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The Corsican venue overlooked the port of Ajaccio

## MELECON 2008 warms to 'island of beauty'

THE IEEE'S Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference (MELECON 2008) took place in Ajaccio, Corsica, France from 5 to 7 May. MELECON is a flag conference of IEEE Region 8 alongside EUROCON, AFRICON, SIBIRCON and HISTELCON. It is held in a different Mediterranean country every two years. Recent MELECON were held in Egypt (2002), Croatia (2004) and Spain (2006).

Our 2008 topic was 'New technologies for sustainable development'.

Hosted in a beautiful new venue overlooking the port of Ajaccio, the programme was divided into seven tracks: control systems, information systems, mechatronics, micro- and nano-electronics, power electrical systems, and signal and image processing. A parallel session was held for the IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest.

Some 265 papers had been submitted and reviewed independently by two reviewers. Around 350 volunteers worked anonymously to se-

lect the final 156 papers. The conference registered 183 participants. Dr Pierre Matarasso from the French National Center on Scientific Research (CNRS) gave a keynote entitled: 'Can we cut our GHG emissions by 80% without compromising development?'

To balance the technical side, a social programme included a welcome reception at City Hall and a concluding gala dinner, followed by an awards ceremony chaired by Region 8's Director, Jean-Gabriel Remy.

A special thanks goes to the sponsors: the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the National Center of Scientific Research, the Collectivité Territoriale de la Corse and the Communauté d'Agglomération du Pays Ajaccien. Please visit [www.melecon08.iut-amiens.fr](http://www.melecon08.iut-amiens.fr) for a full report.

**Gérard-André Capolino and Jean-François Santucci**  
 General Co-Chairs  
 MELECON 2008  
[www.melecon08.iut-amiens.fr](http://www.melecon08.iut-amiens.fr)



MELECON organiser Gérard-André Capolino with R8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy (L) and IEEE Fellow Jozef Modelski (R)

## Saudi Arabia IAS wins Small Chapter award

THE IEEE Industry Applications Society Saudi Arabia Chapter received the prestigious 'Chapter of the Year 2007' award in the Small Chapter category. It is the only IAS Chapter in the Middle-East geographic area. Its main activities concern applications and technologies of fossil and renewable energy.

Last year the Chapter organised a special session on the oil and gas industry at the R8 Conference EUROCON'07 in Warsaw, Poland. The Chapter hosted the 4th IEEE Gulf Cooperative Councils Conference and Exhibition in Bahrain in 2007.

Chapter members are among the most active in the industry relations activities of the R8. They organised an Energy Group which brings together our R8 Sections in



[L-R] Chapter Chair Ghaleb Dandan with Jean-Gabriel Remy and IEEE President Lewis Terman

leading oil and gas and renewable energy producing countries. Their initiative in membership education selected a group of R8 industrial regional speakers.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Large Chapter award was won by the Italian Lasers and Electro-Optics Chapter.

**Peter Magyar**  
 Chapter Coordinator and Div II delegate  
[Peter.Magyar@hella.com](mailto:Peter.Magyar@hella.com)

## HISTELCON 2008

**HISTORY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE**

**11-12 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Cercle National des Armées Saint Augustin  
 PARIS, FRANCE



Seventh in a series of events sponsored by the IEEE History Committee and the IEEE History Center. The event is organised by the IEEE Region 8 History Council with the technical co-sponsorship of France SEE and UK IET.

The aim of the IEEE Conference is to help build a comprehensive view of Optical and Electronic Communication History through papers investigating formative developments in this history spanning over two centuries.

[www.isep.fr/histelcon](http://www.isep.fr/histelcon)

## Membership activities

NEXT YEAR, the IEEE will celebrate its 125th anniversary. Thinking back on those first 125 years reminds me to look into our future.



The AIEE (American Institute of Electrical Engineers) was formed in 1884, and the IRE (Institute of Radio Engineers) set up in 1912. The two merged into the IEEE in 1963. IEEE is transnational, operating across national boundaries. Our Institute is a catalyst for technological innovation and supports members through its programmes and services.

Our presence in over 150 countries means that we exist as one of the greatest member networks in world. MemberNet (<http://iee.org/membernet>), our online network, was launched in 2008 exclusively for IEEE members. Members' names with membership grade are freely available, but you may choose to opt in to browse more details, for example to search a technical interest, membership, affinity or a location. Try it and create your own profile that can be searched only by other members. Find essential information in one place.

Share (<http://iee.org/mgm>) is a membership development programme that rewards your initiative in signing up new members and student members. There is no better person to introduce the IEEE to your friends and colleagues than you. Until September, they can join at half the normal annual fee.

**Marko Delimar**

IEEE Region 8 Vice-Chair Membership Activities  
[m.delimar@iee.org](mailto:m.delimar@iee.org)

## Become an IEEE Fellow — 'one in a thousand'

DO YOU know an IEEE colleague who has made outstanding contributions to the electrical and electronics engineering profession?

If so, consider nominating him or her as an IEEE Fellow. The deadline for receipt of complete IEEE Fellow nominations for the Class of 2010 is 1 March 2009.

The Fellow Committee recommends nominees to the IEEE Board of Directors, according to the following criteria:

- Significant contributions as Application Engineer/Practitioner, Educator/Research Engineer/Scientist or Technical Leader
- Evidence of technical accomplishments
- Evaluation by the IEEE Technical Society/Council that has been selected by the nominator

- Confidential opinions of references and endorsements
- Service within IEEE and/or other professional engineering organizations
- Total number of years in the profession

The Fellow Committee submits its nominees to the IEEE Board of Directors during the Third Quarter, and the Board acts upon those recommendations at its year-end meeting.

According to IEEE Bylaw I-306-8, the total number of Fellow recommendations in any one-year must not exceed one-tenth of one percent of the voting membership on record as of 31 December of the year preceding.

For additional information, nominations instructions, forms and more please visit [www.iee.org/fellow](http://www.iee.org/fellow).

## Region 8 Committee meets in Malta to agree on plans



The event welcomed nearly 70 representatives from across the region

ON THE sunny Mediterranean island Malta, volunteer members and delegates of the Region 8 Committee met on 25–27 April 2008. As reported in August 2007 *Region 8 News*, IEEE Malta Section is one of the newest in our region with a small but very active membership. They were excellent hosts.

The reason why our Region 8 volunteer leaders meet twice a year is to agree on plans for regional activities, membership development, technical conferences, student affairs, etc. For this purpose, the voting members

are the chair persons from every section in the region plus members who serve as an operating committee. An excellent overview of the business conducted is available on our Region website: [iee.org/r8](http://iee.org/r8) → *committee* → *meetings* → *agenda book*.

For background, please read Tony Davies' History of the R8 Committee ([iee.org/r8](http://iee.org/r8) → *history*).

Subcommittee reports are prepared by educational activities, industry relations, professional activities, standards activities, strategic planning, conference and chapter coordination, and awards and recognitions. Behind each is a narrative of achievements, projects, plans, etc, which are the fabric that supports your membership. It's a long list, and it covers a lot of areas that reflect the needs and aspirations of our members.

Many gatherings take place over several days. Al-

ways there is a big mix of delegates who are new, young and old, students to seniors, new and seasoned delegates. A very important part is the face-to-face encounters.

Equally important is the structure and governance of the formal meetings on the second and third days, when everyone comes together to hear arguments and vote on proposals to commit money and resources to projects and to measure their achievements. These formal meetings are governed by Rules of Order which are needed to maintain orderly progress.

