contest, SAMIEEE, Distinguished Lecturers Programmes, Explore database, and more. A special point was made on the

great work done recently by IEEE PES to gather all necessary information related to Society organisation, goals, documents and activities into a dedicated CD-ROM.

The Chapter Representatives and Chapter Chairs also took the opportunity to present relevant activities.

IEEE PES Region 8 would like to thank HB (Teddy) Püttgen and his EPFL colleagues for their contribution to the success of this congress.

Bruno Meyer
IEEE PES Region 8 Representative
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Benelux looks at optical devices

ON 25 May 2007, the Annual Workshop of the IEEE/LEOS Benelux Chapter was organised by the Chapter's student members. The theme was 'Progress in Optical Devices and Materials', and it was held at the Eindhoven University of Technology.

About 35 participants attended the one-day workshop comprising 12 lectures, two of them given by invited speakers.

LEOS Distinguished Lecturer Bishnu Pal from the Indian Institute of Technology of Delhi, India, presented his research on 'Microstructure Optical Fibers: An emerging Technology and its Potentials'.

Günther Roelkens from Ghent University, Belgium, gave an overview of 'Heterogeneous III-V/Silicon Photonics: Bonding Technology and Integrated Devices'.

Researchers from Univer-

sity of Twente, Ghent University, Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Eindhoven University of Technology presented their work on bio-sensing, fast all-optical 2R regenerators, polycrystalline silicon for advanced photonics, cavity solitons, the photonic implementation of reservoir computing, and amplifying waveguide isolators.

Patryk Urban
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Bishnu Pal, LEOS Distinguished Lecturer

Reader feedback confirms the role of Region 8 News' printed edition

THANKS COME right after every success story! So I would like to thank all of you at first place for your active contributions to *Region 8 News* and making it a very unique event and activity sharing platform within IEEE Region 8 members.

At the Region 8 Meeting on 13–14 October 2007, the committee passed a motion to deliver printed copies of *Region 8 News* to the IEEE Board of Directors regularly. Even if every issue of *Region 8 News* can be downloaded online and available to all members, it's still very useful and effective to read a printed copy of the *Region 8 News.* According to the feedback we receive regularly from our readers and contributors, our printed edition is essential.

The transnationality and networking of IEEE members have been developing not only through IEEE-provided entities but also via online social networking platforms such as Facebook (***www. facebook.com***) and LinkedIn (***www.linkedin.com***).

Facebook, having 34 million active users from all over the world, as of August 2007 has become a favourite platform within IEEE members for keeping in contact within each other, especially by means of messaging and subscribing to IEEE groups and networks, and sharing photos of mainly IEEE-related activities.

LinkedIn, having more than 15 million registered users as of October 2007, is a business-oriented, professional social networking portal. LinkedIn has also attracted a huge number of IEEE members who want to keep a contact list of people they know and to establish connections with other peo-

Başak Yüksel

ple via their linked connections. By providing these connections and other tools, it enables users to find jobs, people and business opportunities, or to be able to get introduced to someone you wish to meet.

Looking into this issue, the readers can find a column from a Region 10 Student Representative with the latest news from this region's student activities and Gopal's view of IEEE. Besides the news about two of the regional conferences that are reported here – AFRICON and EUROCON – Region 8 hosted some of the important world-wide IEEE conferences such as ICC and some smaller conferences (Baltic Cooperation Conference, etc).

It's also very valuable to remark on the increase of joint activities between sections and chapters/GOLD/WIE groups in the sections. As usual, the student branch activities in our region have been magnificent and worth to mention, especially on the international activities organised.

Please keep sending your news and upcoming event notices to be made available to all IEEE Region 8 News readers and also your comments are appreciated!

Başak Yüksel
IEEE Region 8 News
Co-Editor
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Networking workshops attract large numbers

AS A result of more collaboration between the IEEE and the International Telecommunication Union, the IEEE has been granted sector membership.

A Joint Workshop on Ethernet in Carrier class environment was held from 31 May to 1 June at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The workshop was preceeded by ITU-T hosted IEEE 802.1 Higher Layer LAN Protocols, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet, and IEEE 802.17 Resilient Packet Ring interim meetings held on 28–31 May and was followed by a ITU-T SG15 plenary on 4–6 June.

The Joint Workshop was a great success with the original estimate of 120 attendees was well exceeded

Joint ITU-T/IEEE Workshop participants

with almost 300 attendees from 27 countries.

The workshop included an overview of the standards work from ITU-T and IEEE, as well as a drill down into detail with sessions focus-

ing on Ethernet standards topics including access, network transport, bridging, OAM and synchronisation. The presentations were very positively received.

Several areas of potential future collaboration identified, as well as articles for the *Communication Society Magazine* being developed based on the workshop. It is hoped similar events can be held in the future.

David Law
IEEE R8 Standards Coordinator
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Joint ITU-T/IEEE Workshop speakers

IEEE Macedonia Section establish Joint Chapter

ON 16 July 2007, the formation of IEEE Republic of Macedonia EDS/IMS/SSCS Joint Chapter has been approved. The new chapter is Electron Devices/Instrumentation and Measurement/Solid State Circuits Joint Societies Chapter. The interim Chapter Chair is Prof Goce L Arsov.

The first activity of the new joint chapter was the organization of an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer (DL) Program. The IEEE EDS DL Prof. Siegfried Selberherr, from the Institute for Microelectronics at the Technical University in Vienna, Austria has accepted

Prof Selberherr, IEEE EDS DL, with some of the participants during the Joint Chapter DL Seminar.

the invitation and the first technical meeting of the joint chapter took place on September 14, 2007, with the

Prof. Selberherr lecture on Microelectronics Modeling.

