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Whatever happened to industry recruits?

THE 9th Sections Congress, SC'08, held in Quebec City, was the largest yet, attracting more than 1,000 delegates.

One of the plenary talks was given by Dr Ibrahim Gedeon, CTO of Telus Communications in Canada. His basic message was not one that the delegates really wanted to hear: he reported that he had offered his staff at Telus free IEEE membership, but found that very few of the 800 engineers were interested. Gedeon suggested that the rising generation of engineers does not believe IEEE membership is relevant to their careers.

In fact, IEEE's own surveys have also found this is a common complaint amongst members who decide not to renew their membership. While IEEE continues successfully to recruit and retain members from academia, the industry sector remains a challenge.

How should IEEE respond to this problem? Consider how IEEE is seen from the point of view of the typical member in industry. For some, perhaps too many, IEEE appears to be biased too heavily towards the 'academic/technical', at the expense of the 'industrial/professional' aspect of an engineer's career. Most engineers start their careers primarily in a technical role

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Above: The full extent of the Zambezi Rapids hydro-electric scheme as seen from the air. **Right:** An implementation team installs a distribution transformer that will power up a mobile phone tower.

Zambezi hydro-electric scheme gets ready for its next phase

IN THE north-western corner of Zambia flows the Zambezi, one of Africa's largest rivers. Not far away, the Kalene district suffers a classic poverty cycle. With few educational and employment prospects, the local people struggle from day to day against malaria, HIV/AIDS and malnutrition. They exist by slash-and-burn subsistence farming and, as the population has grown, the environment has degraded.

For their electricity, the local hospital and secondary school rely on ex-

pensive diesel generators that run on scarce imported fuel. With the national grid 270km away, another solution was required.

The Zambezi river was an obvious source of clean electric power. Dr Peter Gill, a surgeon from Durham, England, who for many years had volunteered his medical skills at the Kalene hospital, dreamed of a way to achieve this.

In 2003, together with electrical engineer Les White, civil engineer Charles Rea and other Zambian community

volunteers, a development project was started. The North West Zambia Development Trust (www.NWZDT.org) was formed to raise finance and develop hydroelectric power in the area.

The project aims to provide inexpensive, clean and sustainable power to the local communities around historic Kalene Hospital, the local schools, clinics and orphanage. The second – and current – phase is to bring electricity to homes and small businesses to be the

(continued on page 2)

Zambia's Minister of Energy, Mr K Konga, cuts the ribbon in July 2007 before switching on the turbine (right).



Zambezi Rapids hydro-electric scheme

[continued from page 1]

foundation of a self-sustaining, developing local economy.

The story from there is fascinating: with only £1,000 to start, volunteers began fundraising, planning and organizing the project. People around the world offered their expertise, materials and skills without salary. One of the project engineers even visited China to learn from its wide-ranging designs for small hydro power schemes.

Through a local contractor, the civil engineering work began in 2004. A road to the river, a weir, a 400-metre diversion canal, penstocks and a powerhouse were built by local people using local materials. The powerhouse was designed to accommodate two 6,000-litre/sec Ossberger crossflow water turbines, operating with a head of 17 metres at 151rpm.

At present, only one turbine is installed, allowing for future expansion. It drives through an oil-cooled gearbox to a 700kW alternator running at 1,000rpm. Power from the hydro station is stepped up from 400V to 33kV on site and supplies the 33kV network. Northern Ireland Electricity donated transformers, and Scottish Electricity donated some of the cable for the powerstation.

In July 2007 the first phase was commissioned, supplying 100kw to the mission hospital. It was completed within the initial budget estimate of £1.2 million, despite huge cost inflation.

The current focus is to distribute power to local schools, clinics and many small villages and a commercial farm 25km away. It is anticipated Single Wire Earth Return technology will be introduced as the transmission system. With the help of the Australian company Ergon Energy, 'SWER into Zambia' plans to build the first SWER pilot. Spur lines will bring affordable electricity for lighting, radio, communications to dozens of surrounding villages – a massive project to electrify the whole area which will boost the local economy. NWZDT is also working closely with the government.

Experienced electrical, electronics and communications engineers are needed to

volunteer to help build the power distribution network, to design and build the communications and control systems that will be needed. Donations of LV equipment, transformers, switch gear, or communication equipment desperately sought.

Please direct any enquires to Ross Ferguson at zplimited@gmail.com.

I would like to thank Daniel Rea, a trustee for the NWZDT who I interviewed. As part of his training to become a chartered civil engineer at Ove Arup & Partners, in 2004-2006 Daniel volunteered to work as site engineer, and he was honoured by *Building Magazine* with an Achiever of the Year award in 2007. In 2008 he and a companion spent 112 days riding 32,000km through 23 countries around the world on motorcycles to raise money for the hydroelectric project that he helped create. Read his story at <http://ukcan20.googlepages.com> and www.justgiving.com/ukcan20.

Zhijia Huang

Zhijia.huang@ieee.org



Above: Installation of the conductors for the main transformer in the main substation.

Below: Construction workers arriving on site.



EUROCON 2009

18–23 May 2009
St Petersburg, Russia

Eurocon 2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Popov (1859–1906)

Venue: St Petersburg Electrotechnical University (LETI)

Web: <http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/russia/nw/cem/eurocon2009>

Industry recruits

[continued from page 1]

for which they find IEEE's publications and conferences invaluable. Within a decade, however, most acquire significant management responsibilities and rely increasingly on business and professional skills to advance their career.

If IEEE membership is to remain relevant throughout a 40-year career span, this change of job function needs to be acknowledged more explicitly. The IEEE brand, respected and admired internationally for its guarantee of technical excellence, needs to project a new image in which 'professionalism' is given much greater emphasis. This would demonstrate that IEEE is committed and actively addresses the top priority of all members: their careers, whether in industry, academia or government service.

Currently, there are some excellent career-related programs being offered to members, particularly in the USA where IEEE-USA plays an important role. It offers a wide range of products and services, supporting members, helping them to achieve their career goals, enhancing their professional skills, and providing help with employment-related issues.

However, the financial resources allocated to this activity represent a tiny fraction of IEEE's total budget. In Regions 7 to 10, there are very limited resources available to support Professional Activities. The overall result is

that the scale of the service that IEEE offers its members in this area is far too small, and wholly incommensurate with the personal priorities of the individual member. The IEEE-USA program could be expanded globally to fill this gap so that all members can enjoy its benefits.

The Engineering Management Society has been transformed recently into the Technology Management Council. This could point the way to making IEEE more relevant to working engineers, by becoming the catalyst for a major structural change.

Consider a new, different, kind of IEEE presenting two major streams of activity: a Technical Division and a Professional (Technology Management) Division. Every member would belong to both Divisions. Further development of this idea and others can be discussed.

Returning to the main challenge that Dr Gedeon issued in his talk at SC'08, the question is: would his staff have responded differently to his offer if they had been presented with this type of model? Would they feel that it offered them greater support in their workplace, helping them to develop their careers, as well as serving their technical needs?

The proposal needs further discussion and refinement, but without a major change of this kind, IEEE will continue to experience problems recruiting and retaining members from industry.