The IEEE is one of the most member-active, democratic and volunteer-driven professional organisations in existence. Read more about Sections Congress 2008 in this issue. Talk to your section or chapter officers to find out how you can get involved.

[www.iee.org/r8](http://www.iee.org/r8) → *sections*

**Roland Saam**



Roland Saam in discussion with the Region 8 Director

## Website puts flair into serious science

ATHENAWEB IS a virtual home for science communicators: [www.athenaweb.org](http://www.athenaweb.org).

It's a video portal for European audiovisual communication professionals in the areas of science and scientific information. It is also a service for anyone who has to inform others about scientific or engineering concepts.

Rigorous, serious science is hardly glossy magazine material. But AthenaWeb gives researchers the chance to show a little front-page flair in their field. You can regis-

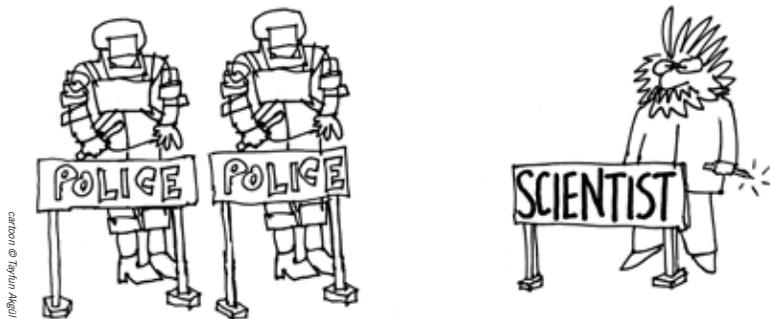
ter and link your website to theirs. You can browse their library and use their links to professional videos.

For example, have a look at the section entitled 'Nano: The Next dimension'. In Europe, nanoparticles are

already causing a revolution in the way people do research. Five video stories tell us about five applications which demonstrate the extent to which nanoparticles are useful.

Give AthenaWeb a try now!





## Seeking nominations for IEEE Medals and Recognitions

IEEE AWARDS Board is seeking nominations for IEEE Medals and Recognitions. The Potential Nominee Form is now online at [www.ieee.org/portal/pages/about/awards/noms/pot-nomform.html](http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/about/awards/noms/pot-nomform.html), allowing a preliminary review

of a nominee and feedback prior to an official nomination. For more information, contact [awards@ieee.org](mailto:awards@ieee.org).

### 2008 IEEE Medals and Technical Field Awards to Region 8 Recipients

#### IEEE HARADEN PRATT AWARD

##### Maurice Pappo

Independent Consultant – Nice, France  
*"For furthering IEEE transnational activities and for conceiving and implementing major operational improvements leading to more effective and efficient volunteer activities."*

#### IEEE JUN-ICHI NISHIZAWA MEDAL

Co-recipients:

##### Wolfgang Helfrich

Institut Theoretische Physik  
 Freie University – Berlin, Germany

##### Martin Schadt

MS High-Tech Consulting – Seltisberg, Switzerland

##### James Ferguson

Ferguson Patent Properties LLC – Menlo Park, CA, USA

*"For pioneering development of twisted-nematic liquid crystal technology"*

#### IEEE EDISON MEDAL

##### Dov Frohman-Bentchkowsky

Retired – Intel Jerusalem, Israel

*"For pioneering the development of the MOS Erasable, Programmable Read Only Memory (EPROM), a key enabler of the information age revolution"*

#### IEEE CLEDO BRUNETTI AWARD

(miniaturization in the electronic arts)

##### Michel Bruel (non-member)

CEA-LETI Director of Research – France

*"For inventing Smart Cut layer transfer technology that enabled widespread adoption of SOI for CMPS circuits"*

#### IEEE ELECTROMAGNETICS AWARD

##### Werner Wiesbeck, IEEE Fellow

Universitaet Karlsruhe – Germany

*"For innovative electromagnetic applications in communication systems, remote sensing, and EM compatibility"*

#### IEEE GUSTAV ROBERT KIRCHHOFF AWARD

##### Alfred Fettweis, IEEE Fellow

Lehrstuhl fr Nachrichtentechnik  
 Ruhr-Universitaet – Bochum, Germany

*"For sustained contributions to circuits, systems, and signal processing, especially his seminal work on wave digital filters"*

#### IEEE NIKOLA TESLA AWARD

##### Timothy JE Miller, IEEE Fellow

University of Glasgow – United Kingdom

*"For outstanding contributions to the advancement of computer-based design and analysis of electric machines and their industrial dissemination"*

#### IEEE FRANK ROSENBLATT AWARD

##### Teuvo Kohonen, IEEE Fellow

Academician of the Academy of Finland – Helsinki, Finland

*"For outstanding contributions to the advancement of the theory and applications of neural networks, associative memories and the self-organising map"*

#### IEEE FREDERIK PHILIPS AWARD

##### Gilbert J Declerck, IEEE Fellow

IMEC – Leuven, Belgium

*"For leadership in the creation of international R&D alliances in semiconductor technologies"*

#### IEEE WILLIAM E NEWELL POWER ELECTRONICS AWARD

##### Istvan Nagy, IEEE Fellow

Budapest University of Technology and Economics – Hungary

*"For leadership in the research, development, worldwide promotion, and university education in power electronics technology"*

## UAE invites Kennedy to talk – three times

IEEE UAE Section, the UAE Signal Processing and Communications Joint Chapter and the University of Sharjah invited Professor Peter Kennedy (FIEEE), vice-president of research at the National University of Ireland.

Prof Kennedy delivered two technical presentations – 'Communicating with Chaos: State of the Art' and 'Modern Frequency Synthesizers' – on 28 April 2008.

Days later, Kennedy returned to speak again, this time about the Tyndall National Institute, Ireland's ICT Hardware Research Centre. Founded in 2004, the Institute has conducted research into microelectronics, nanoelectronics, photonics and microsystems, and its research staff numbers have grown to more than 350. It enjoys significant investment from the Irish government for basic facilities and equipment. His



Peter Kennedy in action and (below) with Soha Jawabreh at the University of Sharjah



talk described the context of national and EU research policies and stressed opportunities for collaboration.

##### Soha Jawabreh

WIE Secretary in Sharjah  
[soha@ieee.org](mailto:soha@ieee.org)

## Ed Soc Portugal reveals new online presence

THE IEEE Education Society Portugal Section Chapter has launched its website at <http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/portugal/education>.

The website has been created to promote events, conferences related to engineering education.

Any user can add information so it is dynamically and easily updated. It was designed by Jose Metrolho, co-chair of the Ed Soc Chap-

ter and was implemented by a graduate student, Luis Pinto da Costa.

Feedback indicates that it is functioning as an open forum for the all IEEE community in general. This is also a case of one student who contributed voluntarily to the IEEE community while getting professional and technical skills.

##### Jose Salvado

Ed Soc Chapter chair



Graduate student and web developer Luis Pinto da Costa, along with the new website

# When technology and nature meet...



Your editors: Roland Saam and Başak Yüksel

HELLO FROM Sunny Japan. As it write this, it is still April. The 'sakura' (cherry blossom) is in full bloom here, and during this period, nature leads the human lifestyle. For example, the main subject of daily communication is that mother nature is giving, and each person adjusts their daily life according to nature.

In a parallel sense, technology leads our daily lives. Like the seasons that change our world every year, changing technology becomes the driver of our daily lives too.

