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# IEEE Milestones and volunteer training dominate post-Paris meeting agenda

THE REGION 8 Committee meeting, held in Paris during April, dealt with a lot of business. All IEEE Section Chairmen in Region 8 attended, along with the various elected officers. The purpose of these meetings is to update policy, involving the Section Chairs directly in decision-making.

Two such meetings are held each year, and it can be difficult to travel the long distances across the Region each time. It has often been suggested that the Region should be divided into smaller territories, but there are advantages in being part of a larger group, such as the help afforded by experienced Sections to smaller ones. In Paris, guests from the US provided training for the new R8 Committee members.

## Milestone awards

Since Paris, I have attended two IEEE Milestone dedication events. The IEEE Milestone programme encourages IEEE units to cooperate with

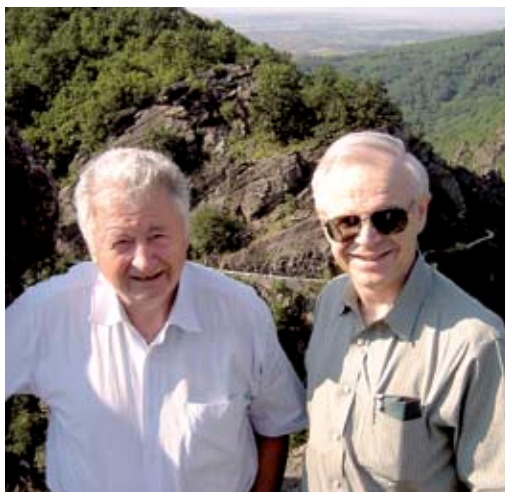
local organisations to honour significant achievements in our field. It is our duty to preserve history, and especially important today as we wish to enhance public awareness of engineering.

The first unveiling ceremony was held in St Petersburg, Russia, dedicated to A.S. Popov. Turn to page 2 for a report on this event.

The second was at the Vucje hydroelectric plant in South Serbia. In 1903, a power station was built there with twin alternating current generators and a transmission line to Leskovac 18km away. It was a significant pioneering contribution in the area at that time.

## Volunteer workshops

Back in April 2004, at the Region 8 Committee meeting in Kraków, it was decided that two Volunteers' Training, Recruitment and Retention Workshops should be organised. The first of these was held in Ohrid, Macedonia, and it successfully gathered



Baldomir Zajc and John Vig at the Vucje site, South Serbia.

volunteers from neighbouring Serbia and Bulgaria too.

The second workshop was recently held in Riga, Latvia, to which volunteers from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania and Poland also attended. In a couple of days, they deepened their knowledge of IEEE, and reported about their activities and challenges. This way, the level of knowledge improves by listening to individual practices of participating Section officers and members.

Poland Section, formed in 1972, has been helpful in this area for a long time, not to mention influential in setting up Sections from the Baltic countries over the last decade. Lithuania Section was approved this year after it successfully increased its membership. During Riga meeting, we discussed the

possibilities for Latvia Section with the vice-rector of the University and several IEEE members.

## Other business

Region 8 Educational Activities Committee planned its future activities during a two-day meeting at the end of May in Delft. These plans will be submitted for approval at next R8 Committee meeting in October.

Egypt Section is celebrating its 50th Anniversary as an IEEE Section this year. The main celebration will have taken place by the time you read this—in Cairo on 7 August 2005. I offer my congratulations and thanks for their contribution to IEEE development.

Baldomir Zajc  
 IEEE Region 8 Director  
 and professor, University  
 of Ljubljana, Slovenia



An IEEE Milestone plaque is unveiled in Vucje.



## Author talks cosmology

SIMON SINGH will speak at the Autumn Meeting of IEEE United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland Section, at 18:00 on 5 October 2005, at Westminster University, Regent Street, London W1.

Singh is an author, broadcaster and mathematician with a PhD in Particle Physics. His television documentary, *Fermat's Last Theorem*, won awards worldwide, and his book about this notorious problem became the first mathematics title to become a No.1 best-seller. *The Code Book* explained the history of codes and code-breaking, and the importance of cryptology in the Information Age.

*Big Bang* tells the story of cosmology—the idea of a universe born at a single instant in the past (“a day without a yesterday”)—and expanding from that moment.

IEEE UK&RI Section invites everyone to hear Singh's humorous and informative talk on the Big Bang. No charge, all welcome, but please come early to get a seat!

[www.ieee.org.uk](http://www.ieee.org.uk)

# LETI hails Popov: 110 years of radio

THIS YEAR marks the 110th anniversary of radio, but who was its inventor? Less well known than Marconi, the name of Alexander S. Popov is at last receiving the wider recognition it deserves. This was the central theme of the International Scientific Conference held on 18-21 May in St Petersburg, Russia, entitled 'Radio—That Connects Time: 110th Anniversary of Radio Invention'.

The conference was hosted by the St Petersburg State Electrotechnical University, LETI, and organised by the IEEE Russia Northwest Section with cooperation from the A.S. Popov Central Museum of Communications and the Russian Fund of Communication History.

Born in 1859, Popov was one of a number of scientists and engineers who contributed to the development of wireless communications, alongside James Maxwell (1831-1879), Heinrich Hertz (1857-1894) and Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937). In 1895, Popov suggested that apparatus for the detection of Hertzian waves could be used for the reception of signals from a man-made source of oscillations.

## IEEE Milestone

On the first day of the conference, an IEEE Milestone memorial plaque was unveiled in honour of Popov outside of the A.S. Popov Laboratory Museum. It reads: "On 7 May 1895, A.S. Popov demonstrated the possibility of transmitting and receiving short, continuous signals over a distance up to 64 meters by means of electromagnetic waves with the help of a special portable device responding to electrical oscillation which was a significant contribution to the development of wireless communication."

## Conference sessions

The conference opened in the afternoon at the Museum of Communication with speeches by the University's Rector, the IEEE President, St Petersburg's Governor and the LETI

*Below: The IEEE Milestone plaque is unveiled by (left to right) Alexander Mikerov, Cleon Anderson, Dmitry Puzankov (LETI Rector) and Baldomir Zajc.*

*Right: The unveiling ceremony attracts a crowd of paparazzi!*



*Above: Luch-15 stands proud in the atrium at the Museum of Communication.*

*Left: A reception on the first day is led by IEEE President, Cleon Anderson.*

Historical Chief. This was followed by plenary sessions and a reception in the atrium, next to the first civil communications satellite, Luch -15. The next day, parallel sessions began the serious discussions. Section I Scientific History covered 31 papers of history from the origins through the development of radio and electrical engineering. Section II had contemporary technical interest, involving 43 papers in English and 19 in Russian, selected by Russia NW Section IEEE Chapters.

St Petersburg is known as the city of three revolutions. Looking back at Popov's work, perhaps that should be four.

*Varvara Kudryavtseva, IEEE Russia NW Student Branch*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Proceedings 2005 of St. Petersburg IEEE Chapter's 110th Anniversary of Radio Invention can be purchased in three volumes from LETI Publishing. Vol I (History) and Vol II (Engineering) are in English. Vol III is in Russian. Contact Managing Editor, Yuriy Sepp, at [yus@ieee.org](mailto:yus@ieee.org).

*Below: Inside the A.S. Popov Laboratory Museum, St Petersburg.*



# Standards and trends conference

FACING A trend of international standardisation, particularly in view of industry and government, the IEEE is holding a European Conference on 'Opportunities and Consequences of Trends in the Global Standards Marketplace'.

The event will include many lively panels to elaborate on how best to foster further cooperation between standards organisations. Emphasis will be put on more intensive cooperation at committee level because it is crucial, among other factors, for the efficiency of industry's investment in standardisation.