Charles Turner
Region 8 Professional
Activities Sub-Committee
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AFRICON 2009

www.africon2009.org

23-25 September 2009 • Nairobi, Kenya

AFRICON, the top-event of IEEE in Africa, is a forum for professionals, academia and industry to exchange ideas, present their newest research findings and to network. Be there for experiencing top-notch science and a vibrant social program in beautiful Kenya!

Gerrit Niezen, office@africon2009.org, +27 12 420 3736

PASC team sets up for two years

YOU MIGHT say: "IEEE is too academic and technical" and "IEEE is not relevant to the career development of engineers". Well, we don't believe so!

IEEE Region8 Professional Activities Sub-Committee (PASC) will serve for two years to conduct activities

regarding members' careers and which enhance non-technical professional skills. Career Management, Employment Assistance, Job-related training (Soft skills), Job-related qualifications, Public Awareness, Workforce development, Public Policy and Government Relations

are all within the scope of the committee.

PASC for 2009 is: Emine Gokce Aydal (Chair) from UKRI Section, Gokhan Celebi from Turkey Section, Luka Lugaric from Croatia Section, Erik Stilling from Denmark Section and Charles Turner from UKRI Section.

Workshops, seminars and a Professional Activities Congress (PAC) for IEEE members include:

- Online Conference for Patents by Gerald Anleitner
- Project Management by Matej Zajc
- Leadership Skills by Kurt Richter
- IEEE Baltic Co-operation – PA by Eric Stilling.

We also would like to thank Gerald Anleitner, Kurt Richter and Matej Zajc for their valuable contributions to PASC over the past years.

Stay tuned to what is going on in IEEE R8 PASC by visiting www.ieee.org/r8, and clicking on Membership Activities, Professional Activities. Alternatively, you can send an e-mail to contactr8pa@ieee.org.

Join the professionals

REGION 8 Professional Activities Sub-Committee would like to hear from you if you are interested in becoming one of our trainers or speakers.

Professional activities include any activities that might be of interest to IEEE members regarding their careers and can enhance their non-technical professional skills.

This includes 'soft skills' training, psychological and sociological issues within the business world, as well as economics-related topics.

We assess workshop proposals from all the sections of Region 8 (Europe, Middle East, Africa and Russia), and fund the travel expenses of the speakers to give workshops in one of the following areas: Project Management, Leadership, Technology and Business, Managing your workload, Conducting research for industry, Communication, Problem/risk management, Influencing people, Interviewing, Selling your ideas, CV Writing, Effective Job Search, Intellectual property issues, Standards, Body Language, Presentational skills.

If you are an IEEE member who can give training in one of those or similar areas, please send your CV with the description of your workshop proposal to contactr8pa@ieee.org.

Henrich Lantsberg remembered

DR HENRICH Lantsberg passed away on 20 January 2009 after a long illness. Born Lantsberg Henrich Semenovich on 2 July 1922 in Moscow, he went on to serve in the Soviet Army between 1940 and 1954. He later joined the Academy of Sciences where he advanced to Head of Department at the Institute of Radio-engineering and Electronics.

Henrich Lantsberg was a Senior Life Member of IEEE, Vice-Chair of the IEEE Russia Section, and a member of the Popov Society Central Board. He founded and assisted development of 14 Chapters of the IEEE Russia Section and was especially active in the Professional Communications, Broadcasting Technology and Communications Chapters.

He was closely involved



in setting up agreements between IEEE and the Russian Popov Society for Radio Engineering, Electronics and Communications. To him, this was an important step in the sharing of scientific information between two of

the largest professional societies in the world.

Henrich will be remembered as a good friend and a warm person, as well as an energetic volunteer of both the Popov Society and IEEE.

Jacob Baal-Schem

IEEE Contact Center

THE IEEE Contact Center offers IEEE members in Region 8 the option of having an IEEE Contact Center Representative call you during specific hours. Callback hours are Sunday 23:00 GMT to Wednesday 21:00 GMT. To operate this service, you must request the callback by filling in details on this web page: www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/help/contact/autocallbackform.html

Educational Activities surveys needs of Sections

IN 2008, the IEEE Educational Activities team, chaired by Dr Fanny Klett, Fraunhofer Institute Digital Media Technology, Germany, started with a survey to identify Sections' Needs. These were found to be:

■ Continuing education with ExpertNow modules (online learning courses) spread to Chapters, Student Branches and universities.

■ The TryEngineering Project: Pre-University offers a variety of lesson plans to help teachers and students apply engineering principles in the classroom (TISP – Teachers-in-Service Program). Lessons are available in several languages: Spanish, French, Portuguese, German, Russian, Chinese and Japanese.

■ Activities on continuing education coordinated by Matej Zajc led to the organization of some general workshops (Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia) or dedicated to students and GOLD members (London).

Victor Fouad Hanna carried out much work on accreditation for the European countries, and was helped by Duncan Baker, South Africa.

The new IEEE R8 Education Activities team started its activities on 1 January this year, chaired by João Costa Frere, with plans for:

- Pre-University education,

implementing TISP in Region 8. Contact klt@idmt.fraunhofer.de and bakr.hassan@gmail.com.

■ Supporting the use of ExpertNow modules and organising sessions with experts from industry (contact J.Biemon@TUDelft.nl). Workshops on technical English (jcostafreire@ieee.org).

■ Accreditation activities, now in conjunction with chapter chairs will be mainly focussed in sections where the process is less well advanced. Contact A.Pacut@ia.pw.edu.pl.

We shall cooperate with IEEE Education Activities Board on the new Standards in Education Initiative and on the organisation of a Second Conference on Pre-University Education to overcome the looming shortage in qualified engineers.

We are here to serve but we need your support and initiatives. However, we cannot do the local work, so any members interested in education activities should contact their local Chapters and Sections and ask for support on their initiatives to our sub-committee. As an example, we plan to support a summer camp in Macedonia for students aged from 10 to 16 from Balkan countries to promote robotics and computer engineering careers.

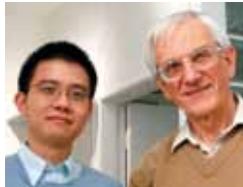
João Costa Frere

WIE newsletter update

THE LATEST issue of IEEE Women In Engineering Newsletter can be found at www.ieee.org/women.

New face for R8N editorial team

PLEASE WELCOME our new assistant editor, Zhijia Huang, a Postgraduate student at Queen Mary University, London. Readers may already recognize Zhijia, who was a leader in organizing the Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2008 in London.



Your editors: Zhijia Huang and Roland Saam

Our lead article describes the Zambezi Rapids Hydro-Electric Scheme in Zambia, which is a remarkable achievement built entirely by the generosity of people around the world giving their expertise, materials and money. In 2007, the first electricity was supplied to Kalene Mission Hospital. The next stage is to distribute electrical power.

To build it, experienced electrical, electronics and communications engineers are wanted to volunteer. If you can give six months or more of your life to help this project in rural Africa, please contact them.

Elsewhere, please read the item from IEEE Zambia Section chair Reuben Mungwe (*page 6*).

There are more than 50 reports in these pages about activities throughout our region. They tell the world that we are engaged in our profession, taking part in developments and reaching out with workshops, seminars, industry visits, history, etc.