Goce L Arsov
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Siberia hosts Control and Comms conference

THE 7TH Siberian Conference on Control and Communications (SIBCON 2007) jointly organised by Tomsk Chapter and GOLD Group of Russia Siberia Section and it took place in Tomsk.

This IEEE event was sponsored by the Russian Foundation for Basic Researches. The programme consisted of paper presentations, discussions and social events, which included a banquet and bowling.

A sight-seeing tour gave visitors the chance to discover Siberia's distinctive

wooden architecture. There were even songs devoted to Tomsk coming out of the street loudspeakers.

We can recommend other GOLD Groups organise such event in order to promote their activities. We would like to invite all GOLDies to participate in the next SIBCON 2009, both as paper presenters and as Program Committee members. Please find the future information at: **www.comsoc.org/tomsk**.

Oleg Stukach
IEEE Siberia GOLD AG Chair
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Jordan helps to build soft skills

IEEE JORDAN GOLD Affinity Group (AG) Committee has conducted a one-day 'soft skills' workshop on 8 September 2007.

The workshop, entitled 'Changing Attitudes & Building Skills for Market Entry', was held in the Jordan Engineers' Association premises and targetted fresh graduate engineers from the different Jordan universities who will soon be potential GOLD members.

The workshop was conducted by the excellent speaker Tareq Rasheed, a well-known soft skills trainer and Jordan University Faculty of Engineering and Technology teaching staff member.

The workshop covered the following topics:
- Communication Skills
- Application Letters and Resume Writing
- Selective Interviews
- Negotiating Skills
- Presentation Skills

IEEE Jordan GOLD AG holds a Market Entry Workshop for new engineers

The audience learned about entering the job market and how to deal with daily challenges they might face.

The newly formed IEEE Jordan GOLD AG Committee is planning several events to encourage new graduates to continue IEEE student membership as full members. Joint efforts are taking place with IEEE Jordan Section and the other affinity groups and Chapters to proceed with these plans.

Feras Diab
IEEE Jordan GOLD AG Secretary
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AUST students introduce engineering into schools

SIX IEEE Ajman University of Science and Technology (AUST) Women In Engineering student members went for a trip to Al-Qasimiah School under the supervision of IEEE R8 WIE Coordinator, Maryam Al-Thani. The students were Noor Kalaji, Nesrine-Ahlam Bengra, Aneesa Abdulrahman, Laila Mohammed, Mustafa El-Khatib and Ahmed Omar.

The visit was aimed at introducing engineering to pupils, the responsibilities of an engineer in each field, and how engineering is symbolic in their daily lives.

Noor Kalaji
IEEE AUST SB Secretary
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IEEE AUST WIE members visited Al-Qasimiah School

WIE celebrated at Kuwait event

A SUCCESSFUL reception ceremony of the IEEE Kuwait WIE was held under the auspices of her highness Sheikha Amthal Al-sabah on 18 March 2007 in Main Round Hall of 150m height Kuwait Liberation Tower.

Bshayer Al-Awad explained the main goals, plans and the coming events of the Kuwait WIE this year. In addition, Abdurahman Al-ghnaim (IEEE Kuwait Section Chair), spoke about the achievements of women engineers in Kuwait. IEEE Region 8 WIE Coordinator Maryam Al-Thani presented a complete picture of WIE history, vision and mission. The ceremony was hosted by Foad Bo-shehri from Kuwait University. At the end of the evening, there was a draw on free IEEE WIE membership.

The event was covered by newspapers, TV channels and magazines.

Bashayer AL Awwad
IEEE Kuwait WIE Chair
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BAU launches affinity group

THE IEEE Beirut Arab University (BAU) WIE Affinity Group (AG) organised a stand at the Faculty of Engineering on 17–18 April 2007. It was a sort of official launching of the AG at university. The objective was to introduce WIE to the faculty students and to encourage them to join IEEE.

It was a very successful event. WIE members and other IEEE volunteers help in the organisation. Promotional material from IEEE helped the team attract people to come and ask about WIE. Some even came and asked about IEEE in general and they were excited to be able to join IEEE through the half year joint proccess (especially women). A lot of people asked about the mission of IEEE WIE, its interests and its general goals.

There was also some interesting discussion with people who weren't convinced with the idea. But in most cases the conversation ended up in a very positive way, and a lot of them ended up registering as members. Around 36 IEEE members joined our AG, around 40% of them men!

Zeina El-Ahdab
IEEE BAU WIE AG Chair
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Message from Region 8 Student Representative

DEAR IEEE student friends!

I would like to start this column with a thankful farewell to our last R8 Student Representative, Michael Gloegl, who leaves IEEE SAC for continuing his professional career as an Engineer. His place will be very difficult to fill, but we will do our best in representing you.

As people leave, new people arrive, so I would like to introduce Emine Gokce Aydal, from UKRI Section, who will be the new Student Branch Coordinator. Luka Lugaric continues with his formidable task in Electronic Communications, Thomas Watteyne in Awards and, of course, Martin Bastiaans as our VC for Student Activities.

This new year is going to be awesome! We have a Student Branch Congress on its way. It will be held in London (UK) in the last week of August 2008, so mark your calendars with the date! The people in London are doing a great job – it's going to be a huge event, one for the books, and it would be great to have you there.

Luka Lugaric has done a tremendous effort in rebuilding our web site which can be visited at *www.ieee-r8sac. org*. It's filled with very useful and important information and it will also be the main rail for announcing your major events.