The conference will be held on 26/27 September 2005 in Munich, and all IEEE members are cordially invited. Such a fundamental conference on standardisation, which organisations are involved and how to participate is unlikely to be repeated in the near future. Get more information from the Region 8 Standards Coordinator at [i.ruesch@ieee.org](mailto:i.ruesch@ieee.org).

# CERN awarded IEEE Milestone

THE EUROPEAN organisation for nuclear research, CERN, will celebrate the receipt of an IEEE Milestone award in Meyrin, Geneva, on 26 September 2005. The award is dedicated to Nobel laureate G. Charpak's 1968 invention of multiwire proportional chambers for detecting particle collisions.

More details are available online at [www.cern.ch/ieee-milestone](http://www.cern.ch/ieee-milestone), where IEEE members should also register for CERN visit tours preceding the official dedication that starts at 4:30pm. Registration will closed on 19 September. For any additional information please contact Dr. Enzo Carrone by email at [enzo.carrone@cern.ch](mailto:enzo.carrone@cern.ch).





## Italian Sections merge

A SINGLE IEEE Italy Section has been established through the merger of the two previous branches representing the country: Central & South Italy Section and North Italy Section.

Until the next elections, the officers of the new IEEE Italy Section are Paolo Pampaloni (Chair), Benito Palumbo (Vice Chair), Alberto Toccafondi (Treasurer), and Massimo Lanzoni (Secretary). The Constituting Act for the Section was signed by these four officers plus the following members of the Executive Committee: Prof. Gaspare Galati, Prof. Dino Giuli, Prof. Giuliano Manara, and Prof. Maurizio Migliaccio.

*Above: The document is signed by Paolo Pampaloni. Right: Gaspare Galati adds his signature, accompanied by Benito Palumbo and Alberto Toccafondi.*



## Conferences in Serbia and Montenegro

SEVERAL INTERESTING events took place in Serbia and Montenegro during May and June 2005. As expected, students and other IEEE members were very active, both in conference organisation and in presenting papers and tutorials.

### PSU-UNS ICEE 2005

The International Conference on Engineering and Environment (18-20 May, Novi Sad, Serbia), was jointly organised by the Faculty of Engineering at the Prince of Songkla University, Thailand, and the Faculty of Technical Sciences at the University of Novi Sad. It was a three-day opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about: energy and environment; chemical engineering; computer science and information processing; power, electronics and telecommunications engineering; biotechnology, bioprocess systems engineering; industrial systems and management; system control and measurement; robotics, mechatronics, mechanisms

and machine design; mining and materials engineering; and mechanisation design, mechanisation and manufacturing systems. An excellent conference dinner was held on the banks of the Danube. Among the many authors and organisers, we particularly want to thank Dr Milos Zivanov (IEEE SM) and Dr Vladimir Katic (local IEEE SB Counsellor).

### Infotech 2005

The 20th Infotech took place in Vrnjacka Banja, the most famous spa in Serbia (6-10 June). After the full technical paper program of this representative ICT event, the conference finished with a three-hour tutorial by Miroslav Skoric (IEEE StM) on amateur radio networks in education. The seminar introduction was given by Prof. Dusan Surla (Novi Sad), who discussed academic computer links and planned connections between university libraries. This year, the student participants of Infotech were offered free

bus transport from Novi Sad and Belgrade Universities to the conference venue.

### Congress JISA

The 10th Congress JISA, held in Herceg Novi, Montenegro (12-18 June) was a fine opportunity to spend a week on the beautiful Adriatic coast while discussing computing and communications. Participants also took boat trips to swimming areas, and visited Dubrovnik, Croatia, to take part in its own ICT event, SEFICT 2005 (jointly organised by the Croatian ICT association and JISA). Congress JISA took place at the Plaza Hotel in Herceg Novi. After the morning technical paper sessions, there were several round-tables during the afternoons, including e-government perspectives in the South-East of Europe, e-learning systems, and AMUNET's suggested radio networks between academic centres and local schools in rural areas.

*Miroslav 'Misko' Skoric  
Novi Sad University SB*

## IEEE activities in education

THE IEEE Educational Activities Board is responsible for developing educational programs to ensure:

1. The technological literacy of pre-college students,
2. The continuous maintenance and improvement of engineering education programs through active participation in accreditation activities,
3. The development of continuing education products and services that serve the professional development and lifelong learning needs of electro-technology professionals worldwide.

For more information, visit [www.ieee.org/organizations/eab](http://www.ieee.org/organizations/eab) or email [education-services@ieee.org](mailto:education-services@ieee.org). In Region 8, our Educational and Accreditation Activities coordinator is Victor Fouad Hanna, [fouad@ieee.org](mailto:fouad@ieee.org).

## Chilean power professor visits United Arab Emirates



*Left to right: Ms Fatima Al Dhaheri, Hassan Al Nassay, Prof. Hugh Rudnick, A.G. Hareendralal, and Syed Riazul Hassan.*

HUGH RUDNICK, from the Department of Electrical Engineering at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, made a DLP trip to United Arab Emirates in May.

Both countries are undergoing electric power sector deregulation, and the UAE invited Rudnick to lecture as PES DLP speaker on the challenges of transmission expansion in deregulated power markets.

The conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE, was attended

by 60 people, and the 12th IEEE Technical Exchange Meeting ([www.ewh.ieee.org/r8/sa/tem12prog.htm](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r8/sa/tem12prog.htm)), held at King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, was attended by 120. The conferences were very well received. There is much interest in learning what is happening in other parts of the world in relation to segmentation of the power industry and increases in efficiency in generation.

## Membership update

WHY DO some IEEE members fail to renew their membership? Perhaps they just forgot, or they need help or some explanation. But one of the most common reasons could be a simple lack of communication. For example, are you sure that we have your correct e-mail address?

New members get bonus months! If you join on 1 September and pay for the full first year, your initial membership continues right until the end of 2006.

IEEE's Senior Member Programme calls on Section and Society members to work together as a group to identify and nominate qualified Members for Senior Member grade. This initiative aims to simplify the application process, offer financial incentives

for approved Senior Member applications, and offer increased benefits for Senior Members. For more information, visit [www.ieee.org/nsmi](http://www.ieee.org/nsmi).

Also check out the Member-Get-A-Member ([www.ieee.org/mgm](http://www.ieee.org/mgm)) and Student-Get-A-Student ([www.ieee.org/sgs](http://www.ieee.org/sgs)) Programmes at Section, Student Branch and Chapter meetings.

*Aleksander Szabo  
IEEE R8 Membership Development*



# Attend a conference and hear fresh ideas



MY SUMMER doesn't get started until the September issue is 'put to bed'. I hope your summer was enjoyable!

## Conferences

In July, I attended the 'IEEE Engineering in Medicine & Biology Students Society UK&RI Postgraduate Conference in Biomedical Engineering & Medical Physics'. Got that? PGBIOMED05 is an annual conference to bring together postgraduate students to exchange ideas and to present their research. It is organised by the UKRI chapter but invites everyone. I am not an academic, but I try to attend some academic events every year.

Why? To maintain a level of knowledge is not the point for me. To meet with and exchange views with younger engineers is definitely the reason. I noticed that some academics use conferences to get their paper published but do not appear at the conference. That's seems odd. No exchange of ideas can occur if you don't show up and discuss your work!

I can report that this particular conference was a real eye-opener. It was a great chance to wake up the grey cells. Why not look at the reminder calendar on our back page and attend some event near you?

## Looking ahead

The IEEE is guided by volunteers who take an active part in creating and promoting the events and publications which you read about in these pages. The organisation is complex and I can say that after 43 years as a full member, I still do not understand it. The happy news is that you do not need to understand IEEE to participate and to enjoy it.

Look at the titles that volunteers have (see the box on

the right) – industry relations, conference and chapter co-ordinators, awards, membership, GOLD, etc. Contact one or more of them to offer your support and encouragement.