We want to hear about your events and projects. Read the tips for contributors on our web page and send a brief outline to r8news@ieee.org for us to consider.

Roland Saam, Editor

Letter to the Editor:

'Research shows...'

HOW OFTEN do we hear these words used in the media? Just about every new opinion (especially when it emanates from universities or government) is prefaced by this phrase, yet how often do we pause to question the design of the research protocol involved or (when it concerns opinion polls) the design of the questionnaire?

Often this research has been carried out in pursuit of a PhD. While original research may be a legitimate academic requirement, in most cases the author's aim is to secure a PhD, and not to advance the fund of general knowledge. Moreover, such research is aimed at proving a theory, so there is a natural tendency for the author to assume what he or she is trying to prove.

And then of course there is research sponsored by commercial interests which

can be patently biased but which is usually presented with all the pomp and ceremony of legitimate scientific enterprise.

Research is, of course, a fundamental element in our drive for knowledge and understanding. But should we not apply a little more scepticism (and dare I say common sense) to the torrent of so-called research with which we are confronted? We should be doubly sceptic when such research relates to generalisations about human behavior and attitudes, which are especially difficult to describe and quantify.

Let's remember that next week we shall be probably be confronted with a headline claiming that 'new' research shows something or other. So the old research was wrong, was it? We would never have guessed.

Roy Callow

region8news

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Bylaws and descriptions of the committee offices — refer to www.ieee.org/r8

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of Engineering the Future

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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, 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.

Deadlines for upcoming issues

August 2009 issue *deadline: 1 June 2009*
November 2009 issue..... *deadline: 1 September 2009*
January 2010 issue..... *deadline: 1 November 2009*
April 2010 issue *deadline: 1 February 2010*

2008 WAS quite eventful for the IEEE Ukrainian Section – Instrumentation & Measurement/Computational Intelligence Joint Societies Chapter, and this year is also promising exciting events.

We were involved in international research projects (CRDF, NATO, bilateral) with the universities of Germany, Turkey and USA on mobile robot vision, perimeter security systems, intelligent distributed sensors, etc. The international co-operation found ex-

Ukraine Section Joint Chapter plans further research projects

pression in joint publications, conference meetings and bilateral visits. New research will start in 2009 with the universities of Bulgaria and Lithuania on face detection and recognition, and mobile robot navigation.

During 2008, the Chapter organized three Technical

Meetings. The last gathered 51 participants from a variety of Ukrainian cities, including Ternopil, Odessa, Lviv and Chernivtsi.

We heard interesting presentations on issues of image processing and recognition, biometrics and face detection. Participants

exchanged their research results and discussed the ideas of future cooperation.

Currently, the Chapter is actively preparing the IEEE Fifth International Workshop on Intelligent Data Acquisition and Advanced Computing Systems: Technology and Applications (IDAACS'2009,

www.idaacs.net), which will be held in Rende (Cosenza), Italy, on 21–23 September 2009. The goal of IDAACS workshops is to establish a bridge between Western and Eastern countries, and to enhance research contacts among scientists worldwide.

We strongly believe that only international co-operation may push the science to a new level of development, and the IEEE is a very important and powerful tool for us to reach this goal.

Russia Northwest Section expands English program

THE TECHNICAL English Program (TEP) now covers 63 students, all IEEE members. The spring semester 2008 ended with an outstanding eight-hour tutorial conducted by Moshe Kam and Evangelia Tzanakou on 24 May in the beautiful St Petersburg Renaissance Hotel with 38 participants.

Recently, Moshe Kam and his assistants gave a seven-hour TEP tutorial for 29 students in the Radisson

SAS Hotel. Our target for October 2009 is to arrange a worldwide IEEE workshop for Technical English Program teachers and supporters.

We are now preparing for the IEEE Region 8 Conference EUROCON2009 in St Petersburg on 18–23 May. We already have 518 papers to be reported at 19 tracks and sessions. Please visit www.ieee.org/go/eurocon2009.

Alexander Mikerov



IAS/PELS/IES rounds up 2008 with electronics factory visit

IEEE JOINT IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter held its last 2008 meeting on 16–17 October in Schönaich, Germany. The host company was Dr Fritz Faulhaber GmbH & Co KG, specialists in the field of mini- and micro-electrical drive systems worldwide. A get-together dinner in Lago restaurant in Böblingen, was sponsored by our host.

Managing director Thomas Bertolini introduced the history of the Dr Fritz Faulhaber Company and its field of activities and manufacturing, such as tiny electrical DC-motors with a diameter of just 1.9mm.

Herbert Wallner introduced the functionality of some types of rotor position or speed sensors for mini and micro drive systems and the criteria for choosing the proper sensor for each application. Andreas Wagener and Achim Haag presented the control strategies for the high performance positioning drives such as the one applied in Surface Mounted Device (SMD) fabrication machines.

In the IEEE-business part of the meeting, Prof Heinz van der Broeck, the IEEE Joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter Chairman, told us of upcoming events. The IAS Outstanding Continued Performing Chapter Award 2008 was presented by Past Chapter Chairman Peter Magyar, who had accepted this award during the 2008 IEEE Industry Applications Society Annual Meeting in Edmonton, Canada.

New elected officers are Ingo Hahn of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg as Chairman, Edwin Kiel Vice Chairman, Axel Mertens of

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover as Secretary and Mark Bakran of Siemens AG as Treasurer.

The remaining program included Thomas Fuchs presenting “measurement, analysis and damping of noise and vibration of electrical drive systems”. Claus Herrmann introduced the site and its production lines. Jens Haug talked about innovation management at Dr Fritz Faulhaber Company.

Visit our website: ewh.ieee.org/r8/germany/ias-pels.

Omid Forati Kashani
IEEE Joint IAS/PELS/IES
German Chapter

Awards presented during annual banquet in Croatia



CROATIA SECTION held its Annual Award Banquet on 26 November 2008 in Hotel Regent Esplanade Zagreb with about 160 members attending. The recipients included:

- Petar Biljanovic – 2008 IEEE Croatia Section Nikola Tesla Award for outstanding contribution in microelectronics.

- Vesna Roje – 2008 IEEE Croatia Section Distinguished Service Award for outstanding volunteer work.
- Goran Martinovic – 2008 IEEE Croatia Section Outstanding Educator Award

for excellence in educational work.

- Srebrenka Ursic – 2008 IEEE Croatia Section Outstanding Engineering Award.

- Koncar Power Systems and Transport – 2008 Friend of IEEE Award for outstanding contribution to IEEE Croatia Section.

New Section leaders for 2009–2010 were elected. There are: Igor Kuzle (Chair), Mislav Grgic (Vice Chair), Maja Matijasevic (Secretary) and Aleksandar Szabo (Treasurer).

Sven Loncaric



Chapter members visit the Dr Fritz Faulhaber company site.



Forty research papers delivered at Wilga 23

THE 23RD Symposium on Advanced Applications of Photonic and Electronic Control and Measurement Systems was held during the weekend 30–31 January 2009 at the Faculty of Electronics and Information Technologies, Warsaw University of Technology.