Reality, experience of na-

ture and rapid improvements in technology affect us every day. Technology helps develop advanced projects such as the space mission vehicle, while also making products that cause our daily lives to become easier. Advancement in technology is quickly transferred to useful products in many appropriate ways.

In this issue of *Region 8 News*, reports from all over the Region highlight our technology in the lives of our members.

Best wishes from Tokyo.

**Başak Yüksel**

## Obituary: Jonathan Tombs

REGION 8 News reports the death after a long illness of a youthful Professor Jonathan Noel Tombs on 1 May 2008 in Sevilla, Spain.

Born in St Albans, Hertfordshire, England, Dr Tombs studied engineering science at Oriel College, Oxford, and then neural networks doctorate, in 1993. He moved to Spain, and became Professor in the Electronic Engineering department at the University of Seville.



Dr Tombs contributed to Linus Torvalds' team which built the Linux Operating System. Jon always considered this task as a hobby, so he never published material in this field. He was an early advocate of the 'open source' software develop-

ment philosophy, but his passion was electronics.

He contributed to analog, mixed-signal, digital, FPGAs, radiation effects, etc in many engineering journals. His real satisfaction came from teaching digital electronics. When he came to the Engineering School at Seville University, he built an innovative teaching system which was recognised in 2006 with a Best EE Teacher award.

An extraordinary and generous man, he was an active contributor his whole life, never asking for recognition. His door was always open to accept questions and now that it is closed, his guiding light will be missed. Dr Tombs was married, 41 years old, with a brother in England.

**Leopoldo Garcia Franquelo**  
*Universidad de Sevilla*

# region8news

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### REGION 8 OPERATING COMMITTEE

Bylaws and descriptions of the committee offices — refer to [www.ieee.org/r8](http://www.ieee.org/r8)

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**Extra copies** If you would like extra copies of *Region 8 News* for distribution at your IEEE events, please email a request to the editor before the deadlines below, specifying quantity and delivery address. Please put *R8 News Extra Copies* in your email subject line.

**Submitting articles** We welcome news, articles and letters from any member of the IEEE. Please send these to the editor as plain text by email to [r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org), remembering to put *Region 8 News* in your email subject line. If sending photos or graphics, please make sure they are high-resolution files. Read our full guide to writing and submitting articles at [www.ieee.org/go/r8news](http://www.ieee.org/go/r8news).

#### Deadlines for upcoming issues

September 2008 issue ..... *deadline: 1 July 2008*  
December 2008 issue ..... *deadline: 1 October 2008*  
March 2009 issue ..... *deadline: 1 January 2009*  
June 2009 issue ..... *deadline: 1 April 2009*

# IEEE Joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter meets in Heidelberg

INDUSTRY APPLICATIONS, Power Electronics, and Industrial Electronics are three IEEE societies which have a Joint Chapter in Germany.

Its first meeting on 6–7 March was hosted by Heidelberg Druckmaschinen AG, the world-famous manufacturer of industrial printing press and cutting and folding machines.

In his welcome, Chapter Chairman van der Broeck introduced Uwe Thessmann who told us about milestones of Heidelberg AG. It was founded in 1850 at the Palatine city of Frankenthal by Andreas Hamm. The factory originally made bells, casting

and forging materials, steam engines and mills.

Bernard Beier, head of pre-development, gave us the research and development picture: measuring techniques, sensors, acoustics and electrical drives.

Helmut Meyer presented some technical control aspects of the electrical drives in press machines.

Hendrik Frank presented a new system where motions are done by segmented linear electrical machines – identical to the ‘Transrapid’ maglev train – which substitute for conventional drives with rotating motors.

As special lecturer, Gün-

ther Brandenburg from Munich Technical University told us about his research into new controls for electrical drives in web offset presses.

We then visited the Print Media Centre of the factory.

This was followed by an insight into the influence of vibration on press quality by Eric Knopf.

More events are planned for this year. For more information, go to [www.ewh.ieee.org/r8/germany/ias-pels](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r8/germany/ias-pels).

**Omid Forati Kashani**  
Public Relations Chair  
IEEE Joint IAS/PELS/IES  
German Chapter  
[omid.foratikashani@ieee.org](mailto:omid.foratikashani@ieee.org)



## LEOS Benelux students make a technical visit

ON 20 March this year, the IEEE/LEOS Benelux Student Chapter visited Melexis, a Belgian maker of advanced integrated circuits mainly for use in automotive electronics systems.

Student members from Belgium and Netherlands learned about optical technology from Piet De Pauw, head of Melexis’ Opto Division. He described devices which aid vision for driving at night or in fog, sensors for rain detection, infrared radiation sensors for aircon, and optical sensors which measure steering angle in electric steering assistance.

We saw their wafer and final testing facilities. All chips on a wafer are individu-

ally tested. After packaging, every single chip is again tested. Such large-scale testing is required to satisfy specifications imposed by car manufacturers. We were simply impressed by their testing machinery, and by the high speed by which wafers and chips passed through the testing equipment.

The next company visit of the Benelux Student Chapter will be in fall 2008. Check our website: [www.leosbenelux.org/student](http://www.leosbenelux.org/student).

**Philippe Tassin**  
IEEE/LEOS Benelux Student  
Chapter Board  
[philippe.tassin@vub.ac.be](mailto:philippe.tassin@vub.ac.be)

EDITOR’S NOTE: turn to page 7 for more student news.



Attendees at the first joint meeting hosted by Heidelberg Druckmaschinen AG

## IEEE Expert Now set up in Ireland

IEEE EXPERT Now is a programme that selects the best IEEE educational courses and tutorials from conferences and workshops around the world.

Delivered in a series of engaging and highly interactive, one-hour online learning sessions, these courses have been developed by recognised experts in a wide range of engineering and research technologies.

Delivered right to your desktop to enhance rapid, self-paced learning, the innovative IEEE Expert Now web-based service offers highly engaging, instructional design and tools to make your learning experience as

flexible and effective as possible.

The first programme to be created in Region 8 was developed by Máirtín O’Droma of the University of Limerick, Ireland. His module ‘Radio Frequency Power Amplifier Linearization’ was sponsored by IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society.

Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) are proposed by IEEE professional societies. Modules are aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate engineering students and engineers in industry.

For more information, see the online catalogue at [www.ieee.org/web/education](http://www.ieee.org/web/education).

Courses can be purchased,

and there is a trial available for IEEE entities and educational institutions.

## Kuwait chair appointed to government

I AM pleased to inform you that Abdulrahman Al-Ghunaim, the current Section Chair of Kuwait Section, has been recently appointed as the Kuwait Minister of Communications. I would like to congratulate Mr Abdulrahman for such an achievement and wish him the best.

**Jaafar M Ibrahim**  
[jaafar.ibrahim@aramco.com](mailto:jaafar.ibrahim@aramco.com)

## Hamburg transport workshop report

WIT 2008, the Workshop on Intelligent Transportation, took place at the Hotel Hafen in Hamburg on 18–19 March 2008.

Over recent years, WIT has developed into a much sought-after event for experts in the fields of transportation, automotive communication and sensor technologies. The audience is always a well balanced mix of academic researchers and delegates from the automotive industry.

Some 100 participants from Europe and Asia joined in the high-level presentations and discussions. The main topics of the conference were:

- Automotive Radar / Lidar
- Car2Car Communication
- Vision / Image Processing
- ITS Communication Applications

### ■ Driver Assistance

The hot topics of this year’s conference were pre-crash applications and sensor fusion.