We are spending a lot of time in sending e-mails to you. Please do the same, we love to hear from you! Drop a few lines to tell us about that great congress that you organized or send pictures of your last workshop. Don't forget to tell us about new officers at your branch.

I would like to end these lines congratulating you! You have made a big effort in membership campaigns, enlarging our family, so keep on going! More than 17,000 is a very, very huge family and we all are part of it.

Pablo Herrero
IEEE R8 Student Representative
pablo.herrero@ieee.org

Supporting students all over the world

IEEE STUDENT Branches can now benefit from a new programme: IEEE Student Branches Industry Relations (ISBIR). Started in March 2007, ISBIR Program is a new initiative that provides financial, guidance, material and speaker support for activities organised by IEEE Student Branches.

A wide range of activities such as sponsorships, technical trips, company talks are all within the scope of activities that can be supported by ISBIR Program. The only condition is to include industry relations in the Student Branch activities.

More than 20 student branches have been supported by ISBIR Program in the last few months. More information can be found on ISBIR website at: *www.isbir. org/support*.

The program also aims to promote the IEEE by participating in conferences and fairs including companies. One such example is the Student Exchange Program (SEP), recently been created as a subprogram of ISBIR, which finds internship positions for students in different countries, offering them the opportunity to have an international career experience. For more information, go to: *www.isbir.org/sep*.

Yasemin Baser
ISBIR Program Vice Coordinator
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region8student news

IN THIS issue of *Region 8 News*, I would like to give you some information about several Awards and Contests.

Awards

■ **IEEE Student Enterprise Award**: The Student Branch University of Jordan, Amman, received $1,500 for the proposal entitled 'Method and System for Imaging Display and Interface'. The IEEE Student Enterprise Award, with funding from corporate partners and individuals, was created by the IEEE to support Student Branch projects. Beginning 2006, a generous donor is providing $9,000 annually to fund the award for the next five years. Up to $1,500 in funding is available for project proposals developed by teams of IEEE Student Members from Student Branches.

■ **IEEE RAB Larry K Wilson Regional Student Activities Award**: The winner of this Award, for which eight nominations have been received, is Emine Gokce Aydal from IEEE the University of York SB. The purpose of the award is to recognise annually, in each Region of the IEEE, the student most responsible for an extraordinary accomplishment associated with IEEE student activities.

■ **IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award**: The recipient of this Award is IEEE Middle East Technical University (METU) SB, for which three candidates have been nominated.

■ **IEEE Darrel Chong Student Activity Award**: Two Silver Awards have been given to Region 8 Student Branches: Twente University, Enschede, Netherlands, for organising the Region 8 Student Robotics Contest, 27 May 2006,

Martin Bastiaans, VC SAC

Enschede; and a joint award to Bogazici University, Istanbul, and Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, for organizing the 3rd Science Parks Summit, 3–4 November 2006, Istanbul, Turkey. The purpose of this new recognition system serves to change the mind

Winners of SPC 07 with the Jury members

set of our student groups from being number-driven to become value-driven and acknowledge exemplary student activities around the world. The initiative is targeted at improving student membership growth. Submissions are considered once a year during the October SAC meeting.

■ **Branch Centers of Excellence Program**: Student Branches can submit proposals to establish Branch Centers of Excellence. Funding from the IEEE Life Members' Committee (up to $20,000 annually) is available for grants up to $5,000. Deadlines: 1 April and 1 December.

Winners of Darrel Chong Award: IEEE Bogazici University and METU SB

Contests

■ **IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest**: The 2007 Contest received 16 papers from 14 Student Branches in 11 countries. The oral finals took place in Warsaw, Poland, as part of EUROCON 2007. The winners were: 1. Wilm Decré (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium), 2. Ales Zamuda (University of Maribor, Slovenia), 3. Jan Verveckken (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium). Deadline for the 2008 Contest: 15 December 2007. Read the rules at: ***www.sps.ele.tue.nl/members/m.j.bastiaans/spc***.

■ **IEEEXtreme 24 hour Programming Challenge**: This took place on 2 December 2006, with 47 teams, 28 of them from Region 8. The winner was from the Universidad Politécnica de Catalunya, Spain. Three more teams from Region 8 made it to the top 5: University of Cyprus; Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Netherlands; and University of Zagreb, Croatia.

■ **IEEE Student Branch Web Site Contest**: 23 submissions have been received for the regional contest. The three Region 8 winners – University of Southampton, UK; Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain; and Etisalat University College, United Arab Emirates – have been sent to the global contest.

For an overview of all Awards and Contests, see ***www.ieee.org/web/membership/students/scholarships-awardscontests/SAG_homepage.html***.

Martin Bastiaans
IEEE R8 Vice Chair Student Activities
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Region 8 website: networking people

www.ieee.org/r8

THE INTERNET is really really great for networking people. Not only does it ease our everyday life for booking a flight, ordering a pizza or listening to the radio, it makes communication much easier.

Do you ever wonder how life was before e-mailing?

The whole spirit and strength of the IEEE is to network people. Exactly as catalysis, the whole idea is to bring a bunch of people together and let the chemistry do its job.

In January 2007, the new IEEE Region 8 website was launched: ***www.ieee.org/r8***. But more than a simple aesthetic makeup, it uses the latest web technology. Joomla, the Content Management System behind it, is an open source project which aims at providing a framework for Internet based communication. Adding functionalities is just a matter of minutes thanks to the impressive extensions repository. Possible extensions include file sharing, multimedia streaming, forums, calendars, chat software, polls, syndication etc.