50 young researchers from WUT and collaborating institutions such as DESY, CERN and Max-Planck Institute were in attendance, and more than 40 research papers were presented in English. Support was given by the Photonics Society of Poland, the Committee of Electronics and Telecommunications of Polish Academy of Sciences, FE&IW WUT, IEEE-R8 and SPIE-Europe.

WILGA Symposia focus on the advanced applications of photonic and electronic

distributed, large, control and measurement systems in high energy physics research, astrophysics of elementary particles, superconducting accelerator technology, laser technology of FEL, and so on.

The Symposium is organized twice a year, the May event sometimes attracting up to 350 young researchers from Poland and from all Europe. The next is scheduled for 25–31 May 2009.

The organizers warmly invite BSc, MSc and PhD students, young researchers and their tutors/mentors to WILGA. There is no entrance fee. Cheap accommodation and inexpensive (but excellent!) food is offered by the summer WUT WILGA Resort staff. For full information, go to: <http://wilga.ise.pw.edu.pl>

Ryszard S. Romaniuk
WILGA Symposium Chair

Promotional work and a busy year ahead for Iraq Section

THE IRAQ Section chair, Sattar Sadkhan, has conducted a series of IEEE promotions of IEEE in Iraq.

Last November at the 2nd Conference of Alkendi Organization, Sadkhan presented a paper on the current status of research in the communication system in Iraq. From 28 to 30 Nov 2008, he also went to Basrah University Engineering College to talk about IEEE. He discussed IEEE membership too with the President of the Basrah Bureau of Engineering. At a workshop in computer science on 4 December 2008, Kufa University, some 70 students signed up.

On the invitation of Minister of Communication, a meeting was held with the senior staff of the ministry to discuss the problems in the field of Iraqi communications field. We offered our help, and the ministry promised to prepare a draft of their problems for us.

Sadkhan delivered a lecture about the IEEE and its benefits at the First Con-

ference of Iraqi Informatics society, held in Almansour Hotel, Baghdad.

A workshop was held in January at the Institute of AlFurat Alawset for Electricity Distribution in Babylon City. We agreed to form teams for Scientific Cooperation:

- Training Course for SCADA.

- Solving the problems of frequency compatibility for wireless communication systems.

- Study the possibilities of scrambling handheld communication transceivers.

- Study the use of cross-connect instruments that connect wireless transceiver

ers with wired lines.

Several workshops are planned for 2009. These include computer science and mathematics at AlMustansyria University, and an Iraqi Engineering Union workshop for engineers in governmental institutes inside Baghdad.

Within Babylon University, 4th year computer science students agreed to design a website for the IEEE Iraq section. Dr Nidaa Abbas will follow its progress.

Finally, we hope to concentrate our efforts towards the Kurdistan region and the universities inside this region.

Sattar Sadkhan
Chair, IEEE IRAQ Section



Attendees at the WIE event, hosted by the Bosnia and Herzegovina WIE Affinity Group.

ISSPIT 2008 is a hit in Sarajevo

THE 8TH IEEE Symposium on Signal Processing and Information Technology (ISSPIT) was hosted by IEEE Bosnia and Herzegovina Section in Sarajevo from 15 to 19 December 2008.

ISSPIT is a series that covers quite a broad subject, and deliberately so. The aim is to bring together professionals with computer science and with engineering

backgrounds who are working on signal processing.

Dr Eric Rouchka from the University of Louisville, USA, gave a keynote entitled 'Sequence-Based Bioinformatics: the Roots of Genomic Signal Processing'. Dr Leonardo Bocchi from the University of Florence, Italy, delivered a lecture on 'Image Segmentation: From Active Contours to Evolving Systems'.

A rich cultural and social programme and a special WIE event – 'Distinguished Women in the field of Signal Processing in BiH' – was also held at the University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Electrical Engineering. The speakers at this event were Branslava Drazenov and Lejla Banjanovic-Mehmedovic.

Dusanka Boskovic
www.isspit.org/isspit/2008

Zambia Section news

THE FOLLOWING events are being organized in the new IEEE Zambia Section:

- IEEE Zambia Rural Development Seminar/ 125th IEEE Anniversary Celebrations: this will be a one-day seminar on rural development and a technical visit to LinkNet to be held in Macha on 23 May 2009. All IEEE members are encouraged to be part of this event. We will have visitors from other IEEE GOLD, IEEE Sections and Region 8.

This activity will accord us an unparalleled networking opportunity and will also make participants appreciate the relevance of rural development and plans for making Zambia a better place to live in. More information from munungwer@cec.com.zm.

- IEEE Zambia Sustainable

Progress Meeting with the University of Zambia on 21 August 2009. IEEE Zambia will donate some educational materials to the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering. IEEE Zambia will be demonstrating that for any technology to be sustainable, one needs to stay current with the fast changing world of technology.

These events will help to promote how we want to make IEEE Zambia a model of making IEEE realize its core purpose of fostering technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity. We want also to demonstrate the relevance of our great professional organization to the Zambian public.

Reuben Munungwe
kmunungwe@yahoo.co.uk

Discover the very real world of robotics in Second Life

A PROJECT entitled 'Establishing IEEE/RAS Points of Presence and Initiatives in Second Life', is being run by the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society and by the Italian RAS Chapter, funded by IEEE RAS 2007 New Initiatives Grants.

Virtual worlds (computer-simulated 3D worlds in which people can experience fully immersive alternative lives) are quickly growing. Among these, Second Life (SL) is the most famous. Our project aims at using SL as a means to spread robotics culture and investigate possible paradigms of social interaction in heterogeneous communities of robots and humans.

As a first step, a point of presence was established in SL through the development of a building to represent and host the IEEE-RAS activities. Each of five floors is focused on a particular theme. On the first floor, a virtual help-desk assistant receives users and provides information on the building and the whole project. The second floor acts as a repository of information about the IEEE-RAS, while on the third floor users can find information, examples and tutorials on how to use SL and how to design, build and control a robot. The last two floors are virtual auditoria that can be used to organize and attend events.

All around the IEEE-RAS site there are circumscribed areas devoted to robotic demonstrations. Each reproduces the kinematic behaviour of a robot controlled to perform a specific task. All robots are programmed to interact with the avatars.

In the first demo, three robots are controlled in a leader-followers formation, led by any avatar entering the area. In the second demo, there is an anthropomorphic robot simulating a bartender serving beverages to avatars in the bar area. Two other demos have been designed



IEEE-RAS activities are hosted in this five-storey building.

and implemented in SL: a path-follower robot, where avatars can change the path to be followed by the robot, and a football-player robot playing with avatars.

Since SL can attract the interest of young students (the main audience for which the IEEE-RAS point of presence has been designed), they are also introduced to

robotics in an amusing way by implementing kinematics, dynamics, sensing and control of these simple robots.

For more information, visit <http://sirslab.dii.unisi.it/websitesl> and www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFj2PmaBXJw&feature=channel_page

Domenico Prattichizzo
Sara Mulatto
prattichizzo@ing.unisi.it



Students helped to staff the IEEE Jordan Section booth

Jordan Section makes a stand at METS 08

DURING 18–21 December 2008, the IEEE Jordan section participated in the Middle East Technology Show 2008 (METS 08) hosted by the Jordan Computer Society. This is a yearly gathering of all the major ITC companies in Jordan and the Middle East region.