Besides the sessions, the social event at the first evening was a welcomed opportunity to establish and cultivate personal contacts.

We would like to extend our thanks to the friendly support by the IEEE Communications Society Germany Chapter and various industrial partners. The WIT 2008 was a great success.

The next Workshop on Intelligent Transportation (WIT 2009) will take place in Hamburg on 24–25 March 2009. Please visit: <http://wit.tu-hamburg.de> for details.

**Alireza Tassoudji**  
IEEE ComSoc German Chapter

# Photoshop instruction at Sharjah

A HANDS-ON workshop in Adobe Photoshop was hosted by IEEE-WIE on 6–10 April in the Engineering College at the University of Sharjah.

Instruction was given by Ahmed Habib, Senior Multimedia Developer at the University. It was a popular course, with 21 engineering students registering. It is hoped that more advanced workshops could be arranged in future.

Mr Habib explained the uses of many tools in Photoshop, and suggested that senior students might like to design posters for their graduation. In addition, he reminded students that they can visit his website ([www.ahmedhabib.net](http://www.ahmedhabib.net)) in order to learn more about the program through audio and video lessons for beginners and professionals.

**Soha Jawabreh**  
IEEE UoS, WIE Secretary  
[soha@ieee.org](mailto:soha@ieee.org)



Above and below: Ahmed Habib during the workshop



# WIE group holds IEEE open day in Jordan

A SUCCESSFUL WIE open day was held at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) on 12 December 2007.

The objective was to introduce WIE to the faculty students and to encourage them to join IEEE. Dr Lamyia Al-Chalabi (WIE Coordinator)

delivered a lecture on the topic of women engineers' responsibilities, and then explained the main goals, plans and the coming events of the JUST WIE group.

A former student engineer, now at Zain Communication, spoke about the goals and achievements of

the company. It was a very successful event.

WIE members and other IEEE volunteers helped by preparing a special presentation about the community mission, vision and activities, and giving out IEEE promotional material.

Many people were at-

tracted to come and ask about WIE. The event ended with an invitation to a sweets buffet. The event reached its goals, everybody was happy and many students ended up registering as members.

**Hadeel Awad**  
JUST WIE Chair  
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# Women volunteer at WETEX 2008



WIE Volunteers with UAE Section Chair, Dr Eesa Bastaki, at WETEX 2008

THE WATER, Electricity, Technology & Environment Exhibition (WETEX) was held at the Dubai World Trade Center on 11–13 March.

Members of IEEE-WIE Student Branch from Ajman University of Science & Technology (AUST), American University in Dubai (AUD) and UAE University volunteered at the IEEE stand during the three-day event.

Highlights included product displays, technical seminars and demonstrations.

**Tazeen Sharif**  
WIE Northern Emirates Coordinator  
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A SUCCESSFUL ceremony of the Women in Engineering was held as part of the IEEE University of Ibadan Student Branch SPAC Week on 6 March 2008. This was the first of its kind as WIE was established only a couple of months ago by Miss Falae Tolulope as first Chair. Our activities plan was introduced by Falae Tolulope, Agwae Uruemu and Ige Tolulope.

The main speaker of the day was Princess Nwankwo, a lecturer in the Petroleum Engineering Department, University of Ibadan. She gave a lecture on 'Women in the World of Technology', focusing on engineering as a profession, branches of

# New Ibadan group takes full part in SPAC Week



A cross section of secondary school girls attended

engineering, women in engineering, job prospects and the challenges of becoming female engineers.

Another lecture was de-

livered by Mrs Oladejo, a lecturer in the Civil Engineering Department, University of Ibadan. She focused on the relevance of mathematics in

the field of engineering and what is expected from female engineers. The lecture was followed by period of questions and answers.

At the end, Agwae Uruemu presented WIE souvenirs to the invited schoolchildren and a complimentary talk was given by the IEEE University of Ibadan Student Branch Chair, Mogbolu Emmanuel.

The programme was well attended by secondary school girls from of Ibadan with about 75% choosing to study engineering in future.

**Emmanuel Mogbolu**  
IEEE UI SB Chair  
[emmamogbolu@yahoo.com](mailto:emmamogbolu@yahoo.com)  
**Olukunle Busayo**  
**Lawal Yetunde**  
IEEE UI WIE AG

## IEEE-NDU holds first WIE event in Lebanon

THE IEEE Student Branches in Lebanon in partnership with Women in IT (WIT) joined forces to organise the first WIE event titled 'Different Career paths in Engineering & Technology' that took place on Saturday 8 March 2008 at Notre Dame University (NDU) campus.

This was also International Women's day, which honours women human rights defenders who dedicated their lives to promote justice and equality for women.

Five technical sessions included speakers with high achievement in business and engineering: Hala Makarem (independent consultant),

Tania Saba-Mazraani (Berytech business incubators), Odile Abou Mrad (Computer Associates), Maysa Yaman (Cedarcom), and Nathalie Awad (New Horizons).

The audience of more than 80 represented different IEEE branches in Lebanon: NDU, BAU, LAU and AUB. The event was great success due in large part to the amazing interaction between the audience and the speakers. It was supported by INKRIPT, a leading Lebanese digital printing company.

**Nadeen Rishani**  
IEEE-NDU, WIE Chair  
WIE@ieeendu.org  
www.ieeendu.org



## Fatima Al Dhaheri wins Excellence Award

FATIMA AL Dhaheri, IEEE Senior member and Vice-Chairman of Power Engineering Society (UAE Chapter) received the coveted 2007 Abu Dhabi Excellence Award from His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, in the category of best Government Employee in the technical field.

Fatima is the Operation and Maintenance Department Manager of Abu Dhabi Transmission and Despatch Company (Transco) – Al Ain. She is one of the architects and active members of IEEE-WIE Affinity Group in UAE. She holds a masters degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Colorado, Denver, USA.



The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi presents Fatima Al Dhaheri with the 2007 Excellence Award

YOU SEE all kinds of projects going on in other branches and sections, joining people in different time zones with same volunteering ideas and goals – which they must communicate.

This is exactly the job of the Student Electronic Communications officer in Region 8 SAC. We ensure that student members receive calls for participations, membership reminders, etc.

On this theme, we are planning a new promotional multimedia contest for the YouTube era. This will be a

way to show all your talent in creating rich multimedia kits using audio, video, text, images, presentations – anything you can think of – to promote IEEE among your fellow students within the Region. There will be prizes to be won!!

Another project we're working on is creating a Student Information Warehouse: a place where all your successfully finished projects would be shown together with documentation.

Remember that IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and

GOLD Congress 2008 is due to take place at Queen Mary College, London, UK from 28 August until 1 September. See page 9 of this issue and visit [www.sbc2008.org](http://www.sbc2008.org) for more details. It's going to be one of the best Congresses so far!

So stay close to us by checking [www.ieee.org/r8sac](http://www.ieee.org/r8sac) on a regular basis and experience the triumph of student volunteering in IEEE.

**Luka Lugaric**  
IEEE R8 SAC Electronic Communications  
llugaric@ieee.org

### Warsaw University of Technology, Poland:

## Astronomy and high energy physics at Warsaw University

THE 21ST IEEE Student Branches Symposium on Electronics and Photonics for Astronomy and High Energy Physics Experiments was held on 25–27 January 2008, at the Faculty of Electronics and Information Technology, Warsaw University of Technology (WUT).