The goal of all this? Creating a ever more efficient and communicating community. In the spirit of peer-to-peer, the communication pattern is shifting from some-to-all to any-to-any. The content is continuously evolving as users can create and change it themselves.

Users are sharing information, not consuming it.

The shift to a more collaborative web use lies in the hands of the final users. That's why you are strongly recommended to be as active as possible in our online community. How? By registering at ***ieee.org/r8***, adding calendar items when you want to promote a conference, submitting news items which go directly to the front page, updating your profile, regularly updating the content you're responsible for, etc.

The Region 8 Web Task Force is a small group of people who spend their time thinking of new communication opportunities. The last idea they came up with is syndication. With the proper RSS aggregator, r8web can now alert you whenever they is a new news item or document uploaded.

When they're not totally sure if their ideas meet the users needs, they just put a poll on r8web and let the users decide by themselves. Don't hesitate to vote, and don't hesitate to send us an e-mail if you have ideas about how to further improve our website.

Why do you think the net was born? Networking people.

Eva Gutsmiedl, Luka Lugaric, Thomas Watteyne and Marko Delimar
The Region 8 Web Task Force

Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, Turkey:
SB congress welcomes nearly 200

IEEE TURKEY Student Branch Congress was held at the end of August 2007 in Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, gathering nearly 200 students from 37 Turkish universities.

GOLD Members, IEEE Turkey Section officers, and ISBIR Task Force Members from different countries had the chance to meet with IEEE student volunteers and see their outstanding activities.

This congress was a great opportunity for SBs to plan joint activities and participation at big industrial events. Students also had fun climbing Sumela Manastiri, rafting and playing paintball.

We thank all of the supporting entities and sponsors including Turkcell, Karadeniz Technical University President Dr Ibrahim Özen, Trabzon Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mayor of Tra-

bzon Volkan Canalioglu and Chief of the Macka Municipal. The next IEEE Turkey Student Branch & GOLD Congress will be held in Cukurova University, Adana before the end of August 2008.

Ferhan Ozkan
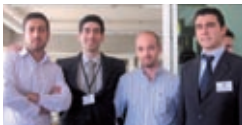*IEEE Turkey Section Student Representative*
fozkanodtu@yahoo.com
Veysel Tuysuz
SBC 2007 Coordinator
veysel_tuysuz@hotmail.com

Lebanon Student Branches:
First SPAC activities are organised

Organising Committee: (left to right) Imad Bou Khalil (BAU), Maher Sarkis (NDU), Rabih Yazbeck (AUB), Maher Beaini (LAU)

IN PARTNERSHIP with Berytech, and with the support of INDEVCO and Byblos Bank, the IEEE Lebanon Student Branches – Notre Dame University (NDU), the Lebanese American University, the Beirut Arab University, and the American University of Beirut – joined efforts to organise

the first IEEE Student Professional Awareness Conference (SPAC) at the NDU on 5 May 2007.

Titled 'How to Start Your Own Business in Engineering and Technology', the conference ensured maximum interactions between the speakers and the audience by limiting the attendance to 103 seats.

Six national and international speakers discussed topics that covered all the stages of transforming an idea into a practical profitable project: the feasibility study, 'What It Takes to Become an Entrepreneur', Methods of Financing a Startup, and Engineering Management Challenges.

The half-day conference ended with a successful platform to share the experience and inspired the students to 'Dream! And go for it!'

A prize draw allowed attendees to take home valuable prizes offered by Microsoft. The session concluded with a lunch gathering of Berytech.

Maher Sarkis
SPAC Organizer Committee
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www.ieeendu.org/studentpac

Budapest Polytechnic, Hungary:
Successful spring meeting

THIS YEAR, IEEE Hungary Students' Spring Meeting was held on 26 April in the Bécsi-street building of the Budapest Polytechnic (*www.bmf.hu*), where students had a chance to meet in person with HS leaders.

Krómer, IEEE HS Chair, introduced the IEEE organisation and its regional and Hungarian sections.

Zalán Koháry, assistant professor of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, read a paper on energy storing opportunities of superconductor magnetic floating flywheel, and showed how the superconductor could be cooled.

Academician József Lukács made a fresh speech

Demonstration of cooling down the superconductor by using liquid nitrogen

on future technologies. István Vajda, Membership Development Officer, explained how active membership in IEEE contributed to professional success. Moderator of the meeting was Péter Kádár, Secretary of HS, assisted by Anikó Szakál, Treasurer.

Péter Kádár
Hungary Section Secretary
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METU, Ankara, Turkey:
Pre-college students design web sites

METU RAS SB Chapter RoboTurk project team members

'DESCRIBE YOUR School' is a web site contest organised by IEEE METU Student Branch, supported by IEEE Foundation, for pre-college students to which all students throughout the Turkey will be able to join.

For the details of the contest, e-mail Nur Hilal Gercek (*hilal.gercek@ieee.metu.edu.tr*) or visit the contest website: *www.anlatokulunu.com*.

On the way to RoboCup '08 China
IEEE METU Robotics & Automation Society (RAS) SB Chapter is working on the multi agent robots that will compete in the Robot World Cup '08. RoboTurk Small Size Robosoccer Team is well known all over Turkey and the news about the team has appeared in newspapers and on TV.

The team built a demo robot at the beginning of the summer term without financial support. Then sponsorships were found with the

help of newspapers and we are at the stage of finalising the prototype and the production of the other 10 robots. For details, e-mail Kadir Firat UYANIK, IEEE METU RAS Chapter Chair (*kadiru@ieee.metu.edu.tr*) and also visit the RoboCup website: *www.robocup-cn.org/en*, Roboturk Project website: *www.roboturk.com*.