Our section organized a series of eight technical lectures on subjects such as computer security, modern software engineering methods, multi-core processors, and the ITC sector in Jordan. Presentations by professional speakers attracted audiences

of around 50–100. An IEEE Jordan Section Information stand was manned by students, giving them confidence to meet the public.

A week later, on 23 December, the Malaysian astronaut Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor visited Jordan. In collaboration with the Jordan Engineers Association, we invited him to tell us his experiences of outer space. It was attended by nearly 200. These two activities had a great impact.

Ali El-Mousa
Chair, IEEE Jordan Section
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Left to right: Hannelies Kluge, Jane Lehr, Joanna Izewska, Sara Pozzi, Barbara Obryk, Maryam Al Thani, Francesca Nessi-Tedaldi.

WIE Session helps exchange ideas during NSS/MIC/RTSD in Dresden

IEEE WOMEN in Engineering met on 23 October 2008 during the 2008 IEEE NSS/MIC/RTSD in Dresden, Germany. This large and international conference with 3,000 participants from 60 countries presented an outstanding opportunity for WIE.

The session, organized by Barbara Obryk (IFJ, Poland) and Maryam Al Thani (WIE R8 Coordinator), let us exchange ideas and information on issues important to women in science and engineering and to general public.

A welcome by Uwe Bratzer included special greet-

ings from the Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel – a physicist herself.

The WIE Session guests included Joanna Izewska of IAEA, Hannelies Kluge of DESY, Jane Lehr of Sandia National Laboratories, Francesca Nessi-Tedaldi of ETH Zurich and Sara Pozzi of University of Michigan. A talk by Jane Lehr, the NPSS President, shared her experience of managing scientific work alongside family life.

Hannelies Kluge, of the Working Group for Equal Opportunities of the German Physical Society, spoke about

best practices in equal opportunities for female physicists. Sara Pozzi discussed challenges in nuclear energy and nonproliferation, and women's contributions to 20th century nuclear physics.

Francesca Nessi-Tedaldi presented her very personal experience of raising a family without interrupting her professional career.

A second WIE Session is planned during the 2009 NSS/MIC in Orlando, Florida. Visit <http://spn-nssmic.ifj.edu.pl/wie.html>.

Barbara Obryk
barbara.obryk@ifj.edu.pl

Better patient care with biomedical engineering

A SEMINAR on biomedical engineering and its international society was held by UAE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society Chapter and AUS IEEE Student Branch on 25 February 2009, at the American University of Sharjah.

The hosts, Jorge Monzon and Ahmed Morsy, presented the field of biomedical engineering and the combination of design and problem solving skills of engineering with medical and biological sciences to help to improve patient health care and the quality of life. Typical challenges were also raised by researchers and practitioners working in BME.

Soha Jawabreh
WIE Secretary, Sharjah, UAE
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2009 GOLD committee in Region 8

YOUR 2008 GOLD committee, led by Eva Lang with João Figueiras, Pilar Molina and Marko Delimar, has been busy with several major activities.

The most important event was the first ever worldwide GOLD summit held in Quebec City, Canada. Then we helped organize the IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress in London, UK, and also participated in the OPCOM meeting in Malta. We have 22 official GOLD Affinity Groups in Region 8.

For 2009, the committee is led by João Figueiras, with Emre Ayranci, Nahel Muhammad, Eva Lang and Pilar Molina. Advised by MGA, the committee will focus mainly on:

- Facilitating recruitment, training, development of IEEE volunteer leaders.

- Helping GOLD / Technology professionals to understand IEEE membership's importance to their careers.

To meet such objectives, the committee is willing to promote and foster the realization of the STEP program to every AG within Region 8.

João Figueiras
Region 8 GOLD Activities
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Greece Affinity Group hit GOLD during 2008

IEEE GREECE GOLD Affinity Group (www.nsklavos.gr/IEEEGoldGreece.html) was formed on October 2007.

We kicked off the first year by sponsoring several conferences and workshops. These were the IEEE GOLD Remote Sensing Conference, Italy, on 22-23 May 2008; a workshop on 'Development of Leadership Skills', Italy, on 3-4 July; and a workshop on 'Security of Communication Systems', part of the International Conference on New Technologies, Mobility & Security (NTMS'08), held in Morocco on 5-7 November.

We also helped to organize other meetings, seminars and lectures in order to attract interest from scientists and volunteers to the IEEE activities, especially young engineers.

The group is participating in the celebration of 125 years of IEEE. The volunteers of Technological Educational Institute of Patras joined the worldwide anniversary video, with their own video clip!

The group will organize networking meetings with other branches in Greece. The events that are held between members of similar councils are also on the agenda of this year's activi-

The Group plans to organize a wide variety of events this year.



ties. We also include some scientific and entertaining events this year, in order to attract even more interest to the group. With the help and dedication of our volunteers,

we are looking forward for a successful year in science, research and fun!

Nicolas Sklavos
IEEE Greece Section GOLD
Affinity Group Chair



New GOLDies welcomed in Spain with reception

A GRADUATION and welcome reception for student members who recently obtained their degrees was organized by Spain GOLD AG on 29 November 2008.

The reception took place in Madrid, where Manuel Sierra, chairman of Spain Section, welcomed the new GOLDies. Enrique Jalle, CEO Zener Telecom Systems and founder of seven differ-

ent companies, delivered a speech about career development. After the talk, the program included a presentation of IEEE benefits, and a kick-off for 125th anniversary celebrations in Spain.

This event is included in the STEP program, addressed to show student members the benefits of keeping membership current after graduation.

Antonio Luque

Join IEEE's 125th Anniversary virtual event

DURING 2009, IEEE will celebrate 125 Years of Engineering with a year-long celebration around the globe. IEEE Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) have started their own virtual 125th Anniversary event by inviting members and non-members to create short video clips that will be connected to form a fun anniversary video.

GOLD members are encouraged to visit the website at www.goldaroundtheworld.com, view the video, download and print out a copy of the IEEE's 125th Anniversary mark, and create their own video clip with a maximum of 10 seconds in length.

The video should appear as if people are passing along the Anniversary mark from person to person, and from place to place. Volunteers at Region 8 GOLD committee, who conceived the project, are maintaining the website and



connecting the short clips to make the larger video.

The end result is a video that takes the IEEE 125th Anniversary mark and the celebration all around the world. Guidelines and specifications for making and posting videos are found on the website. For general information on the IEEE's 125th Anniversary, visit www.ieee125.org.

This event will be closed on December 2009 and the final cut will be ready by the beginning of 2010. It will also be placed on YouTube for global awareness.

João Figueiras
Region 8 GOLD Activities

Tanta University, Egypt: Tanta SB trains 600 students for careers

TANTA STUDENT Branch held a Mid-Year Training event to help students prepare for their business and professional careers.

The Mid-Year Trainings were held on 4-14 February 2009. There are a number of soft-skills courses, focusing on presentation, communication, team working and business writing skills. The students attending came not only from the Engineering departments of Tanta University, but also from other colleges in different states.

These events originally targeted students in competitions sponsored by the IEEE Tanta SB, such as the 'Made in University' (MIU) event for second and third-year engineering students, and 'Motivation Information Creation (MIC)' for first year students. However, they are now also attracting graduate students.