This is an annual symposium for young scientists devoted to the research on photonic and electronic system development for astronomy, space technology, high energy physics experiments and accelerator technology. The Symposium focused on hardware aspects, programming techniques, component

analysis and modelling, sub-system tests and applications.

Nearly 100 young researchers attended. Most of these were PhD students from technical universities working in the relevant European framework research programmes in the biggest European (and some American) laboratories.

Another Symposium is held in May but this is wider in topical coverage, and attracts 300 participants from Poland and Europe.

The January Symposium was organised by the young researchers themselves for the benefit of other young

researchers in similar fields, while tutors and mentors attended as guests. The organisers originated from PERG ELHEP Research Groups of the Institute of Electronics FE&IT WUT and from the IEEE Student Branch of WUT as well as the SPIE Student Chapter of WUT and Student Club of Space Technology.

Marcin Smelkowski, Chair of January 2008 Symposium, has done an outstanding job!

**Ryszard Romaniuk**  
Symposium Chair, Warsaw University of Technology  
IEEE Poland Section,  
Student Activities  
R.Romaniuk@elka.pw.edu.pl



Participants at the Electronics and Photonics Symposium in January

University of Malta:

# SPAC 2008 is a great success

A STUDENT Professional Awareness Conference was held as a half-day event on 5 March at the University of Malta. It targeted undergraduates of the Faculties of Engineering and of Information and Communication Technology. We are grateful to the deans of the respective

faculties, Prof R Ghirlando and Dr E Cachia for supporting this event.

Five speakers for SPAC 2008 comprised a full programme. Alexander Tranter emphasised the importance of distinguishing oneself, becoming a person who able to deliver distinct and original

contributions. Dr Michael Saliba aimed his remarks at strengthening the students' communication skills through written reports.

After a coffee break, students listened to two young engineers who recently made their way into industry. Kevin Muscat from ESI (Malta) talked about the company's recent achievements in designing and installing the largest building management control systems project ever to be undertaken in Malta at the new Mater Dei Hospital. Violet Bugeja from Vodafone discussed her experience as a female engineer in this male-dominated sector.

Finally Dr Kenneth Camilleri, Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Engineering, gave the outlook for pursuing postgraduate studies. This

The half-day event was created for students of engineering and IT



received very good feedback from students who asked many questions.

Following this series of talks, a one-hour poster presentation session from industry was held in the foyer outside the lecture theatre. This was the first time that a number of companies were invited to participate in SPAC. The six participants: Crimsonwing, Lufthansa Technik, Methode Electronics, ST microelectronics, Toly Products and Uniblu had set up stands and answered our questions.

The response we had for SPAC 2008 was of great motivation to all committee members of the branch who dedicated much of their time and efforts to organise this event in a very professional way.

The event promoted the benefits of joining IEEE and was a great opportunity to establish new links with industry. We fully intend to build on this success for future events.

**Tracey Cassar**  
IEEE Malta SB Chair  
[www.eng.um.edu.mt/~ieeesb](http://www.eng.um.edu.mt/~ieeesb)

Universität Karlsruhe (TH), Germany:

# Karlsruhe students visit FZK ahead of forthcoming merger

UNIVERSITÄT KARLSRUHE and the Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe (FZK), one of the biggest science and engineering institutions in Europe, are to merge and become the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). KIT will combine the strengths and advantages of both institutions in the fields of teaching and research.

In order to get to know our new partner, the IEEE Student Branch Karlsruhe went on a one-day excursion to FZK on 22 January.

There, we learnt about the history of FZK, mainly nuclear research in Germany. Today FZK is involved in environmental research, basic

research such as the measurement of the Neutrino's mass, and also in technical developments for nuclear fusion technology.

The group then visited two large experiments. The first, Gyrotron, is concerned with the development of high intensity microwave generation, for heating plasma in a fusion reactor. The second experiment, BioLiq, tries to develop a procedure for synthesizing fuel out of agricultural waste products, such as hay. It was awarded the UN Blue Sky Award in 2006.

**Sebastian Stüker**  
Chair, IEEE Student Branch,  
Universität Karlsruhe (TH)  
[stueker@ira.uka.de](mailto:stueker@ira.uka.de)



Students on the excursion at the FZK permanent exhibition

THE UNIVERSITY of Ibadan IEEE Student Branch held a Student Professional Awareness Conference (SPAC) on 5-7 March.

The event was chaired by Jude Ugochukwu, Chair of IEEE Communication Society Nigeria. It featured a technical seminar and an awards ceremony with both academic and industry representatives.

University of Ibadan, Nigeria:

# Equipping the engineer for the future

IEEE UI Student Branch Chair, Mogbolu Emmanuel, spoke on the benefits of being an IEEE student member. Prince Ibe, IEEE Gold Chair Nigeria section, presented a talk on 'Bridging the Gap Between Industries and Educational Institutions', indicat-

ing the lapses of Students Industrial Work Experience Schemes (SIWES) and the school curriculum. Iniabasi Ekpo from Interswitch spoke on 'Facilitating Money Transfer Using Electronic Media Switch'. Olabode Sowunmi of LM Ericsson spoke on

'Telecommunications in Nigeria: lessons from the past, current trends and prospects for the future'.

Awards were presented to the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Interswitch Communications Nigeria and LM Ericsson Ni-

geria for their service excellence and effort in the growth of telecommunications in Nigeria.

The second day was a Women in Engineering (WIE) Congress [see page 6]. The final day was spent on an excursion to LM Ericsson Nigeria in Lagos.

**Tolu Ige**  
UI IEEE Student Branch  
[fetoige@yahoo.com](mailto:fetoige@yahoo.com)



University of Jordan:

# FLOSS week hails Open Source

IN COOPERATION with the Ubuntu Jordan Local Community Team, the Student Branch at the University of Jordan successfully organised a Free/Libre and Open-Source Software (FLOSS) Week on 17-23 March.

The aim of the event was to educate students about their freedom in the software world, and show the benefits of knowledge sharing.

The event started with an introductory lecture about FLOSS given by Khamis Seksik, in which he pinpointed reasons to adopt FLOSS in Jordan. After the lecture, a hall with 35 computers with Ubuntu Linux installed was made available for a five-day crash course. The official Ubuntu course was given, plus some Bash commands and scripting. This course

was given by professional volunteers from the Ubuntu Jordan LoCo Team and was attended by 40 students.

A technical workshop was also held between semesters, in which students were given project ideas and asked to build them with the aid of student branch volunteers.

**Sameer Abu Asal**  
Univ of Jordan SB secretary  
[sameer.asal@ieeee.org](mailto:sameer.asal@ieeee.org)

Queen Mary University of London, UK:

# Register now for Student Branch Congress

HOW ABOUT coming to London this summer for the Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2008?

The next IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress will be held in London this summer between 28 August and 1 September. So if you have not registered yet, it is time to do so!

Every two years, approximately 250 existing IEEE student branch members and young professionals from the Middle East, Europe and Africa gather in one place to learn new useful skills, meet, socialise and share professional experience with each other.

This year Queen Mary University of London IEEE Student Branch has prepared a series of instructive but also fun events for this congress.



Get to know more about IEEE and Region 8 activities with speeches from IEEE Officials, Young IEEE Members Working in the Industry, Active Student Branch Chairs, GOLD Representatives, and Women in Engineering Representatives.

Develop your skills and get the chance to ask all the questions you might have

during the workshops and panel discussions on Student Branch Volunteer Training (recruiting new members, fundraising, networking between branches), Professional Skills (leadership, project management, intellectual property, career management, how to better prepare yourself for the job market), Exchanging with other IEEE Regions,

and Empowering Women in Engineering.