After all, there are no employees in Region 8. So all the work that volunteers perform goes toward making your membership subscription the best value imaginable.

## Volunteer community

From 14-17 October, the regional activities board will hold the IEEE Sections Congress 2005 at Tampa, Florida. "Promoting a World Class Volunteer Community" is the theme. Every section sends at least one leader as delegate, and they participate in a very active program: membership, section operations, and relationships between sections and the external community.

The ideas expressed about how the Institute can better serve its members and issues generated at congress have been a major influence on the plans for the future of the Institute. Contact your section chairman for more details.

## Milestones celebrated

'IEEE Milestone' awards honour significant achievements in electrical, electronic and computer engineering. This year, Region 8 celebrates Hertzian wave signalling in Russia in 1895; CERN: France & Switzerland instrumentation in 1968; Vucje (Serbia) Hydroelectric Plant in 1903; and Callan's induction coil developments in Ireland in 1836.

You'll find photos in these pages and details at [www.ieee.org/r8](http://www.ieee.org/r8).

I hope that you enjoy this issue. Send your feedback to [R8News@ieee.org](mailto:R8News@ieee.org) with 'IEEE' in the subject line.

Roland Saam, Editor

# 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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**Submitting articles** We welcome articles from any member of the IEEE. Submit your articles to the editor as plain text files, or by email to [R8News@ieee.org](mailto:R8News@ieee.org). Please put *R8 News* in your email subject line.

Graphics, photos and images should be high resolution (300dpi). They may be uploaded to the Region 8 website using the file transfer protocol <ftp://ewh.ieee.org/r8>

### Deadlines for upcoming issues

December 2005 issue ..... 1 October 2005  
March 2006 issue ..... 1 January 2006  
June 2006 issue ..... 1 April 2006  
September 2006 issue ..... 1 July 2006

**Acknowledgement:** Orest G. Vendik, Alexander S. Popov: *First Steps in History of Wireless Communications. Proceedings of St Petersburg IEEE Chapters 2005.*

**Photos in this issue:** Tony Davies, Levent Sevgi, Gaspare Galati, Thanos Skodras

# Joint German Chapter meets in Lausanne

THE JOINT IAS/PELS/IES (Industry Applications Society, Power Electronics Society, Industrial Electronics Society) German Chapter met at EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland, on 2-3 June 2005.

The international chapter meeting took place in conjunction with a workshop and a seminar programme at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, on 2 June.

Christoph Weissbacher presented German FH Köln/RWTH Aachen team IEEE Future Energy Challenge 2005 contest. Olivier Toury then lectured on the virtual machinery of a cruise ship for dynamic performance studies of All Electric Ship power networks. Dr K.S. Rajashekara of Delphi Corporation followed with a talk on

hybrid fuel cells for transportation and stationary power generation.

The next highlight was Deepak Divan of Georgia Tech, who spoke on the market needs for power electronics and power systems. The transmission and distribution infrastructure is aging and congested, and in urgent need of modernisation. Power electronics may offer a new approach for relieving fundamental bottlenecks that have distorted the electricity market and have degraded system reliability. A new category of solutions, Distributed FACTS or D-FATS, have been presented as a potentially cost-effective alternative for controlling power flow on the grid,

The General Chairman and host, Prof Alfred Rufer, described an example of

multi-disciplinary research in the field of a hybrid energy storage system. His approach uses compressed air and super-capacitors. This

system and further setups for research and education—such as a model railway or an electric scooter—were demonstrated.

*Left: Prof. Alfred Rufer of EPFL (left) and Dr Peter Magyar, IAS Region 8 chapter area chair West (right).*

*Bottom: Prof. Rufer and participants from the meeting gather in his lab.*



Leon Chua (centre) and Leopold B. Felsen (seated).

## Istanbul University bestows two honorary doctorates

DOGUS UNIVERSITY of Istanbul has awarded honorary doctorate degrees upon Leopold B. Felsen and Leon Chua.

Felsen, affiliated with the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society (APS), was honoured for his extraordinary achievements in electromagnetics. Chua, affiliated with the IEEE Circuits and Systems (CAS) Society, was honoured for his extraordinary achievements in nonlinear systems.

On 13-14 June 2005, following the honorary degree bestowal opening ceremony, the International Symposium CCN2005 on Complex Computing-Networks: A Link Between Brain-like and Wave-Oriented Electrodynamics Algorithms took place.

Dogus University is a new but rapidly growing private university, currently with an enrolment of about 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students in its various programmes in four faculties. The Engineering Faculty presently comprises 35 faculty members and about 1,000 students.

Levent Sevgi

lsevgi@dogus.edu.tr (levent.sevgi@ieee.org)

## R8 industrial relations report

TWELVE R8 Industrial Relations Officers met to establish a programme of actions. To help make these initiatives effective, members in industry can volunteer for the following: Job Site, Meetings with Industry to promote

IEEE, Consultants Network, Cooperation with National Societies, Industry-of-the-Year Award, Corporate Agreements, and Publications. Go to [www.ieee.org/r8](http://www.ieee.org/r8) and click Industry Relations, or contact [jean-gabriel.remy@ieee.org](mailto:jean-gabriel.remy@ieee.org).

## IEEE Iran Section reinstated

AT THE end of 2002, IEEE closed the Iran Section and imposed various restrictions on IEEE membership and activity in Iran and in some other countries. This was as a result of laws of the USA, to which IEEE is subject. These actions shocked many IEEE members, especially since IEEE is a strictly non-political organisation.

Since then, there have been extensive negotiations between IEEE and the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) which is responsible for the interpretation and implementation of such US laws. Steady but slow progress has been made, and some months ago there was a major success in that IEEE

received confirmation that it could process and publish papers by Iranian citizens in the normal manner.

A further welcome development is that it has now been agreed that the IEEE Iranian Section may be reinstated. There are still a number of constraints, since the provision of 'services' is not allowed, and the transfer of funds is also generally forbidden. However, it is possible to reimburse some IEEE member expenses and the formal existence of the Section can be recognised and its activities reported.

We welcome the Iran Section back as an official part of Region 8.

A.C. Davies

## News shorts

### New French board

ON JANUARY 28 2005, the new board of the IEEE France Section has been elected (more details can be found on the site at [www.ieee-france.org](http://www.ieee-france.org)). We welcome the new Section Chairman, Gérard-André Capolino and the new board members.

### IEEE education

IEEE XELL (a.k.a. Expert Now IEEE) is a new, innovative product line being developed by IEEE Educational Activities in collaboration with Societies and Councils to produce interactive, on-line educational modules. Topics for these modules come from the tutorials offered at IEEE Conferences and they are being presented by the experts themselves. Please visit [www.ieee.org/education/xell/society.html](http://www.ieee.org/education/xell/society.html).

### Virtual museum

THE IEEE Virtual Museum has now opened its eighth exhibit, 'Songs in the Key of E', about electronic music.

[www.ieee.org/museum](http://www.ieee.org/museum)

### NoticIEEEero online

NOTICIEEEERO IS the official news source of IEEE Region 9, Latin America and the Caribbean. The publication is delivered mainly in Spanish, both web-based—on a web-blog platform at [www.noticieero.org](http://www.noticieero.org)—and as a bimonthly PDF.

### WiFi in Wales

BRIDGEND COUNTY Borough Council, South Wales, is to become the first council to offer public WiFi access over a multi-service provider network. The deal, signed with WiFi provider The Cloud, puts Bridgend at the forefront of the government's plans for all councils to offer universal online access to public services.



HELLO EVERYBODY and welcome to a new issue!

As IEEE student members, we have the opportunity to volunteer in local, national and international events that take place worldwide. Volunteering means having fun in our student branches while putting yourself at the service of others. So it's fantastic to see that the number

of IEEE volunteers is growing day by day, co-operating and organizing joint events all over the world.