You can watch videos of our various training events on YouTube and FaceBook.

Mohammed Kafafy
Chair, IEEE Tanta SB
mkafafy@ieeetsb.org

R8 counsellor program plans to rejuvenate Student Branches

REGION 8 has launched a Student Branch Counsellor program. This aims to rejuvenate Student Branches and to co-ordinate IEEE efforts between Faculties, IEEE Student Members and their Student Branches.

You can find a dedicated webpage at www.ieee.org/r8sac. Currently, Region 8 has 200+ active counsellors. An award has been announced and we want your nominations!

Saurabh Sinha
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Balqa'a Applied University, Jordan:

New students are offered IEEE and WIE registration

AT JORDAN'S Balqa'a Applied University Faculty of Engineering Technology (BAU), Women In Engineering and the Student Branch held many activities in the last semester.

A team of WIE members and volunteers organized a registration party for new students, where we introduced IEEE and WIE, and handed out detailed brochures about the branch's activities.

An IEEE-BAU Friends Club was established with the aim of spreading the knowledge of IEEE and WIE throughout the university.

Through the semester, a team participated in the 'Made In Jordan' competition developed by Queen Rania Center. Our team attended the related courses: technical, soft skills and business.

We are organizing weekly activities in the Student Branch:

- Lectures in Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP).
- Lectures to improve our spoken English.
- Translation of articles from *IEEE Spectrum*.
- A series of 'How it works' lectures.

The media committee designed a new brochure and orientation files about IEEE and WIE to be distributed in all activities. This committee trained intensively on Adobe PhotoShop software in a course delivered by the IT counsellor Mohammad Abu Rumailah.

WIE Gold members met to share knowledge and experience. Many more activities are coming soon.

Razan Azzam



Polytechnic, Owerri, Nigeria:

Technical session launches Polytechnic Student Branch

ON 8 November 2008, the IEEE Nigerian Section inaugurated a Student Branch at the Polytechnic in Owerri.

Highlights of the papers presented during the technical session included:

- 'QoS in Telecommunication Engineering' by Segun Dipeolu.
- 'Mobile WiMAX: the Next Generation Broadband Wireless Network' by Okechukwu Nweke.
- 'An Introduction to Linux and Open Source' by Tony Isodje and ICT in Nigeria by Otunte Otuneh.

The Seminar was well attended by more than 150 IEEE members and the press, and it was broadcast live by the Polytechnic Radio

station. The Rector of the Polytechnic, OI Nwankwo, supported us. Giandomenico Massari, MD of Danelec attended personally and provided some financial support.

It was an exciting gathering of experts from the industry and academia: heads of electrical engineering and other relevant departments from the Polytechnic, Sam Ogbogu and lecturers from Federal University of Technology, Owerri.

On the Friday evening, volunteer training was held at Mayfair suites Owerri for SB Chairs. Jonathan Ogbekhilu, the Membership Development Officer, made a presentation while Tunde Salihu coordinated the training.

region&student news

www.ieee.org/r8sac

THE IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress (SBC) is now an unmissable bi-annual event for all young active IEEE volunteers in Region 8. The first Region 8 SBC in 1998 was organised in Istanbul, Turkey, followed by Eindhoven, Netherlands, in 2000. For the first time in 2002, in Cairo, Egypt, the SBC became open to the Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) members. The adventure continued in Passau, Germany, in 2004 and Paris, France, in 2006.

In 2008, in the multicultural city of London, England, the SBC 2008 took place from 28 August to 1 September. 150 Student and GOLD members came from 33 Sections to Queen Mary University of London. Its Student Branch organised a series of 25 talks, 10 workshops and two panel discussions.

To support these young IEEE members, to learn about their ideas, to provide them with solutions and suggestions, no less than 50 speakers, guests and IEEE officials also joined this congress. Among them were Lewis Terman, IEEE President; John Vig, IEEE President-Elect; Jean-Gabriel Remy, IEEE Region 8 Director; Józef Modelski, IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect; Karen Panetta, WIE Chair; Marko Delimar, IEEE Region 8 Vice Chair Membership Activities; Sean McLoone, UKRI Section Chair; Martin Bastiaans, IEEE Region 8 Vice Chair Student Activities; and Eva Lang, IEEE Region 8 GOLD Coordinator.

Some guests from IEEE Region 2, 3, 6 and 10 also travelled to London to talk about their own student activities and student networking programmes such as the Region 10 GINI.

This year, with the help of Maryam Althani, and a sponsor, Emal, a complete Women In Engineering programme was set up. Karen Panetta gave keynote with a WIE workshop, a panel discussion and the financial support.



Dancing during the Gala Dinner in the historical Boxing Hall of East London.

Fun and social activities were also essential to the great atmosphere of the congress. Among the festivities were a Gala Dinner in the historical Boxing Hall in East London and some sight-seeing in London, including a visit to the London 2012 Olympic Games construction site. A highlight was the multicultural night during which the participants prepared and shared food, costumes and dances from the numerous and diverse countries of our Region 8.

The four days of SBC had very intense activities and networking. It was an unforgettable time and we hope that the ideas, messages and enthusiasm of the SBC were brought home.

You can see more photos and view the SBC video online at www.sbc2008.org.

Now it is already time to think of the next SBC in 2010. Where will it be? You tell us! If you want your Student Branch or GOLD Affinity Group to organize SBC 2010, please send your proposal to r8sac@ieee.org.

Amélie Anglade

SBC 2008 Vice Chair Communication and Publications, and 2009 Region 8 Student Branch Coordinator
amelie.anglade@ieee.org



SBC participants enjoy the Multicultural Night.



Attendees participate in joint blackout scenario training.

Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg, VDE Hochschulgruppe Bochum, FH Bielefeld:

IEEE and VDE participants learn how to rebuild power grids after a blackout

ON 11 November 2008, the IEEE Student Branch of Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg, the VDE association of Ruhr-University Bochum and interested students of the University of Applied Sciences Bielefeld made an excursion to DUtrain GmbH in Duisburg.

DUtrain is an engineering company that offers system operation and support services training for key staff in the electricity industry. With the powerful DUtrain PSH

simulator, critical situations can be simulated on a real power grid image.

This allows the operators of distribution systems and transmission systems to be trained on how to rebuild a grid reconnection after a blackout.

Jens Haubrock gave a short introduction to DUtrain and presented an interesting seminar on the restitution of electrical power grids.

Operator training for us followed, in which a rebuild-

ing of a complete powered-down transmission system was simulated. Students worked in groups and had to give proof of their electrical knowledge and their teamwork skills to achieve a smooth rebuild.

In the evening, DUtrain invited us to dinner in Duisburg city. In a relaxed ambience, we compared notes and collected ideas for a future cooperation between IEEE and VDE.

André Naumann

Warsaw University of Technology, Poland: Young Polish scientists meet at Warsaw event

IN THE last week of September 2008, nearly 100 PhD candidates from more than 20 Polish universities attended the third annual PhD Students and Young Scientists Conference held at Warsaw University of Technology. The Minister of Science and Higher Education attended the opening ceremony.