Have fun and socialise with other students and young professionals from all over the Region 8 during the social events, which include a multicultural evening, a sightseeing tour of London and a gala dinner.

If you are a GOLD member, a WIE Student Member or a member of a Region 8 active Student Branch, you can register for the Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2008 and apply for funding!

For more information about the Congress, visit [www.sbc2008.org](http://www.sbc2008.org).

**Amélie Anglade**  
Queen Mary University of London IEEE SB  
Communication Officer  
[amelie.anglade@ieee.org](mailto:amelie.anglade@ieee.org)

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium:

# Energy trip to Germany

DURING THE Easter holidays, master students in Energy Engineering from the KU Leuven, Belgium, went on a trip across Germany to explore different companies and energy conversion plants.

The first stop was Jülich with the research centre for nuclear fusion. A brief presentation was followed by a look at the famous TEXTOR tokamak.

Our drive through the German countryside gave evidence of the enormous amount of windpower installed together with the gigantic 3 GW lignite plants.

The next day, we went to see ABB power transformers in Bad Honnef.

The day after, BASF Ludwigshafen was on the sched-

ule. With around 37,000 employees, this is the biggest chemical plant in the world.

The last stop was in Regensburg where the production of medium voltage Switchgear for Areva was situated.

After a tiring but rewarding week, the students got on the bus once again for the long drive home.

**Xavier Van Mierloot**  
IEEE SB Leuven  
[xavier.vanmierloot@gmail.com](mailto:xavier.vanmierloot@gmail.com)



TEXTOR tokamak



The group with ABB Switchgear



Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey:

# SB visits Nortel Networks

SABANCI UNIVERSITY IEEE Student Branch organised a technical trip to Nortel-Netas, Telecommunication R&D Company, on 21 March, with the help of the IEEE GOLD Member Doga Yalcin who is also an R&D Engineer in Nortel-Netas.

During the trip, students saw how an R&D Department works to create and implement new ideas. The trip incorporated a visit to the Technology Centre and a presentation on Nortel-Netas and its opportunities to students.

In the Technology Centre, engineers explain the working principles of their networks to customers. In this way, they present their new solutions for customers' problems, and new systems can be developed. In this Centre we also made a video call on a new

type of VoIP phone which was designed by Nortel-Netas that hasn't introduced to domestic market.

In the second part of the trip, Zeynep Akkiris from the HR department made a presentation about Nortel-Netas. Career opportunities and internship and social life in Netas were introduced. Then technical information about the projects of Nortel-Netas was given by Nortel-Netas experienced R&D engineers.

After that, we talked with Doga Yalcin and Zeynep Akkiris in the Netas Café. Every student was able to ask questions according to their interests.

We would like to thank Nortel-Netas for their help in developing industry and student collaboration.

**Cemal Akarsu**  
[cemal@su.sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:cemal@su.sabanciuniv.edu)

# Lebanon forms GOLD Affinity Group

LEBANON HAS stepped up IEEE membership in the past few years. The Lebanon Section was formed in 2005 and many Student Branch activities helped to raise awareness among electric and electronics engineers in our country. Our GOLD Affinity Group came to life on 26 July 2007.

At American University of Beirut, with the help of Prof Imad ElHajj, a committee was elected: Michel Khayat (President), Paul-March Bougharios (VP), Mohammed Hussein (Treasurer), and Mona Itani (Secretary). We are a diverse group from different universities in Lebanon: American University of Beirut, Lebanese American University and Notre-Dame University. This is a big advantage which helps spread the benefits of IEEE Gold membership.

Our goals for 2008 are:

- Increase awareness of IEEE and its benefits
- Encourage current IEEE student members to renew membership after graduation
- Sponsor/fund feasible student and graduate projects
- Participate in IEEE regional activities
- Double the number of Gold members to 100

To achieve the above goals, we will promote ourselves with this action plan:

- IEEE Gold Lebanon Group on Facebook
- Establish solid connections with IEEE Student Branches
- Recruit volunteers to carry effective activities
- Promote IEEE Xtreme Contest
- Focus on potential IEEE Gold members in the industry by giving presentations at the well-known engineering companies in Lebanon.

**Mona Itani**  
IEEE Lebanon Section GOLD  
Affinity Group Secretary  
[monas.itani@gmail.com](mailto:monas.itani@gmail.com)



**University of Applied Sciences,  
Fachhochschule Dortmund, Germany:**

## West meets East during international workshop

DURING 6–8 September last year, the 4th IEEE International Workshop on Intelligent Data Acquisition and Advanced Computing Systems: Technology and Applications (IDAACS'2007) was held in Dortmund, Germany.

Anatoly Sachenko, ICS, and Peter Reusch, UASFD, were co-chairs. The workshop was a collaboration between Ternopil National Economic University, Ukraine ([www.tanet.edu.te.ua](http://www.tanet.edu.te.ua)), and the University of Applied Sciences, Fachhochschule Dortmund, Germany ([www.fh-dortmund.de](http://www.fh-dortmund.de)). 120 participants from 36 countries attended.

IDAACS'07 Organising Committee would like to thank TNEU, UASFD, IEEE Instrumentation & Measurement Society, RWE Systems AG, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DSW21, and Anna and Hermann Reusch Foundation which supported the workshop.

We also thank IEEE Computational Intelligence Society, State International Committee of Science and Culture at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine for the technical cooperation.

**Pavlo Bykovyy**  
IEEE SB Chair  
[ieeesh@tanet.edu.te.ua](mailto:ieeesh@tanet.edu.te.ua)

**University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates:**

## IEEE Open Week at UOS



Students took part in competitions during the event

AN OPEN Week was held from 30 March to 1 April at the College of Engineering in the University of Sharjah. The event was a mix of technical talks, competitions and introductions to IEEE, with the aim of directing students toward Electrical and Computer Engineering programmes.

During the whole week, an IEEE registration desk was set up with booths for each Society and a data show to demonstrate some clips to encourage engineering students to register in IEEE.

At the opening ceremony the IEEE UoS Student Branch President, Abdulla Abu Abdoun, spoke about the IEEE and its Student Branch, and about the week ahead.

On the second day, a workshop about GUI Matlab was given by the student Sinan Al Sheikh, and another talk about Ethical Hacking given by the student Shawky Hanana. On the third day, competitions between doctors and students were held.

**Soha Jawabreh**  
[soha@ieee.org](mailto:soha@ieee.org)

## MyIEEE Profile – Soha Jawabreh

I AM a graduate student of Computer Engineering at University of Sharjah in United Arab Emirates. I joined IEEE in my last semester in the university by an advice of one of my professors in the college. I helped set up the IEEE and WIE Student Branches at the University of Sharjah.

After graduation, I kept in contact with my professor and asked to help the students in their activities. I kept in touch with WIE affinity group members here in

UAE and the chair nominated me on November 2007 for the position of WIE Secretary in Sharjah. I follow up all student activities in Sharjah, and I write reports for all IEEE and WIE newsletters.

I am now an official member in IEEE, WIE, GOLD and Computer Society groups. Volunteering in IEEE is a great opportunity for me to improve my personal and professional strengths.

**Soha Jawabreh**  
[soha\\_j@sharjah.ac.ae](mailto:soha_j@sharjah.ac.ae)



**Benha University, Egypt:**

## Student Branch celebrates anniversary

IEEE SHOUBRA Faculty of Engineering Student Branch, Benha University, Egypt, celebrated its third anniversary on 7–8 April.