Science Parks Summit
The 4th Science Parks Summit, which aims to strengthen Industry-University-IEEE Volunteer collaboration, was organised by IEEE METU & Mersin University Student Branches on 16–18 November, in Mersin. 200 IEEE volunteers, 300 industry representatives and 1,000 people in total were involved in its organisation. For details, visit the event website: *ww.teknozirve.org.tr/en*.

Ertugrul Kara
IEEE METU SB Chair
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METU RAS SB Chapter members working on the robot

MyIEEE Profile — Can Deniz

THIS IS a new section in *Region 8 Student News* in which we introduce the IEEE story of a student volunteer. Our first guest is Can Deniz.

Can Deniz is an IEEE Student Member and is studying Electrical Engineering at Yildiz Teknik University (YTU), Istanbul, Turkey. He became involved in IEEE, meeting with IEEE YTU Student Branch officers, in the first days when he entered the university.

In the first year of the student branch, he started to take on responibilities for technical tours to the big companies. And then he took over the organisation of conferences and seminars such as RLC '07 and ILTEK '07.

He always tries to take on different responsibilities. When he participated in the IEEE Turkey Student Branches Congress 2006, he took a big step in this regard by becoming the Techical Coordinator of the IEEE Turkey Student Branches. Part of his duties as a coordinator was to make the first move in many projects.

Having gained experience in these roles, he decided to take responsibility for his local Student Branch (YTU) by becoming its chair. At present, he is maintaining the both of the responsibilities.

Can Deniz knows very well that 'The more you have involved in IEEE as a volunteer, the more you could expect from IEEE for your own life'. Nowadays, he splits his life into two: 'Before meeting the IEEE' and 'After being a volunteer in IEEE'...

Can Deniz
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Warsaw University of Technology, Poland:
WILGA 2007 gathers researchers

DURING THE week of 21–27 May 2007, in the Wilga village near Warsaw, Warsaw University of Technology hosted 20th joint IEEE-SPIE Symposium (WILGA 2007).

The WILGA Symposium is an international meeting, embracing the countries in the IEEE Region 8. Held twice a year, the purpose of the event is to integrate national and international PhD and MSc students and young researchers who work in the area of advanced applications of photonics and electronics.

The aim of the Symposium is not only the presentation of inspiring engineering work but mainly a strong emphasis on contemporary methods of generation of intellectual property values in the above mentioned subjects. A unique feature of IEEE-SPIE WILGA Symposium is the late night debate sessions, sponsored by IEEE Poland Section, and devoted to management of large and long-lasting research projects carried out by large and young university teams.

The proceedings of WILGA are printed in *ELEKTRONIKA*, the electronics and telecommunication quarterly published by the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The 21st Symposium will be held on 18–20 January 2008 at the Faculty of Electronics and Information Technologies, WUT.

The January Symposium is strictly confined topically to the design, construction and testing of photonic and electronic systems for superconductive RF accelerator technology and HEP experiments.

The 22nd IEEE WILGA 2008 Symposium will be held on 26 May – 1 June 2008.

Ryszard S Romaniuk
WILGA Symposium Chair
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American University of Sharjah, UAE:
AUS technical tour of Kuala Lumpur

ON 25 May, 24 engineering students representing four different engineering disciplines from the American University of Sharjah (AUS) took off to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for an 8-day technical tour.

The trip was the third of its kind in the School of Engineering at AUS after the success of trips to Germany (summer 2005) and Hungary (summer 2006). The technical tour was organised by the IEEE AUS Student Branch led by Dr Nasser Qaddoumi, IEEE-SB-AUS Councelor, and Joseph El Ghoul, former chair of IEEE AUS SB.

Visiting the waste management centre in KL

Throughout their stay in Malaysia, the students visited various international engineering industries and Malaysian industries such as Freescale, PROTON, Sirim, Waste Management Center, as well as University Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Universiti Technologi MARA (UiTM). In addition to the technical benefits of this tour, students went sightseeing and were able to learn more about Malaysian culture.

Joseph El Ghoul
IEEE AUS SB Chair
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Challenges for Student Branches: experience from Region 10

WHAT MAKES a Student Branch first flourish and then just fade away?

Student Branches are sometimes formed when the students of a particular institute feel the need for change, a change that will break the barriers that have been holding them back. These are pretty dramatic circumstances and are probably reasons for establishment for many of the student branches in India, the place I hail from.

But the hunger for knowledge will only last if there are some concrete results.

Results, too, are of little effect without appreciation of the hard work that goes into it. So the key factor in keeping Student Branches alive is simply 'encouragement'.

Branch Counsellors play an important part not only for providing the necessary timely advice and encouragement but also for the sheer amount of practicality that they can lend to any administrative process. The best branch counsellors are those who give students the flexibility to experiment and help them out in times of trouble. This makes the job of a branch counsellor a thankless one.

In Region 10, there are more than 500 student branches. Region 10 also has a notorious distinction of having the biggest number of dormant student branches.

Dr Mini Thomas, the Region 10 Vice Chair for Student Activities, has laid out in her agenda that a strong Student Branch leadership backed by a stronger Branch Counsellor is what will solve most, if not all, problems pertaining to dormant student branches. Initiatives like Branch Counsellors' Congress in three of our Sections and one Council-wide Congress should help Student Branches in the process of recovery.

The success stories that Student Branches have delivered in terms of dedicated volunteers and contributors to IEEE and the scientific society as a whole is tremendous and it far outweighs the problems of resurrecting and paying more attention to dormant student branches and help them along the way.