Planning for the event began four years ago, when a group of WUT PhD candidates envisioned a conference made by the students for the students. It would be a place where young scientists could present their own work, extend their knowledge and integrate with others to establish long-term relationships that will have impact on their future research.

The conference is entirely prepared by volunteers. Faculty members only take part in scientific boards and lead the sessions to ensure high quality of presented papers.

The rest is run by students.

In essence, this event is similar to a GOLD congress. Although it wasn't started by IEEE members, the organising committee does include IEEE GSMS. Last year, the Polish IEEE section extended its patronage over two tracks that fall into the IEEE field of interest, as the conference scope is very broad – from ecology and biomedical engineering to computer science and applied mathematics.

This year's edition is planned for 21–23 September at Warsaw University of Technology. Further information about the conference can be found at <http://konferencja.doktoranci.pw.edu.pl/en>. The organising committee can be reached email at doktoranci@samorzad.pw.edu.pl. We sincerely invite all young scientists to participate.

Jacek Piotrowski
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Michigan State University, Dubai:

MSU launches Student Branch with motivational event (and lucky draw!)

AT A seminar on 13 October 2008 led by Dr Boutheina Tlili, students at Michigan State University Dubai (MSU) obtained an insight into the dynamic scientific community and the forefront in academic and scientific collaborations.

In his presentation, Dr Tlili motivated students to join the IEEE explaining various benefits and privileges of being a member of the organization and its various communities, such as the monthly *Spectrum* magazine and the chance to participate in international conferences and workshops.

This presentation attracted more than 18 students, included some from

non-electronic fields such as construction management and media management.

A lucky draw was held for all the attendants, in which two students won surprise gifts sponsored by IEEE UAE section.

The event wrapped up with a pizza party sponsored by the university.

Other members of MSU's faculty, including Prof Sofia (Student Liaison and Sociology Professor) and Omar Abdulatif (Computer Engineering Professor) also participated at the event to show their support. The event was a success, and most of the students showed their interest in joining IEEE.

Aditya Philip Mathew



Bruno Siciliano: 'Robots moving closer to humans'.

UNTIL RECENTLY, the use of robots was constrained to industrial or scientific applications, such as space and ocean exploration. Still, the idea of having robots around to perform tasks for humans in our everyday life has always fascinated mankind.

Nowadays, as robots are becoming more and more advanced and intelligent, we are on a turning point where the new generation of robots will increasingly touch people's lives. But how will robotics make these visions of robot

Faculty of Engineering of Ghent University, Belgium:

Ghent investigates how humans relate to robots

helpers come about, robots that will be interacting, exploring, and working with humans? Will these robots be humanoids or will they take entirely different forms?

On 5 March at the Faculty of Engineering of Ghent University, Bruno Siciliano (president of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society) gave his vision and an overview of some key issues on these topics in a presentation 'Robots moving closer to humans'.

The talk was aimed at discussing a number of issues in physical human-robot interaction concerning safety, dependability and dexterity. The presentation was accompanied by videos illustrating experimental tests on both

conventional and new lightweight robots.

After the presentation the audience had the opportunity to discuss with the speaker at a reception.

This event, organized by the IEEE Student Branch Ghent, was truly a success as more than 70 robot enthusiasts gathered. Many of the attendants came with great interest, as they are building a robot themselves.

The IEEE Student Branch Ghent is also organizing a Sumo Robot competition in which members can build robots to compete against each other. The final results of this battling robot contest will appear in a future edition of *Region 8 News*.

Sean Rul

Climate is the key for FIRST Lego League robot-building contest

FOR TWO days, 20 teams of school students competed to win the FIRST Lego league competition in Egypt.

The competition is run under the auspices of the Egyptian Ministry of Education and the Egyptian Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, and organized by IEEE Egypt and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Planetarium Science Center.

FIRST LEGO League is a global program created to get kids excited about science and technology. Geared for ages 9–14 (up to 16 outside the US and Canada), FLL utilizes theme-based Challenges to engage kids in research, problem solving, and engineering

Each annual Challenge has two parts: the Project and the Robot Game. Work-

ing in teams of up to 10 students and guided by at least one adult coach, team members have about 10 weeks to:

- Build an autonomous robot that will, in 2 minutes and 30 seconds, complete pre-designed missions.

- Analyze, research, and invent a solution for a given assignment.

- Create a clever presentation about their solution to perform in front of a panel of judges.

This year's theme was about climate connections. Contestants identify a problem caused by climate in their area, analyze climate data about the problem, and discover what their community is doing about it. They find another community somewhere in the world with the same issue and identify any

solutions they are working on. Then the robotic mission is done on a fixed playground all over the world that simulates a climate connection cases and mission needed to be done by the robot.

On the first day, teams competed on the best presentation, best robot design and best teamwork. On the second day, each team had three rounds to achieve the mission.

Of the 60 rounds for 20 schools, first place went to a school in Asuit governorate in Egypt. It will represent Egypt in the Arab Finals in March in Jordan, then join the International finals of the competition in Atlanta, USA, in April.

Yasser Tawfik
FLL Egypt Operational Partner
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University of Sharjah, UAE:

Sharjah Uni students learn about forthcoming events

ON 25 February 2009, University of Sharjah IEEE Student Branch members organized an event introduced by Soha Jawabreh, the UAE section WIE secretary and editor.

She welcomed the audience of 75 student members from University of Sharjah, American University of Sharjah, Ajman University of Science and Technology, and Khalifa University in Sharjah, Ajman, and Fujairah emirates.

Essa Bastaki, the IEEE UAE Section Chair, told us about past IEEE activities, recent achievements by UAE section and upcoming

activities in 2009. Butheina Tlili gave plans for WIE activities in the section. Finally, all attendees were invited for a pizza party after the event.

Amina Fellan from Ajman University of Science and Technology said: "IEEE helps me to make friends and to know more about Engineering fields". Yassir Al Jundi and Rawan Shawar from American University of Sharjah said: "We enjoyed participating in this event and meeting other student members from universities in the section".

Soha Jawabreh
soha@ieee.org

Qatar University:

QU founds new SB to help students learn from others

THE IEEE student branch at Qatar University (QU) was officially launched on 9 April 2008. Khaled Ellithy is the counsellor for the branch, with Ezzedeem Shahada as Chair, Lolowa Al Seddiqi as Vice Chair, Ashraf Abu Ghazza as Treasurer and Amal Salem as Secretary.

The launching ceremony hosted Ibrahim Mohammed, a senior member of IEEE, manager of strategic planning at Qtel and former director of mobile devices at Motorola.

The objective of the branch is to give students an opportunity to meet and learn from fellow students, faculty members and professionals in the field. Its activities offer numerous educational, technical and professional advantages of IEEE membership through special projects, meetings, tours, seminars with guest speakers and field trips. The new branch at QU is divided



Left to right: Ezzedeem Shahada, Lolowa Al Seddiqi and IEEE Counsellor Khaled Ellithy cut an IEEE cake.

into six sub-committees: Executive Committee, Media & Broadcasting Committee, Public Relationship Committee, Membership Committee, Events & Activities Organization Committee, and Training & Professional Development Committee.

We are looking forward to more activities to enhance the cooperation with other student branches in the IEEE regions, and especially Region 8.