This year, a great deal of these local and international events have been taking place in Region 8. You will read about some of them in this issue, along with two calls for help from the IEEE Robotics and Automation So-

ciety, one aimed at students and the other at active IEEE student volunteers.

In this issue's *Did You Know?* below, we also welcome the offerings of IEEE Financial Advantage Program for students.

To keep up to date in our region between editions of *Region 8 News*, subscribe to our Region 8 Students Email

List. Subscribing to the list is simple: just send an email to [listserv@listserv.ieee.org](mailto:listserv@listserv.ieee.org) with the words SUBSCRIBE R8STUDENTS typed in the body of your message. You can also check our Region 8 SAC website ([www.ieee.org/r8sac](http://www.ieee.org/r8sac)) and the Region 8 Students Virtual Community ([www.ieee.comunities.org/region8sf](http://www.ieee.comunities.org/region8sf)).



That's all for now. Have fun 'til next time!

Basak Yüksel  
R8 Student News Editor

# Travel insurance and security for students

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Travellers and volunteers can obtain preferential rates with the IEEE Financial Advantage Program**

AS AN IEEE Student Member, you may be able to take advantage of favourable plans negotiated by the IEEE Member Benefits department. The IEEE offers discounted group insurance, credit cards and other personal services, which are available in various geographic locations at this time.

### Medical help abroad

IMAGINE YOU are travelling and you suddenly need medical attention. You may benefit from a health insurance policy that pays for treatment or related expenses in a foreign country. What happens if you need to explain your medical history or current medications to a doctor?

Two IEEE member benefits could help in these circumstances:

**GATEWAY PLANS** offer travel insurance for personal trips abroad. Coverage options include treatment for accidents, illnesses, support services, and help to get back home when incapacitated.

These plans are available throughout Region 8. For more information see [www.ieeeinsurance.com/gtwy/highlite.asp](http://www.ieeeinsurance.com/gtwy/highlite.asp).

**GLOBAL MED-NET'S** data service electronically stores images of your medical profile and retrieves it via a telephone call to the USA when needed. This is available globally. For more information see the Financial Advantage website [www.gwls.com/ieee](http://www.gwls.com/ieee).

### Legal and motor policies

A PILOT programme for insurance has been launched in Germany, where six group insurance plans became available in June. The products offer attractive group prices. Here are two examples how IEEE members can save money.

One is legal expense insurance. DAS is the market leader for legal expense insurances in Germany. The regular premium for their full cover package is 251 Euros a year, but IEEE members pay only 146 Euros.

Motor Insurance for residents of Germany. Until 30 November 2005, check the price of motor insurance and find out how much you can save. An online calculator at [www.ieeeinsurance.com/germany](http://www.ieeeinsurance.com/germany) will quote a premium for residents of Germany only.

### Retrieve your ID

IF YOUR passport, driver's licence, credit information or other papers are lost or stolen, you could benefit from being able to recover their data quickly. Global Docu-Net is a service that stores scanned images of your records so that with a telephone call images can be faxed 24/7 worldwide. Copies can then be faxed to your bank or other authorities upon demand to help you. This service can be purchased in all countries. For more information see the Financial Advantage website [www.gwls.com/ieee](http://www.gwls.com/ieee).

### Credit card deal

IN THE UK, members may apply for the IEEE Visa Credit Card, a product of MBNA bank. Available in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the card is specially priced for members, featuring no annual fee and a low introductory rate. For more information, see [www.ieee.org/fap](http://www.ieee.org/fap).

### Demand more benefits

Students can have a voice in developing new member benefits. Please send your comments and suggestions to Lynn Koblin at [fap-benefits@ieee.org](mailto:fap-benefits@ieee.org). Please be sure to indicate the following information:

- name of product or service
- name of service provider
- provider contact information or url
- country or countries where product or service is available
- your name
- why you are suggesting this benefit for members of IEEE

The Financial Advantage Program Staff will then research your suggestion and get back to you.

Lynn Koblin  
Manager, IEEE Member Benefits  
[l.koblin@ieee.org](mailto:l.koblin@ieee.org)

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please consider IEEE Financial Advantage programmes as one of your alternatives after you investigate their coverage, their exclusions and their costs – first year and annual. Compare them to other programmes available in your country. Prepare a checklist and choose what you need.

Before you buy, read the details of the contracts being offered. In particular, where data is involved, check out the vendors' ability to keep your data private. Consider how easily persons or authorities can gain access to your private data.

Remember that these contracts are not with the IEEE. The IEEE does not formally approve or endorse any vendor's product. Write your comments to the member benefits staff at [fapbenefits@ieee.org](mailto:fapbenefits@ieee.org).

# R8 student activities update

HELLO R8 students!

Autumn is here again, which means it's back to school for most of us, but it's also a great time for IEEE activities.

## Record activity

We have set new records: we now have over 15,000 individual student members and over 230 student branches. It's not just our numbers that are making records, but the fact that we also have several new branches in parts of the world where we've never had branches before. Besides that, many of our longer-established branches have been organising interesting new events.

In fact, the level of activity in most branches has been increasing at an incredible rate. Many have already organised their own Section Student Branch Congresses while several student branches have hosted excellent translational events and were visited by other branches from Sections far away.

## Congress 2006

Our BIG event, the Student Branch Congress, will take place in September 2006. By the time you hold this issue of *Region 8 News*, we will already know the host

branch and the venue. So start preparing!

Having an active IEEE student branch at your college is very important. A student branch is the soul of IEEE student activity, and indeed some of the student benefits can only be achieved through one.

If you do not have a student branch at your college, or if you feel there is not enough activity at an existing branch, contact us. We can help you set up new branches and get some activities started. For more information, please visit our web site [www.ieee.org/r8sac](http://www.ieee.org/r8sac).

Keep in mind that NOW is the best time for new members to join. Those joining early can enjoy several months of free membership, so don't forget to tell friends and colleagues. When you have a positive experience, you should always share it with others, so tell your friends about your personal experiences with the IEEE. For more information on how to help your friends join, visit [www.ieee.org/sgs](http://www.ieee.org/sgs).

And start preparing for SBC 2006!

*Marko Delimar*

*R8 Student Activities Chair  
m.delimar@ieee.org*



*Marko in Tangier, Morocco – where the Mediterranean meets the Atlantic.*

# Robotics and Automation seek Chair nominations

THE IEEE Robotics and Automation Society is seeking nominations for the position of Chair of the society's Student Activities Committee. The IEEE-RAS Student Activities Committee promotes student participation in the society's activities in co-operation with all Society boards, committees and working groups.

- The Chair of this Committee is appointed from a slate of candidate Society student members recommended by the Membership Activities Board and by the AdCom to serve for a two-year term (graduating students may fill out their terms).
- The Chair of the Student Activities Standing Committee shall be an ex-officio Administration Committee member with vote. The chair is expected to attend the semi-annual AdCom meetings. Travel support is provided by the society.
- The Student Activities Chair shall also be a member of the RAS Member Activities Board.

Candidates may be undergraduate or graduate students, but must be student members of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society in good standing. Nominations, including self-nominations, must include the following:

- A letter from the nominee indicating why he/she is interested in serving as Chair of the Student Activities Committee.
- A copy of the nominee's resumé.
- A letter of support from a faculty member at the nominee's college or university who is a member of IEEE RAS.

Send all nominations to the Vice President for Member Activities, Dr Makoto Kaneko, at this email address: [kaneko@hfl.hiroshima-u.ac.jp](mailto:kaneko@hfl.hiroshima-u.ac.jp). All applications are due by 15 September 2005.