Gopal Balakrishnan
IEEE Region 10 Student Representative
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Serbia & Montenegro Section Student Branch:

Congress in Canj held during Elektrijada 2007

THE 1ST IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section Student Branch Congress was organised in Canj, Montenegro on 16–17 May 2007. The congress was a joint place for all IEEE student members and new potential members to meet, socialise and attend talks about different topics.

The Congress was held during the 47th International Electrical Engineering Student Gathering 'Elektrijada 200'. EESTEC (Electrical Engineering Students European Association) representatives also took part in the Congress.

There were 39 IEEE and EESTEC representatives and members from Beograd, Niš and Novi Sad (Serbia),

Podgorica (Montenegro), Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Tuzla (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Rijeka (Croatia) and Skoplje and Bitola (Republic of Macedonia) attending the Congress.

Three lectures were delivered during the Congress regarding topic 'Students and Bologna Process'. Dr Vladimir Katic, University of Novi Sad & IEEE S&M Section Chair, spoke on 'Recent Bologna Process Activities in Serbia: Conclusions from 13th Conference TREND 2007'. Dr Zoran Veljovic, University of Montenegro, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Podgorica, spoke on 'Bologna Process at the University of Montenegro'. Marko Oberknežev, University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Technical Sciences, EESTEC International Board, lectured on 'International Activities of EESTEC'.

Boris Dumnic
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Vladimir Katic
IEEE S&M Section Chair
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Marko Oberknežev, presenting EESTEC activities during the Congress

Alexandria Student Branch members

Alexandria Student Branch, Egypt:

Alex SBs host Egypt's first student paper contest

THE SUMMER of 2007 was busy for the IEEE Alexandria Student Branch (Alex SB). The registration committee recorded an increase of the number of members to 550. To satisfy their needs regarding their different interests and technical areas, we organised a variety of activities.

We began by relaunching the Alexscope series. We organised a lecture on the Wireless Security techniques, a lecture on how to write a paper for the 2007 IEEE Alexandria Subsection Student Paper Contest and its rules, and the Annual IEEE Alexandria Student Branches Summer Meeting.

The 2007 IEEE Alexandria Subsection Student Paper Contest is the first of its kind to be held in Egypt. Undergraduates and graduates alike are encouraged to participate. This competition offers the chance to students to improve their communication and presentation skills.

The top six undergraduate papers will be recommended to be posted in the National Radio Conference (NRSC'08) on 25 March 2008.

The registration process was wholly electronic through our online registration section, developed by M.Ossama.

Enas Radwan
AlexSB Secretary
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www.alexsb.org

The successful competitors at the awards ceremony

Universität Karlsruhe, Germany:

Karlsruhe karters burn rubber

ON 17 July, members of the IEEE Universität Karlsruhe Student Branch left academia behind and competed against each other on an Indoor Kart track.

This tradition started several years ago and now every year or so the Student Branch holds this event in order to enhance the social ties among its members.

This year, the Student Branch's past chair Oliver Prinz dominated the field and demonstrated his driving skills in two clear wins, taking the top podium place. The drivers then discussed racing technique and possible future training opportunities over a beer after the event.

Sebastian Stüker
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Higher Technology Institute, Egypt:

HTI seminar covers PCB

ON 17 March, Higher Technological Institute (HTI) Student Branch organised a seminar on Printed Circuit Board (PCB) Design and Manufacturing.

The event was started with a seminar given by the lecturer Ahmed El Ghrabawy, teaching assistant in the Mechatronics Department. The seminar looked at PCB design steps, package selection, component placement and PCB routing, determining PCB design constraints, PCB fabrication processes and setup, imaging, chemical etching, multilayer pressing, drilling, hole plating, and fabrication limits. The seminar was concluded with a question and answer session.

The seminar was a great success, with 43 students attending, along with our Councellor Kamel Hassan.

After this successful seminar, we continued the series on 21 March 2007 with another seminar on Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) and its applications in Industrial Control. There were 44 students in attendance from different departments.

The event has started with a very interesting lecture on 'IEEE Membership Benefits and How to be an IEEE member?' by Professor Hassan.

This was followed by an overview of IEEE and Its activities in Egypt by the SB Chair Ibrahim Elewah.

The seminar itself was delivered by Hazem Fawzy from Toshiba. He focused his presentation on the general introduction of PLCs and their advantages, basics control components, the central processor unit, input module, output module, memory unit (RAM, ROM, EPROM) terminology, sensor, actuators, and types of input and output signals.

Everyone attending the event, including the organising team, agreed that it had been very well-received.

Moanes Amin M El-Laithi
IEEE HTI SB Secretary
moanes-lathi@hotmail.com

University of Science and Technology, Jordan:

JUST innovates student communication method

JORDAN UNIVERSITY of Science and Technology (JUST) Student Branch asks Engineering College students, both IEEE and non-IEEE members, to fill many questionnaires in order to learn what are their demands and how can the IEEE JUST SB can help them.

One of the problems we found is that students often don't see the useful advertisements and announcements at the university for various reasons. After much discussion, IEEE JUST SB executive committee came up with an innovative solution: we can send out the information in the form of brief SMS

messages, distributed to anyone who registers for this service. The message will is received without the sender number, only the sender name: 'IEEE–JUST'. This service was launched under the banner 'LET IEEE-JUST BE YOUR REFERENCE'.

Within a month of its launch, more than 200 students from different engineering departments have registered for this service.

We hope to make the IEEE JUST SB a gateway for all students to the happenings inside and outside the university campus.