Samer Said
Chair, Qatar University IEEE Student Branch
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Shaikh Khalifa Institute of Technology, Bahrain: Presentation by IEEE Bahrain focuses on those studying electrical engineering

IEEE BAHRAIN Section organized a presentation in Shaikh Khalifa Institute of Technology on 24 November 2008. Students attended the presentation from Electrical Engineering in the Institute.

The presentation was delivered by the Section Chair, Isa Qamber, and Adel Ahmed, the Bahrain Section Development Membership Officer. They covered the rules of obtaining IEEE membership and highlighted the number of members of the IEEE in the world and in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Afterwards, the presenters entered into discussion with the students, who were quick to express their great interest in joining IEEE.



University of Jordan:

SB gathers members for Iftar

THE IEEE University of Jordan Student Branch is one of the largest and oldest in Jordan. The newly elected committee started their new year with IEEE Iftar. Iftar, which means breakfast dinner in Arabic, brings Muslims together. More than 140 students and professional guests attended. A soft skill workshop called 'Hat Factory' was held before the dinner.

Our MovIEEE series is based on the theory that students learn and react better if they are watching something. Each time a movie was played, about 60

attendees came to watch. And for the first time we held IEEE OPEN, a tennis championship in which 32 competitors, battled to win a trophy and the title.

We had a stand at METS 08, the biggest computer and IT show in Jordan. It was staffed by IEEE volunteers thanks to Dr Ali Almousa, IEEE Jordan Section Chairman. Another stand was set up in King Abdallah II school for information technology (KASIT) for two days in the university of Jordan to promote IEEE benefits among IT students.

University 'Politehnica' of Bucharest, Romania: Bucharest SBC establishes three new working groups

ONCE AGAIN, before the most awaited moment of the year – the winter holidays – the Student Branch from University 'Politehnica' of Bucharest established its New Year's Resolutions.

With the help of Prof Svasta, three working groups were established: Educational (Cristina Marghescu), Research (Vlad Cocoru) and IT (Radu Bunea).

SBC wants to promote the Minerva Program through posters and a laboratory platform made by the students who participate. Students



of Computer Aided Design Techniques classes will participate in the more advanced TIE contest (www.tie.ro).

The new ELAN project is to promote entrepreneurial skills for students, and to arouse interest for their own initiatives.

Electronic microsystem packaging area is a huge reservoir for innovation.

Cairo University, Egypt:

Cairo University students reactivate Student Branch

THIS YEAR, the IEEE is celebrating its 125th anniversary. At the same time, Cairo University is celebrating its own 100th birthday.

The IEEE Cairo University Student Branch is one of the oldest student branches in Region 8, with a history extending more than 20 years. After five years of inactivity, however, a group of motivated students met in summer 2008 to set plans for the reactivation of the branch. It all started with a tiny circle of friends which widened and plans were put into action.

An election was held at the beginning of the semester to elect the board of executives. This was followed by an advertising campaign that targeted faculty stu-

dents. This campaign was very successful and resulted in a huge number of membership subscriptions. Obviously, many students had heard of the IEEE but few knew about the benefits they could gain if they joined.

The Student Branch held two events in autumn 2008. The first was a career orientation session in which guest speakers from different business enterprises were invited to speak about the engineering fields of work in Egypt. Students from several universities attended and there was a positive feedback that translated into more membership subscriptions.

The second event was a study-abroad session in which representatives from international education organizations were invited to give general information and guidance for students interested in studying abroad.

We also started the first Cairo university robotics club, 'CUbotics', and the launched the Electronics Club. With the spring semester approaching, the IEEE Cairo University Student Branch has planned technical field trips and technical films.

www.ieee-cusb.org

New internet forum targets biomed students

TAKE A look at the Biomedical Engineering Students' discussion forum at www.biomedeng.info/forums.

It was created to promote the exchange of information, ideas and interests between students involved in various aspects of the discipline.

Conference calendar

Workshops, conferences & symposia in Region 8

See also www.ieee.org/conferences

MAY

3DTV-CON 2009

3rd 3DTV Conference
4–6 May 2009
Potsdam, Germany
www.3dtv-con2009.org

VITAE 2009

First International Conference on Wireless
17–20 May 2009
Aalborg, Denmark
kloch@mail.dk

EUROCON 2009

IEEE Region 8 Conference
18–23 May 2009
St Petersburg, Russia
eurocon2009@ieee.org
<http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/russia/nw/cem/eurocon2009>

HSI'09

2nd International Conference on Human System Interaction
21–23 May 2009
Catania, Italy
www3.unict.it/hsi09

IEEE-SPIE-WILGA

24th Symposium Photonics and Web Engineering
Advanced Applications of Photonic/Electronic Systems
25–31 May 2009
WILGA, Warsaw University Resort, Poland
<http://wilga.ise.pw.edu.pl>

JUNE

ConTEL 2009

10th International Conference on Telecommunications
8–10 June 2009
Zagreb, Croatia
www.contel.hr

GIIS 2009

IEEE Global Information Infrastructure Symposium
2009
23–25 June 2009
Hammamet, Tunisia
www.ieee-giis.org

INISTA 2009

International Symposium on Innovations in Intelligent Systems and Applications
29 June–1 July 2009
Trabzon, Turkey
www.inista.org

JULY

IEEE PRIME 2009

5th Conference on PhD Research in Microelectronics and Electronics
12–17 July 2009
Cork, Ireland
www.prime2009.org

PGBIOMED'09

5th IEEE EMBS UK & Republic of Ireland Postgraduate Conf. on Biomedical Engineering and Medical Physics
Magdalen College, University of Oxford, UK
12–14 July 2009
<http://ewh.ieee.org/sb/ukri/embs/pgbiomed09>

ACTEA 2009

International Conference on Advances in Computational Tools for Engineering Applications
15–17 July 2009
Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon
www.ndu.edu.lb/actea09

AUGUST

ICE-GIC 2009

Consumer Electronics Society's Games Innovations Conference
25–28 Aug 2009
London, UK
<http://ice-gic.ieee-cesoc.org>

SEPTEMBER

AFRICON 2009

9th IEEE Region 8 Conference in Africa
23–25 September 2009
Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa
www.africon2009.org

INOWO 2009

14th International OFDM-Workshop
2–3 September 2009
Hamburg, Germany
<http://ofdm.tu-harburg.de>

ECBS-EERC 2009

Eastern European Conference on Engineering of Computer Based Systems
7–8 September 2009
Novi Sad, Serbia
www.ecbs-eerc.org

IDAACS'2009

IEEE Fifth International Workshop on Intelligent Data Acquisition and Advanced Computing Systems: Technology and Applications
21–23 September 2009
Rende(Cosenza), Italy
www.idaacs.net

OCTOBER

LEOS 2009

22nd Meeting IEEE Lasers and Electro-Optics Society
4–8 Oct 2009
Belek-Antalya, Turkey
www.ieee.org/leos

TELSIKS 2009

9th International Conference on Telecommunications in Modern Satellite, Cable & Broadcasting Services
7–9 October 2009
Nis, Serbia
www.telsiks.org.rs

RADAR 2009

Radar 'Surveillance for a Safer World'
12–16 Oct 2009
Bordeaux, France
www.radar2009.org

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