*Rosalyn Snyder*

*IEEE Robotics and Automation Society,  
Society Activities Coordinator  
[rgsnyder@nc.rr.com](mailto:rgsnyder@nc.rr.com)*

# 2006 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA 2006) – call for student papers

IEEE STUDENTS are invited to submit papers to the 2006 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA 2006). These will come under the Student Education Paper Category: experiments, tools, and ideas related to improving education and training of students in R&A.

This presents a valuable opportunity to submit papers describing your work in the area of education in robotics and automation. The main author of each paper must be an undergraduate or mas-

ters level student, although all students are encouraged to collaborate with their professors to show how the work meets the overall educational goals of the engineering curriculum.

This invitation is directed specifically at attracting students to present their work during and for the purpose of achieving their degree (such as senior level design projects). Papers will not be required to present innovative *scientific* work. However, they will be required to present innovative *edu-*

*cational* work that promotes and strengthens the penetration of robotics subjects in engineering, computer science and other curricula.

Accepted papers will be included in a special session on Robotics Education and will be published in the *ICRA Conference Proceedings*.

Students shall present the results of their work for the development of robotic experiments aimed at education in robotics, or at education in other disciplines that use robots as tools for their concepts and algorithms,

such as, for example, humanities, art, neural sciences and psychology. Papers shall discuss the educational context in which the work has been developed. Essential for acceptance is the presentation of the work as part of an organised curriculum in which robotics is either the main subject or the main tool to learn and experiment with a different subject.

Student authors whose papers in this category are accepted and who are RAS student members in good standing will receive partial travel support (up to US\$800) to attend ICRA

2006 in Orlando, USA. The actual amount of support will depend on the actual travel costs.

All papers must be submitted in the regular fashion through the ICRA website, [www.icra2006.org](http://www.icra2006.org). All papers must be submitted by 16 September 2005.

For more information contact Prof. Paolo Fiorini, Chair, RAS Education Committee. Web site: [www.sci.univr.it/~fiorini](http://www.sci.univr.it/~fiorini).

*Rosalyn Snyder  
IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, Society Activities Coordinator  
[rgsnyder@nc.rr.com](mailto:rgsnyder@nc.rr.com)*

Novi Sad, Serbia &amp; Montenegro:

## Conference looks at educational challenge

IEEE NOVI Sad Student Branch, with the support of the IEEE Foundation, organised an international IEEE conference, New Challenges in Electrical Engineering Education, on 13-15 May 2005. This event took place in the beautiful tourist mountain resort of Serbia-Kopaonik.

There were 43 participants from nine countries. The goal of the conference was to invite proven experts, IT industry representatives, students and postgraduates from different countries to exchange their thoughts and experiences. The conference programme consisted of paper presentations, discussions, working sessions, workshops and social events.

Among the invited papers were many which led to long and interesting discussion, and many topics were debated even in the coffee breaks and long after the working sessions. An important outcome of these debates was that the participants agreed on several points for the future:

- To establish the formal body (executive committee) for permanent university co-operation.
- To recognise similar and common problems and traps in reformation of study programmes, and possible ways to overcome and avoid them.

- To open new perspectives for academic cooperation and academic exchange.
- To define alternative approaches for clarifying the cycles and levels in European higher education qualifications, etc.

There were also three workshops held at this conference. The first two were about project management – *Leading the project* and *Development of leadership skills*, which were prepared as training for the future project leaders. The third workshop was very interesting for all participants: *HIV virus and new scientific inventions in the field of preventing and treating the AIDS*.

Alongside the official programme, organisers ensured everyone had the opportunity to get together socially between and after conference sessions. Activities included a mixture of sporting activities, walks, sightseeing, parties and concerts.

To find out more about this event, go to: [www.newchallenges.org.yu](http://www.newchallenges.org.yu).

It was a great joy for us to organise this conference and contribute to the 'network the world' idea, and promote IEEE. See you next year again!

Boris Dumnic

IEEE Novi Sad Student Branch  
dumnic@uns.ns.ac.yu



Above: Papers are presented and discussed at the conference.

Below: Chilling out in a mountain cottage as part of the social activities.

Nnamdi Asikiwe  
University, Nigeria:

## GOLD boosts membership

THE LAST Student Branch/ GOLD Congress in Germany has had an overwhelming effect on membership growth here, as more students than ever are now interested in the IEEE. One response from a new member, when asked why he had joined the IEEE, was: "I have really seen that IEEE is a group of professionals that network the world together". The branch has experienced its largest membership growth this year as a result of the hard work of the membership committee, headed by Jude Anonu.

Recently, we have been very busy with the planning and organisation of the forthcoming 1st Nigerian SB/ GOLD Congress that will take place on 26-29th October 2005. Our Student Branch is also really happy to announce that our Counsellor, Professor SSN Okeke, has been given the Outstanding Branch Counsellor Award, for his commitment and support to the Student Branch.

The last semester has been a good one for networking with peers. The Student Branch has actively participated in virtually all the events organised by other Student Branches in the section, amongst which have been the Inauguration of the IEEE ESUT SB, the IEEE Day of the IMT SB (both in Enugu), and the Knowledge Fest of the LASU SB (in Lagos).

The branch is currently organising a technical visit to RainbowNet, a telecom company, and a seminar to educate members on technologies such as Bluetooth, 3G systems and robotics.

Naturally, the branch, as its tradition, is also arranging social events such as a gala night and picnics for members, to mark the end of the semester. The IEEE is not just about technical work!

Mbakwe Somkene,  
IEEE NAU Student  
Branch Chair  
kcbaks@ieee.org

Moscow Power Engineering Institute, Russia:

## University celebrates 75th anniversary in Kremlin

STUDENT LIFE in the IEEE Moscow Power Engineering Institute (MPEI) Student Branch is very interesting and manifold. Our branch members take part actively in our University life. They practise research activities, and participate in and help to organise research seminars and conferences.

In April earlier this year, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of our university. MPEI continues to remain one of the biggest academic research centres in Russia. The celebration event was held in Moscow's Kremlin, the most famous venue in Russia. Those taking part included MPEI alumni from different areas of industry and academia, the members of IEEE chapters and

many foreign colleagues from foreign universities and scientific centres, as well as representatives of the MPEI staff and students.

### ESA report on Titan

Aerospace is, of course, one of the leading trends in electronics. MPEI students and especially the IEEE MPEI Student Branch members are very enthusiastic in this field. So the university hosted a seminar with the help of our Student Branch members back in February. The seminar was presented by Kees van't Klooster, a specialist at the European Space Association (ESA). The title of his report was *Observation of the Huygens probe S-band signal during the descent on Titan (one of the Saturn's*

*satellite) with the aid of many radio telescopes on the Earth.*

### Graduate conference

In March, the university hosted the 11th Annual International Scientific and Technical Conference for graduate and PhD students, with the theme 'Radio Electronics, Electrical and Power Engineering'. This year, there were 55 different conference sessions during the conference. Members of the IEEE MPEI Student Branch actively participated in the local organisation throughout the conference. With so many students visiting from around the world, such meetings promote communication and cooperation between young scientists, and so

help to give us an impulse for scientific and technical progress. We are always glad to welcome participants from other IEEE Student Branches at our conferences.

### Joint activities

The members of the IEEE MPEI Student Branch are keen to co-operate in organising joint activities with colleagues from other countries. You are warmly invited to attend our events, and we would very much like to take part in activities with other Student Branches. Let us know your reactions, opinions or proposals. Please contact us via email.

Pavel Ostapenko  
Ostapenko@ieee.org  
Elena S. Zaiko  
ZaikoYS@mpei.ru



## Istanbul Technical University, Turkey:

## Endless energy at PES Student Branch

IEEE POWER Engineering Society (PES) Student Branch Chapter at Istanbul Technical University (ITU) was founded at the end of 2004. We rapidly began constituting a committee to deal with organisation and administration of the chapter.