Ahmad Abu Al-Hija'a
amgah@hotmail.com

THE IEEE University of York Student Branch held an UKRI Section Student Congress from 1–3 June, open to all IEEE student members from the section, with the full backing of the UKRI Section, Region 8 and the University's Computer Science and Electronics departments.

More than 100 members from more than 60 different universities attended a weekend of activities, which started on Friday night with a wine reception on York's landscaped campus in beautiful sunshine.

The event was opened by Tony Davies, past director of Region 8, who gave a thoroughly entertaining presentation that set the tone for the weekend.

After a presentation from the Region 8 Student Activities Committee, the attendees had the opportunity to

University of York, UK:
100+ members attend UKRI student congress

Jos Visser from Google gives an insight into the engineering challenges of keeping Google.com up and running

meet with companies such as Google, Lockheed Martin, Sun Microsystems, RS Components, Barclays Capital, Transitive and Praxis HIS. Lockheed Martin's Charles Gill then gave a fascinating presentation on the company's engineering achievements and plans for future development in the UK.

This was followed by an ISBIR presentation by Yasemin Baser and professional careers training provided by the University

of York's Graduate Training Unit. Parallel seminars covered careers advice for members interested in both academia and industry.

After a series of technical presentations by academic speakers, Jos Visser from Google's engineering hub in Zurich took centre stage for a talk about keeping Google up and running.

Everyone then hopped onto an open-top bus for a tour of the City of York before the conference dinner.

Sunday focused on technical speakers, workshops and management training from the GTU. A panel of academics and engineers rounded off the weekend with a discussion about the future of engineering.

David Robert White
Industrial Liaison, IEEE University of York SB
david.r.white@cs.york.ac.uk

One of the finalists explaining his project to the audience

Dogus University, Istanbul, Turkey:
Projistor contest gains momentum in Istanbul

THE 2ND Annual Student Project Contest, 'Projistor 2007', a name invented and tagged by students, took place at the Pool-Hall of Dogus University on 18 May 2007.

The contest was organised by IEEE Dogus University SB in Istanbul, and there were participants form all Turkish universities.

The finalists of the contest were:
1. 'ROBO 112' by Kerem Sakız and Gürel Yıldız from Sabanci University.
2. 'Security and Search Robot (SASP)' by Ertug Karamatlı from Dogus University.
3. 'SUBOARD 11' by Ender Kazan from Sabanci University.
4. 'Product Pricing and Stock

Control System' by Ismail Akturk from Dogus University.
5. 'Auto-Speaking Guide System' by Kerem Sakiz and Gurel Yildiz from Isik University.
6. 'Separating Goods on the Conveyor Belt' by Muhammed Dalyan from Yildiz Technical University.

The first three winners were awarded 1,500 YTL (US$1,170), 1,000 YTL (US$780) and 750 YTL (US$585) respectively.

The jury members were Dr Mithat Uysal (Dean of Engineering), Dr Izzet Cem Goknar (IEEE Fellow, Head of ECE Department), and Kenan Istanbullu (Founder and CEO of TEMATIK).

Cem Goknar
cgoknar@dogus.edu.tr

Lagos State University, Nigeria:
LASU celebrates knowledge

IEEE NIGERIA Knowledge-Fest Conference 2007 was hosted by the IEEE Lagos State University (LASU) Student Branch on 31 August – 1 September 2007. The theme was 'Mobile & Wireless Communications in Nigeria – An Insider's Overview'.

We also organised the IEEE Nigeria KnowledgeStorm Evening 2007

on 26 September, which is to be a bi-weekly technical and social event.

Okuneye Oluwadamilola
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Ajman University of Science & Technology, UAE:
AUST honours its volunteers

ON 3 June 2007, 100 IEEE members and 20 non-members witnessed the IEEE Ajman University of Science &

Tazeen Sharif with Most Valuable Person Award

Technology (AUST) SB Honor Ceremony, recognising the efforts of its volunteers and active members.

Omar Abbara, Mustafa El-Khatib, Noor Kalaji, Raihana Mumtaj, Rimas Adnan, Mustafa Osama, AbdulAziz Murshid and Ahmed Omar each received an Outstanding Performance Award. A further 25 branch members were given a Certificate of Appreciation.

The Most Valuable Person Award went to SB Mentor and WIE Chair, Tazeen Sharif.

Noor Kalaji
IEEE AUST SB Secretary
nakalaji@hotmail.com

Aalborg University, Denmark:
Aarlborg organises contest for 2008

THE AALBORG University (AAU) IEEE Student Branch launched the call for papers for the 2nd Annual IEEE Student Paper Conference 2008 (AISPC'08). The conference will be held on 15 February 2008 at Aalborg University, Denmark.

The purpose of AISPC is to promote the science, creativity and activity to the international undergraduate and graduate students by creating a startup platform to enter industry, promote a close relationship between Aalborg University and Industry, present young and perspective international researchers to the industry, and increase the visibility of Aalborg as a centre of excellence for engineering within worldwide academia and industry.

The Student Branch held the first AISPC'07 on 26–27 January 2007, collecting student papers from all over the world and attracting top-level companies such as Gate House and Nokia. We received positive feedback from the attendees and enjoyed good support from our sponsors and students.

The 2008 conference will cover of all the engineering undergraduate and PhD students from all over the world, the papers will be evaluated in different categories providing fair conditions for all attendees. The content of the papers spreads to a variety of engineering research areas, including: Electronics and Communications, Energy Technology, Health Science and Technology and Computer Science.

We look forward to seeing you at AISPC'08!