More than 400 students took part from Benha University and other Egyptian universities such as Monofia University, High Institute of Technology and Shoubra Faculty of Engineering.

An impressive list of speakers from industry included Mohamed Badran (Alcan Telecom), Ayman Ab-

del Razik (Microsoft Egypt), and Ahmed Hashim (founder, Etisalat Egypt). Their subjects included IC fabrication, new applications for robots, what's new in MS Vista, and Java pros and cons.

Nahel Amira (ex-IEEE GOLD Chair), Ashraf Hafez (EE Dept), Mohamed Adel (Student Rep) and Mahynour Mohamed (SB Chair) contributed.

Highlights of the event included a 'Made in Egypt' competition, IEEE GOLD

activities, and a recruitment session called IEEE Life, combining various events, short screenings and other Student Branches' experiences.

This event was organised under the supervision of Prof Nevin Darwish (Student Activities Committee Chair, Egypt Section) and Dr Naser Abdel Rahim (EE Dept and Student Branch Counsellor).

**Mahynour Mohamed**  
IEEE SSB Chair  
Benha University, Egypt

**Vienna Student Branch, Austria:**

## LaTeX tutorial attracts interest in Region 8

LATEX SOFTWARE is a widely used scientific instrument to create different types of documents. Getting in touch with LaTeX early in their studies is helpful for students since writing reports or master thesis is simplified.

IEEE SB Vienna held a LaTeX tutorial for students (including students from other countries via the ERASMUS program). The course



was divided into theoretical and practical parts (hands-on-training). At the end, the students formatted a document with all the necessary LaTeX elements that a scientific paper needs.

Feedback from the students indicates that they feel much less daunted by LaTeX after the course. Participants included students from China, Turkey, Bosnia, Poland and Austria.

We also explained about IEEE student membership and its advantages.

**Ertl Dominik**  
Vienna IEEE SB Chair  
[ertl@ict.tuwien.ac.at](mailto:ertl@ict.tuwien.ac.at)



Stuart O'Neill of Williams F1

University of Southampton, UK:

## Driving a winning formula

WILLIAMS FORMULA 1 was the highlight of this year's calendar for the University of Southampton IEEE Student Branch. Stuart O'Neill, from the Electronics Department at the Williams Formula 1 team, gave an interesting and interactive talk on the history, state-of-the-art, and future of electronics in the motor sport.

He brought along a range of items, including steering wheels and chassis computers from F1 cars, which students were invited to handle during and after the talk.

Stuart has been with Williams for seven years and has worked on projects including the steering wheel, sub-dash, and embedded software design. He gave an informal history of electronics in F1, and spoke about the implications of the 2008 Concorde agreement and the development of Kinetic Energy Recovery Systems which will make an appearance in 2009. He also shared anecdotes about the design of cars and the politics of the sport. The seminar, one of three in April, attracted around 90 attendees.

The branch runs a full calendar of technical and careers seminars, along with site visits and other events throughout the year. To find out more about the branch, please visit [www.ieee.ecs.soton.ac.uk](http://www.ieee.ecs.soton.ac.uk).

Geoff Merrett  
gm04r@ecs.soton.ac.uk

HOW CAN we keep ourselves up to date without spending too much time visiting many conferences? Power Electronics Society (PELS) thinks it has the answer.

PELS observes that industry and academics have different demands. Industrial colleagues constrained by time may be able to attend only a single conference whereas academics might be obliged to attend several.

The main problem for colleagues from industry is often not the travel cost or participation fees, but the lack of time. Many well-known conferences supported by industry are limited to three days or less.

For academics, the situation is different. In many countries, academics are ranked according to the number of articles they have published, so conference contributions are usually a first step to a journal paper which is essential for their rank. So running fewer

# Cut through the conference jungle



conferences would not necessarily meet the interest of academics.

The PELS idea is to perform only one main conference in each field of interest, but hold them in each of the main regions of the world.

Members from industry could then be encouraged to attend the conference in their own region. Industrial

companies should be able to send their specialist(s) to that one conference being conveniently held in their neighbourhood. Academics might also attend the conferences in other parts of the world, and present their research results all over the globe.

PELS and four IAS committees plan a new main conference in America covering

the areas of Power Electronics and Electrical Drives called ECCE (Energy Conversion Conference and Exposition) in September 2009 in San José, California, USA.

Former conferences such as PESC will be cancelled.

In Asia, China, Japan and Korea already have signed an agreement with a main conference circulating between their countries on an annual basis.

In Europe (Region 8), negotiations between PELS and EPE (European Power Electronics Association) for a main annual conference on Power Electronics and Applications are in progress.

PELS activities want to increase their member benefits. Other societies and chapters in Region 8 may agree that the idea of concentrating the conference jungle is a good issue for them as well.

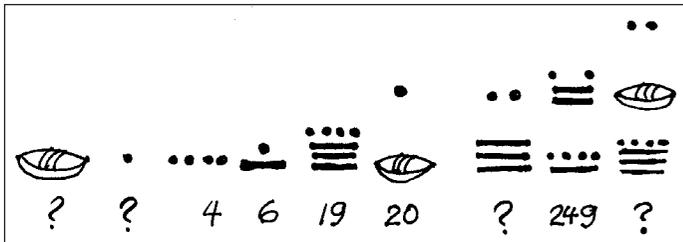
Ralph Kennel  
IEEE Germany Section  
[manuel.kennel@ieee.org](mailto:manuel.kennel@ieee.org)

## Picture Quiz

Email your entry to [r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org) with the subject **R8 News July Quiz** by 15 August 2008. The prize is an IEEE T-shirt or equivalent.

THE PICTURE shows a series of numbers based on 20 and the powers of 20. The Mayan people in ancient Mexico considered 20 a special number as it represented the number of fingers and toes. Also, 5 represented the numbers of digits on a hand or foot.

The dots and the bars probably represented pebbles and sticks. What kind of calculations were made, and for what purposes? Merchants performed calculations on the ground or on a flat surface. Mayan numbers were written from bottom to top, developing upwards. As an example, the number 35 would be represented as '20+15' or three bars on the bottom row followed by one dot on the top '1x20'.



The picture above shows examples of this with the Mayan invention of 'nought' or 'zero' – a style of shell.

Right, on with the questions:

- a) What are the missing numbers?
- b) How were fractions represented?
- c) Would multiplication be possible?

Email your entries to the address

shown above, and please include your name, member number and address with your entry. Good Luck!

Acknowledgements to Michael D Coe, *The Maya*, Thames & Hudson, 1966. EDITORS NOTE: Readers are invited to send in interesting Quiz and Photo Quiz topics for future issues.

### ANSWERS FROM LAST ISSUE

Thanks to all who participated in the March 2008 issue Photo Quiz. There were many good answers and many from webWikis.

An interesting entry was received from Senior Member Michel Mardiguain who writes:

"Congratulations for having displayed this rare sketch of the first official, long range use of Chappe's telegraph.

"The Lille-Paris link was not the first demonstration of the semaphore feasibility. Several



short haul links had been successfully operated by the Chappe brothers, Claude, Abraham and Ignace, starting 1790, to convince the French revolutionary government – 'La Convention' – and get the significant budget needed for

erecting the 16 substations (we would say today 'repeaters') of the 160km Paris-Lille link.