Since the foundation of the branch, the primary aims of the administrative committee have been to boost membership numbers and to create an adequate information resource about power engineering for the electrical engineering students at Istanbul Technical University—both in technical and social areas alike.

## First activities

By the end of 2004, the chapter had organised its first activity, named 'Energy Days V', with IEEE PES Turkey Chapter and ITU Energy Institute.

Since the beginning of this year, the chapter has organised four seminars. Assoc. Prof. Gözde Bozdağı Akar, IEEE Turkey Section Chair, delivered a speech entitled 'IEEE Provided Opportunities to IEEE Members and Student Members'. Ahmet Cihat Eryılmaz, IEEE Engineering Management Society Turkey

Chapter Chair, led a session on 'Engineering Management and Engineering in Turkey'. Basak Yüksel, former IEEE R8 Student Representative, current IEEE R8 Student Activities Committee member and IEEE R8 Student News Editor, presented a seminar on 'IEEE Introduction and IEEE Provided Opportunities to Student Members'. For the fourth SB seminar, Prof. Dr Hüseyin Hızıroğlu, IEEE Senior Member, made a speech about 'Alternative Energy Resources and a Minor Program for Fuel Cell Technology'.

## Forthcoming events

Many more seminars and meetings are still being organised for the future.

The branch also arranges many social and administrative meetings, with a view to becoming a social organisation for the students along with its technical activities.

According to the administrative committee, getting the technical and social activities together will be a successive way to reach these plans. Hence, the chapter is planning visits to industrial organisations like factories, power plants and power transmission head-

quarters by the beginning of the autumn semester.

## Practical abilities

The PES chapter is also planning to form a group of students to develop their practical abilities. Students will be encouraged to design simple experimental electrical devices such as generators, motors, transmission line simulators and power electronic circuits related to these devices.

It is hoped that this young chapter will soon be mentioned as a 'success model' in all the areas it is related to.

Mehmet Tahir Sandikkaya  
IEEE ITU PES SB Chair  
tahir@sandikkaya.name.tr

## Lagos State University, Nigeria:

## Knowledge Fest 2005

STARTING THIS academic year, we set up a new executive committee. For the Student Branch's usual weekly meetings, we recently began running sessions called 'knowledge storm'.

At these sessions, members can present papers or design works and then obtain immediate feedback from the listeners. The 'knowledge storms' picked up momentum in the last semester, with students making presentations on a variety of different topics.

In the first week, the participants were introduced to computer networking along with a deep insight into 'Signalling System Seven (SS7)', its functions and its impor-

ance. We have continued these sessions in different topics every week. They have been highly interactive and participants expressed their appreciation.

In addition to these sessions, a joint event was held with IPlus, a financial group which aims to enlighten students and non-students alike on the importance of managing one's finances properly. It also offers good advice on how to go about managing these finances, including advice on how to invest, in what companies and why. Participants included students and staff of the school, and the event was a huge success.

Oriwoh Edewede  
IEEE LASU SB Secretary

## American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates:

## First-hand sight of German engineering



IEEE AMERICAN University of Sharjah (AUS) Student Branch organised a trip to Germany from 30 May to 8 June in cooperation with the School of Engineering (SOE). The IEEE Student Branch in Munich, led by Chris Keimel, supported us too.

The group included 27 students from the School of

AUS students visiting the European Patent Office in Munich.

Engineering, five IEEE AUS SB advisors and two SOE Trip supervisors. From the second day of their arrival, the students visited engineering facilities in Munich, broadening their knowledge and exploring what was for all of them a foreign culture.

There were visits to leading corporations in the fields of engineering, including Siemens, Osram, Oracle, Spinner, the German Aerospace Engineering Agency (DLR), and the European Patent Office. The students also visited the Technical University of Munich where many German scientists and engineers have studied.

Not all the trip was academic: the students also had fun visiting various tourist sights in Munich and neighbouring cities.

For all of the students, this was a great experience that they would not forget for some time.

Abdullah El Doukhei  
President, IEEE SB  
ieee@aus.edu



The tour included a trip to engineering giant, Siemens.

## Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Nigeria:

## Nigeria's newest SB opens

HELLO FROM Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), the newest IEEE Student Branch in Nigeria! Things kicked off quickly after our return from the semester holidays when we found that our member Ahassan Mughal had been the student prize winner of the photo quiz from September 2004. It was really good news to begin the semester.

For our very first activity, we arranged the official launch of the branch on 15 April. Our Counsellor Engr. Dr Sam Ndubisi delivered

an opening speech. This was followed by words of advice by our distinguished guests. The second part of this event was a lecture on Matlab and Simulink. Ultimately, the students promised to work together in order to make our Student Branch the best of its kind in Nigeria.

The next activity to be organised by the Student Branch will be a technical visit to Akanu Ibiam International Airport of Enugu.

Augustine C. Anene  
IEEE ESUT SB Vice Chair  
stinlinks@ieee.com

## Arab Academy for Science and Technology, Alexandria, Egypt:

# Working towards a smarter life

'TOWARDS A Smarter Life: Health & Technology' was the title of a workshop arranged by AAST's Student Branch on 22-23 April, 2005. The first event organised in conjunction with the WIE AAST Affinity Group, its key themes were living smarter by promoting health awareness, women's role in society, and developing technological applications using smart cards.

The health and women's seminars were covered by representatives from the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office in Cairo, while the smart card session was presented by The Rock, a leading company in the smart card industry.

The opening session, 'Aging Technology', was presented by Prof. Dr Yosry El-Gamal, Vice President of the AAST for Education and Research. The second session, 'Health and Media', was delivered by Dr Ibrahim El Kerdany, Regional Advisor, and Spokesman for the Regional Office of the WHO.

The third seminar was held by Joanna Jessie Vogel, Technical Officer in the Women in Health and Development Department of the WHO, under the title



The WIE Organization Team with Joanna Vogel.

'Promoting Women's Role and Impact in Society'. Vogel demonstrated the importance of working women, and how that contributes to the development of children and the safety of families. The fourth and last seminar, 'Drug Threats', was held by Dr R. Srinivasa Murthy, Regional Advisor in the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Department of the WHO.

On the second day, The Rock's General Manager, Hani Refaat, and its Technology Manager, Eng. Samer Adel, delivered a series of

seminars covering all aspects of the smart card business and industry. They started with the history of smart cards, then moved onto the technology and manufacturing processes, and concluded with the business picture and emerging applications of smart cards. A survey at the end of the workshop revealed that these seminars were extremely well received.

Mahmoud Kassem,  
Amr Atta and Sara El Kady  
IEEE AAST Student Branch  
board@ieee-aast.org  
www.ieee-aast.org



Attendees gather for the workshop sessions.

## IEEE Students, Nairobi, Kenya:

# Kenyan students organise under East African Section

THE 2005 Engineering Students' Exhibition has taken off with 28 of the 50 available places already booked. The number of entries is limited to ensure high standards of judging at the annual event, which will be held at Nairobi's Sarit Expo Centre on 8 October 2005.

This year's exhibition will be the sixth in the annual series organised by IEEE East African Section in conjunction with technology company, Centurion Systems.

Kevit Desai, Director of Engineering at Centurion Systems, and Chairman of the IEEE East African Section, commented: "There is greater interest in the students' exhibition this year and we expect a full entry list before the deadline of 9 September. The event links industry with colleges, polytechnics and universities and helps to make engineering training more relevant to the requirements of employers.

"The theme of the exhibition is 'Making Technology Work For You'. It is aimed at encouraging students to develop engineering skills and improve their understanding of technology. Visitors will include engineering manag-

ers with leading companies who will meet participating students and discuss career opportunities."