Daniel Figueiredo
IEEE AAU SB
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http://ieee.aau.dk

Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic:

Czech and Slovak doctorate students meet up

IEEE BRNO University of Technology Student Branch organized the 5th Czech and Slovak PhD Students Meeting on 27–29 August. Recent PhD graduates also participated in the event.

As the number of attendees is continuously growing year by year, this meeting is becoming something of a tradition. This year, 49 presenters took part and spoke briefly about their PhD work in short presentations. They covered a broad range of electrical engineering problems, discussing their solutions and often inspiring each other.

As the workshop location changes every two years, the meeting took part in Zvule, in the southern Bohemia this year: a beautiful location in a national park called 'Czech Canada'. To make it a bit more outdoor, accommodation was arranged in a tent camp and the presentations were held in open air.

Besides the technical part, some hiking around the camp and campfire evenings helped to form a very friendly atmosphere, and we are glad to see that new friendships among PhD colleagues are coming to life. Last but not least, we managed to welcome 17 new IEEE members in connection with this event.

In response to the very positive feedback from our participants, we plan to make next year's event another outdoor one. Maybe with your presence as well?

Martin Slanina
IEEE Brno University of Technology SB Vice-Chair
Xslani04@stud.feec.vutbr.cz

Conference calendar

Workshops, conferences & symposia in Region 8

DECEMBER 2007

ICTON-MW
2007 ICTON MEditerranean Winter
University of Sousse
Sousse, Tunisia
6–8 December 2007
www.iaer.eu/icton-mw07

ICECS 2007
2007 14th IEEE International
Conference on Electronics, Circuits
and Systems
Marrakech Convention Centre,
Marrakech, Morocco
11–14 December 2007
www.icecs-conference.org

ISSPIT 2007
The 7th IEEE International
Symposium on Signal Processing
and Information Technology
Cairo, Egypt
15–18 December 2007
www.isspit.org/isspit/2007

SMAP
2007 2nd International Workshop
on Semantic Media Adaptation and
Personalization
Brunel University, Uxbridge, UK
17–18 December 2007
www.smap2007.org

ICM
2007 International Conference on
Microelectronics
Nile Hilton, Cairo, Egypt
29–31 December 2007
www.ieee-icm.com

JANUARY 2008

WIN 2008
IEEE LEOS Winter Topicals
Conference 2008
Sorrento, Italy
14–16 January 2008
www.ieee.org/organizations/society/
leos/LEOSCONF/WIN2008

FEBRUARY 2008

IT-NEWS 2008 (former QOS-IP)
4th International Telecommunication
NEtworking WorkShop on QoS in
Multiservice IP Networks
Venice, Italy
13–15 February 2008
www.telematica.polito.it/QoS-IP2008

AISPC'08
Annual IEEE Student Paper
Conference 2008
Aalborg University, Denmark
15 February 2008
http://ieee.aau.dk/sb/AISPC08

MARCH 2008

HRI 2008
3rd ACM/IEEE International
Conference on Human-Robot
Interaction
Amsterdam, the Netherlands
12–15 March 2008
http://hri2008.org

ICMTS 2008
2008 IEEE International Conference
on Microelectronic Test Structures
Edinburgh, Scotland
24–27 March 2008
www.see.ed.ac.uk/ICMTS

APRIL 2008

AICCSA 2008
IEEE/ACS International Conference
on Computer Systems and
Applications 2008
Doha, Qatar
1–4 April 2008
www3.cs.queensu.ca/trl/aiccsa08

NoCS 2008
2nd IEEE International Symposium
on Networks-on-Chips
Newcastle University, UK
7–11 April 2008
http://async.org.uk/nocs2008

ASYNC 2008
14th IEEE International Symposium
on Asynchronous Circuits and
Systems
Newcastle University, UK
7–11 April 2008
http://async.org.uk/async2008

MAY 2008

MELECON 2008
The 14th IEEE Mediterranean
Electrotechnical Conference
Ajaccio, France
5–8 May 2008
www.melecon08.iut-amiens.fr

ISBI 2008
5th IEEE International Symposium
on Biomedical Imaging
Paris, France
14–17 May 2008
www.biomedicalimaging.org

ISWPC 2008
International Symposium on Wireless
Pervasive Computing 2008
Santorini, Greece
7–9 May 2008
www.iswpc.org/2008

MIKON 2008
17th International Conference on
Microwaves, Radar and Wireless
Communications
Wroclaw, Poland
19–23 May 2008
www.mikon-2008.pl

ETS 2008
13th IEEE European Test
Symposium
Lago Maggiore, Italy
25–29 May 2008
www.cad.polito.it/~ets08

EUROVIS 2008
Joint Eurographics/IEEE VGTC
Symposium on Visualization
Eindhoven, the Netherlands
26–28 May 2008
http://bmia.bmt.tue.nl/EuroVis08/
index.php

US/EU Baltic 2008
IEEE US/EU Baltic International
Symposium on Ocean Observations,
Ecosystem-Based Management &
Forecasting
Tallinn, Estonia
27–29 May 2008
www.us-eu-baltic2008.org

3DTV-CON 2008
2nd 3DTV Conference
Istanbul, Turkey
28–30 May 2008
www.3dtv-con.org

JUNE 2008

ICOPS 2008
IEEE 35th International Conference
on Plasma Sciences
Karlsruhe, Germany
15–19 June 2008
www.icops2008.org

ISIE 2008
IEEE International Symposium on
Industrial Electronics
Cambridge, UK
30 June – 2 July 2008
www.isie2008.ing.univaq.it