"Transmittal took approximately 15 minutes. Your Fig. 2 legend is not completely accurate. In fact, the watching officer in each intermediate station does not translate each word to pass it to the operator downstairs. He simply indicates the arms position that the operator has to quickly replicate, using the cranks and winch. This way, the entire 'bucket-brigade' process along the line is fast.

"Chappe had even invented concepts like 'acknowledgement', 'request to send', etc. For instance, a given station 'A' would keep the arms in position until he was sure that the next receiving station 'B' has reproduced the figure correctly and so on."

Readers are invited to the IEEE HISTELCON 2008, IEEE History of Electrotechnology Conference in Paris, France, 11–12 September 2008.

# Conference calendar

Workshops, conferences & symposia in Region 8

## JULY

### VECIMS 2008

IEEE Symposium on Virtual Environments, Human-Computer Interfaces and Measurement Systems  
14–16 July 2008  
Istanbul, Turkey  
<http://ewh.ieee.org/soc/im/vecims>

### IEEE SAM 2008

Sensor Array and Multichannel Signal Processing Workshop  
21–23 July 2008  
Darmstadt, Germany  
[www.sam2008.org](http://www.sam2008.org)

### IEEE SIBIRCON 2008

International Conference on Computational Technologies in Electrical and Electronics Engineering  
21–25 July 2008  
Novosibirsk, Russia  
<http://sibircon2008.sibsubtis.ru>

### EUROEM 2008

European Electromagnetics 2008 Symposium  
21–25 July 2008  
Lausanne, Switzerland  
[www.euroem.org](http://www.euroem.org)

## AUGUST

### IEEE RO-MAN 2008

17th IEEE International Symposium on Robot And Human Interactive Communication  
1–3 August 2008  
Munich, Germany  
[www.lsr.ei.tum.de/ro-man2008](http://www.lsr.ei.tum.de/ro-man2008)

### IEEE IWCMC 2008

IEEE International Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing Conference 2008  
6–8 August 2008  
Chania Crete Island, Greece  
<http://dropzone.tamu.edu/~xizhang/IWCMC2008/IWCMC08.html>

### Optical MEMS & Nanophotonics 2008

2008 IEEE/LEOS International Conference on Optical MEMS and Nanophotonics  
11–14 August 2008  
Freiburg, Germany  
[www.ieee.org/organizations/society/leos/LEOSCONF/MEMS2008](http://www.ieee.org/organizations/society/leos/LEOSCONF/MEMS2008)

### ASMS 2008

4th Advanced Satellite Mobile Systems Conference  
26–28 August 2008  
Bologna, Italy  
[www.asms2008.org](http://www.asms2008.org)

### SBC2008

IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress  
28 August – 1 September 2008  
London, UK  
<http://www.ieee.org/r8sbc2008>

## SEPTEMBER

### UPEC 2008

43rd International Universities Power Engineering Conference  
1–4 September 2008  
Padova, Italy  
[www.upec2008.org](http://www.upec2008.org)

### IEEE ESTC-2008

Electronics System-Integration Technology Conference  
1–4 September 2008  
Greenwich, London, UK  
[www.estc.biz](http://www.estc.biz)

### LANMAN 2008

16th IEEE Workshop on Local and Metropolitan Area Networks  
3–6 September 2008  
Cluj-Napoca, Transylvania, Romania  
[www.ieee-lanman.org](http://www.ieee-lanman.org)

### IS 2008

4th IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Systems  
6–8 September 2008  
Golden Sands, Varna, Bulgaria  
[www.ieee-is.org](http://www.ieee-is.org)

### EMC Europe 2008

International Symposium on Electromagnetic Compatibility  
8–12 September 2008  
Hamburg, Germany  
<http://emceurope2008.org/cms>

### ELMAR 2008

50th International Symposium ELMAR-2008  
10–13 September 2008  
Zadar, Croatia  
[www.elmar-zadar.org](http://www.elmar-zadar.org)

### ICUWB 2008

2008 IEEE International Conference on Ultra-Wideband  
10–12 September 2008  
Hannover, Germany  
[www.icuwb2008.org](http://www.icuwb2008.org)

### IEEE HISTELCON 2008

IEEE History of Electrotechnology Conference  
11–12 September 2008  
Paris, France  
[www.isep.fr/histelcon](http://www.isep.fr/histelcon)

### IEEE ETFA 2008

13th IEEE International Conference on Emerging Technologies and Factory Automation  
15–18 September 2008  
Hamburg, Germany  
[www2.hsu-hh.de/aut](http://www2.hsu-hh.de/aut)

### IEEE PIMRC 2008

2008 IEEE 19th International Symposium on Personal, Indoor and Mobile Radio Communications  
15–18 September 2008  
Cannes, France  
[www.pimrc2008.org](http://www.pimrc2008.org)

### IEEE GFP 2008

5th International Conference on Group IV Photonics  
17–19 September 2008  
Sorrento, Italy  
[www.ieee.org/organizations/society/leos/LEOSCONF/GFP2008](http://www.ieee.org/organizations/society/leos/LEOSCONF/GFP2008)

### IROS 2008

IEEE/RSJ 2008 International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems  
22–26 September 2008  
Nice, France  
<http://iros2008.inria.fr>

## OCTOBER

### TABLETOP 2008

2008 IEEE International Workshop on Horizontal Interactive Human Computer System  
1–3 October 2008  
Amsterdam, the Netherlands  
[www.ieeetabletop.org](http://www.ieeetabletop.org)

### SWIN 2008

First International Workshop on Simulators for Wireless Networks  
12 October 2008  
Avignon, France  
<http://www.ieee.org/go/swin2008>

### WiMob 2008

2008 IEEE International Conference on Wireless and Mobile Computing, Networking and Communications  
12–14 October 2008  
Avignon, France  
[www.lia.univ-avignon.fr/wimob2008](http://www.lia.univ-avignon.fr/wimob2008)

### CAS 2008

2008 International Semiconductor Conference  
13–15 October 2008  
Sinaia, Romania  
[www.imt.ro/CAS](http://www.imt.ro/CAS)

### PASSIVE 2008

2008 New Trends For Environmental Monitoring Using Passive Systems  
14–17 October 2008  
Hyères, French Riviera, France  
[www.passive08-hyeres.org](http://www.passive08-hyeres.org)

### IEEE NSS 2008

IEEE 2008 Nuclear Science Symposium, Medical Imaging Conference and 16th Room Temperature Semiconductor Detector Workshop  
19–25 October 2008  
Dresden, Germany  
[www.nss-mic.org/2008](http://www.nss-mic.org/2008)

### EUM Week 2008

European Microwave Week 2008  
27–31 October 2008  
Amsterdam, the Netherlands  
[www.eumweek.com](http://www.eumweek.com)

## NOVEMBER

### NORCHIP 2008

The Nordic Microelectronics Event  
16–17 November 2008  
Tallinn, Estonia  
[www.norchip.org](http://www.norchip.org)

### INMMiC 2008

International Workshop on Integrated Nonlinear Microwave and Millimetre-wave Circuits  
24–25 November 2008  
Málaga, Spain  
[www.inmmic.org](http://www.inmmic.org)

### TELFOR 2008

16th Telecommunications Forum  
25–27 November 2008  
Sava Center, Belgrade, Serbia  
[www.telfor.rs](http://www.telfor.rs)

## DECEMBER

### IEEEI 2008

2008 IEEE 25-th Convention of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in Israel  
3–5 December 2008  
Eilat, Israel  
[www.eng.tau.ac.il/~ieei/Convention](http://www.eng.tau.ac.il/~ieei/Convention)

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