The guidelines for the exhibition are currently available from Centurion Systems Limited, New Rehema House, Rhapta Road, Westlands. Information may be obtained via email at [exhibition@centurionsystemsLtd.com](mailto:exhibition@centurionsystemsLtd.com) and on the web at [www.centurionsystemsLtd.com](http://www.centurionsystemsLtd.com).

## Kenya SB set up

Plans are under way for the formation of the first IEEE Student Branch in Kenya. It will be a nationwide branch under the IEEE East African Section, designed to give engineering students opportunities to meet and obtain technical information from professional engineers, researchers and scientists throughout the world.

Once the branch is registered, members will have access to the latest IEEE online resources. They will also be able to compete for awards and scholarships, and participate in regional conferences and leadership training workshops.

Davis Waitthaka  
[davieswm@yahoo.com](mailto:davieswm@yahoo.com)

## University of Ibadan, Nigeria:

# Tech seminars attract numbers

THE UNIVERSITY of Ibadan Student Branch has experienced a dramatic growth. This is the result of our intense membership drives, awareness campaigns, seminars and conferences.

In February 2004, we organised a seminar on communications technology in Nigeria and information technology, and a workshop on PC assembly and GSM repairs. The event brought together reputed and certified members of the Nigerian Society of Engineers who are also members of the IEEE.

On 16-17 December 2004, we held our first S-PAC event which brought professionals from ICT, telecommunications and consulting firms. Seminars were held on the first day, with the second day devoted to a technical tour. The

event focused on preparing final year students as well as those in search of internship. Topics covered everything from CV-writing to self-development and empowerment for entrepreneurs. Each talk ended with a Q&A session.

The programme was well attended by over 140 people from various departments in the Faculty of Technology & Engineering. The second day involved a visit to SKANNET, a leading Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Nigeria and the first in Ibadan. The technical trip was both enlightening and educative.

The S-PAC event was a great success thanks to hard work by the Student Branch EXCO, its organising committee, and the branch counsellor and mentor. Even though efforts to involve corpo-

rate sponsorship were fruitless, the branch was given 100 dollars previously awarded by the IEEE History Committee to Debo Onifade (branch member and past Chair). This money helped fund the S-PAC events along the personal donations from EXCO members.

In March 2005, a project exhibition was organised in which the faculty's graduating students showcased their various project works. Furthermore, we have organised a number of technical tours to interesting firms and industries. One remarkable and very memorable trip was that to Websoft, an Internet technology and applications firm that powers web to phone text messaging.

Contact us for further details.

Kaycee Amamba  
IEEE UI SB Chair  
[olukaycee@yahoo.com](mailto:olukaycee@yahoo.com)  
Dasola Oluje  
IEEE UI SB Vice-Chair  
[ayotundeoluje@yahoo.com](mailto:ayotundeoluje@yahoo.com)

## Fed. Uni. of Technology Owerri, Nigeria:

# FUTO branch grows stronger

THE FUTO SB is waxing stronger and stronger, and we were represented at the National Section Meeting by our chair and secretary. At the meeting, the branch was able to interact with representatives from other student branches in the country. Discussions included plans for our forthcoming National SB/GOLD congress. The branch also received a souvenir from Engr. Tunde Salihu.

Asangansi Uko  
IEEE FUTO SB Chair  
[uko@ieee.org](mailto:uko@ieee.org)



# Region 8 students scoop top prizes at CSIDC 2005 contest

THREE OUT of the four top-placed entries to CSIDC 2005, the IEEE Computer Society's 6th Annual International Design Competition, were submitted by students from Region 8. The teams were selected from a more than 200 participating teams from 109 universities in 50 countries.

The top ten teams were invited to present their projects in Washington, DC, on 27-29 June 2005. Copies of each team's presentation and project report can be accessed at [www.computer.org/csdc](http://www.computer.org/csdc).

The winners of CSIDC 2005 were:

## First Place

North Carolina State University, USA  
NEAT: Networks for Endangered Animal Tracking

## Second Place

Poznan University of Technology, Poland  
Read-IT: A portable text reading system for the blind.

The system comprises a video camera (mounted inside sunglasses), a processing device, a text-to-speech converter and an earphone.

The process of reading includes extracting text from the video stream and synthesizing it into a human-like speech, which can be heard in an earphone. The system is designed to read printed texts (documents, books, magazines, newspapers, posters, information signs, etc). It is able to perform the following secondary tasks:

- saving the extracted text into a memory to play it back later,
- speech synthesis of text-files copied into the memory from external devices,
- programming the processing device to set user preferences (reading speed, voice modulation, language, etc).



## Third Place

Politehnica University of Bucharest, Romania

NOMAD Positioning System  
NOMAD provides position information by tracking, recording and analysing human movement by the use of a Motion Tracking Unit (MTU), a small device carried by the user that collects data from high-accuracy sensors (digital accelerometers, compass and accelerometer), processes the information and sends it over a wireless connection to the NOMAD Guide software that runs on a mobile platform.

The NOMAD Guide computes the travelled path in real-time and instantly reports visual mapping information to the user. It can be used for creating dynamic maps of unknown locations, based solely on the paths travelled by the user, or for guided navigation on existing maps.

## Honourable Mention

[and Microsoft Award for Software Engineering]  
American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
ABBAS: Automobile Black Box for Accident Simulation

## KFUPM, UAE:

# KFUPM wins 2004 RAB Award

CONGRATULATIONS TO the IEEE Student Branch at King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, for being handed the 2004 RAB Student Branch Membership Growth Award.

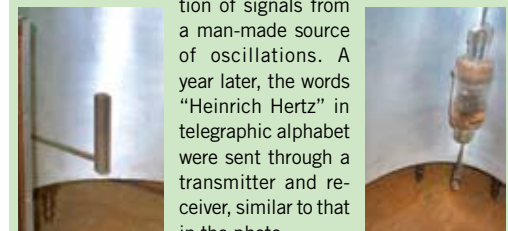
The University is proud of the recognition it brings to the IEEE Student Branch members in KFUPM. Along with the IEEE Saudi Section,

they have done an excellent job and are very sincere in promoting electro-technology in the GCC. We are very pleased to be a part of GCC that has received so many IEEE awards. This should encourage the others to follow their steps.

Dr Eesa Bastaki  
Chairman, IEEE  
UAE Section



HEINRICH HERTZ (who lived 1857-1894) suggested the source of electromagnetic waves, called in that time 'Hertzian waves'. In 1895 in St Petersburg, Russia, a lightning detector was installed at an observatory, and Alexander Popov suggested that such an apparatus could be used for recep-



tion of signals from a man-made source of oscillations. A year later, the words "Heinrich Hertz" in telegraphic alphabet were sent through a transmitter and receiver, similar to that in the photo.

**The questions** — Look at the apparatus above and compare close-ups of the objects on the left and the right.

- Which object was the transmitter?
- How was the signal captured?
- What is a 'coherer'?

Send in your answers before 1 October by email with the subject line *September Photo Quiz*. The winner receives a Skype Voice over IP Starter Kit, including software, headset and 30 mins free phone calls. We have copies of *IEEE Potentials* magazine for the runners-up.

The winner of the June Photo Quiz is Tajeshwar Singh. He writes:

(1) The battery is called 'Bunsen Battery'. It uses a carbon electrode instead of the expensive platinum in Grove's Battery. It was invented by Robert Bunsen.

(2) It is an electric 'Arc Lamp'. The principle was invented by Humphry Davy but was improved by Charles F. Brush and William Staite. Tajeshwar is a Research Fellow at the Department of Electronics & Telecommunications, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) Trondheim, Norway. His prize of a Skype starter kit is in the post.

# Czech meeting finds success in methods of communication

THE SECOND meeting of GOLD members together with student members took place on 28 April 2005 in the assembly hall of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague.

The meeting was opened by a short performance by the 'Chateau Trio' which established a very relaxed and pleasant atmosphere.

This was followed by a lecture by Olga Müllerová, who spoke about 'How to Be Successful in Communication in Public and in Private'. Prof. Müllerová works at the

Institute of Czech Language, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Her talk focused on verbal, non-verbal, social and psychological aspects of a speaker's behaviour when communicating in public or in private.

In her own words: "Communication and dialogue have become more and more important, and they probably represent the only really effective way of solving problems at various levels of social interaction. Skill in expressing in an adequate, cultivated, accurate and truthful way what we have

in our mind, or what we would like to communicate, is a pre-condition for mutual understanding and successful negotiation."

The discussion that followed the talk, arranged over a glass of good wine, sandwiches and other small refreshments, was pleasant and unhurried. As to future GOLD activities, the plans are to hold such meetings regularly twice a year.

Jan Machac  
Czech Technical University  
in Prague and GOLD  
Officer, Czech Section  
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## ABB South Africa honours IEEE senior member

CHRIS YELLAND, editor of *Energize* journal is the winner of the ABB Technology Journalist of the Year Award for his article entitled *Reneging on renewables?*

Yelland's article concerned the solar off-grid electrification programme of the Department and Minerals and Energy (DME), which is

aimed at bringing electricity to some of the most remote and inaccessible rural areas of South Africa.

ABB South Africa manufactures and supplies power and automation technology products, and specialises in electricity infrastructure and industrial automation projects.

## Power Electronics Chapter conferences

IEEE UNITED Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Power Electronics Chapter received the IEEE PELS 'Best Chapter' award at the Power Electronics Specialist Conference on 16 June 2005 in Recife, Brazil.

Our line-up of technical events so far for 2005 have included:

- Power Management in the new Millennium, 17 February 2005, Swansea University.
- Photovoltaic Generation and Solar Energy Converters, 27 April 2005.
- One-day seminar on Advances in Electrical Machines and Drives at the Liverpool John

Moore's University, 6 September 2005.

We are also running a one-day seminar on Renewable Energy sources in November 2005 at the University of Wales, Swansea, and a symposium on Advances in Static Var Compensation on 30 November 2005 at Stafford University.

Our chapter co-sponsors several international conferences in Ireland, Algeria and Spain, and we want more joint events with other R8 Chapters. Contact Salah Khanniche (UKRI PELS Chair) at [m.s.khanniche@ieee.org](mailto:m.s.khanniche@ieee.org) or visit [ewh.ieee.org/r8/ukri/pels.org](http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/ukri/pels.org).

## Reminder calendar Workshops, conferences & symposia in Region 8

### SEPTEMBER

#### IDAACS 05

IEEE Third International Workshop on Intelligent Data Acquisition and Advanced Computing Systems  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
5–7 September 2005  
[idaacs@tanet.edu.te.ua](mailto:idaacs@tanet.edu.te.ua)  
[www.idaacs.ssft.net](http://www.idaacs.ssft.net)

#### 4th Chapter Conference on Applied Cybernetics 2005

Birley Lecture Theatre, City University, London, UK  
7–8 September 2005  
[www.cybernetic.org.uk/ac2005](http://www.cybernetic.org.uk/ac2005)

#### UPEC 2005

40th International Univ Power Engineering Conference  
University College Cork, Ireland  
7–9 September 2005  
[www.upec2005.org](http://www.upec2005.org)

#### ISDA 05

Fifth International Conference on Intelligent System Design and Applications  
Wroclaw, Poland  
8–10 September 2005  
[www.isda2005.pwr.wroc.pl](http://www.isda2005.pwr.wroc.pl)

#### ISPA 2005

IEEE 4th International Symposium on Image and Signal Processing and Analysis  
Zagreb, Croatia  
15–17 September 2005  
[www.isipa.org](http://www.isipa.org)

#### Euro PVMMPi 2005

12th European PVMMPi Users' Group Meeting  
Sorrento, Italy  
18–21 September 2005  
[www.pvmmpi05.unina2.it](http://www.pvmmpi05.unina2.it)

### NCA 2005

Natural Computing & Applications Workshop in conjunction with SYNASC-2005  
7th International Symposium on Symbolic and Numeric Algorithms for Scientific Computing  
Timisoara, Romania  
25–29 September 2005  
[dzaharie@info.uvt.ro](mailto:dzaharie@info.uvt.ro)

#### Standards for Global Business

The European Conference on Collaborative Trends in Europe and Global Standardization  
Munich, Germany  
26–27 September 2005  
[standards.ieee.org/corpforum/europeconf](http://standards.ieee.org/corpforum/europeconf)

### ICL2005

8th International Conference on Interactive Computer aided Learning  
Villach, Austria  
28–30 September 2005  
[www.icl-conference.org](http://www.icl-conference.org)

### OCTOBER

#### Big Bang Expanding Universe

IEEE UK&RI Section  
Westminster University, London  
5 October 2005  
[www.ieee.org.uk](http://www.ieee.org.uk)

#### Making Technology Work For You

IEEE East Africa Section  
Sarit Centre Exhibition, Nairobi, Kenya  
8 October 2005  
[www.centurionsystemsld.com](http://www.centurionsystemsld.com)

### NOVEMBER

#### Second ACIDCA-ACM 2005

International Conference on Machine Intelligence  
Tozeur, Tunisia  
5–7 November 2005  
[www.acidca-icmi2005.org](http://www.acidca-icmi2005.org)

#### Cross-Connexions: History of Telecommunications

Science Museum, London, UK  
11–13 November 2005  
[www.cross-connexions.org.uk](http://www.cross-connexions.org.uk)

### DECEMBER

#### ICICT 2005

ITI Third International Conference Information and Communication Technology – Enabling Technologies for the New Knowledge Society  
Cairo, Egypt  
5–6 December 2005  
[www.iciet.gov.eg](http://www.iciet.gov.eg)

#### EUC2005

2005 IFIP International Conference on Embedded and Ubiquitous Computing  
Nagasaki, Japan  
6–9 December 2005  
[euc05.euc-conference.org](http://euc05.euc-conference.org)

### APRIL 06

#### EDERS-2006

Digital Signal Processing Education and Research Symposium  
Munich, Germany  
4 April 2006  
[j.soraghan@eee.strath.ac.uk](mailto:j.soraghan@eee.strath.ac.uk)

### MAY 06

#### MELECON 2006

13th IEEE Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference  
Torremolinos, Málaga, Spain  
16–19 May 2006  
[www.melecon2006.etsit.uma.es](http://www.melecon2006.etsit.uma.es)

### JUNE 06

#### ICC 2006

2006 IEEE International Conference on Communications  
Istanbul, Turkey  
11–15 June 2006  
[www.icc2006.org](http://www.icc2006.org)

#### PMAPS2006

9th International Conference on Probabilistic Methods Applied to Power Systems  
Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm, Sweden  
11–15 June 2006  
[www.PMAPS2006.org](http://www.PMAPS2006.org)

#### ISCE 2006

10th IEEE International Symposium on Consumer Electronics  
St Petersburg, Russia  
29 June – 1 July 2006  
[www.isce2006.ru](http://www.isce2006.ru)

### AUGUST 06

#### EPE-PEMC 2006

12th International Power Electronics and Motion Control Conference  
Portoroz, Slovenia  
30 August – 1 September 2006  
[www.ro.feri.uni-mb.si/epe-pemc2006](http://www.ro.feri.uni-mb.si/epe-pemc2006)

### Note to Organizers

The Editor receives hundreds of notices about conferences. Only IEEE co-sponsored conference/workshop in Region 8 are eligible for free publicity here. Send details as a plain text message to [r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org), putting *R8 News CALENDAR* in your subject line and using the format used here.