

Simay Akar

Candidate for IEEE Region 8 2021 Vice Chair, Student Activities

BIOGRAPHY

Simay specialized in solar and renewable energy industry since 2012. She worked in China and Turkey and mostly focused on international commercial activities including communications, marketing, sales, investment management and business development. Currently, Consultant and Founding Partner of a startup company in the field of energy storage for renewable energy and electric vehicles. She served roles as Sales & Marketing Director at EkoRE Renewable Energy, Business Development & Marketing Director at GoodWe Solar, Head of International Marketing Department at Talesun Solar, Business Development & Sales Manager at CSUN Eurasia, Marketing Communication at Schneider Electric, and Corporate Communication at Arcelik (BEKO). She joined IEEE as a Student Member in 2007, graduated from Middle East Technical University, Ankara Turkey. Today, she is an IEEE Senior Member, IEEE VOLT Graduate (2019), Certified Soft Skills Trainer (since 2008), METU Alumni Association Energy Commission Member, and Licensed Sailor Athlete at the Turkish Sailing Federation.

<https://simayakar.com>



IEEE ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEES/BOARDS: (IEEE Major Boards and Committees)

2020

- Vice Chair of IEEE MGA Student Activities Committee & Chair of VSB (Virtual Speakers Bureau) Committee at IEEE MGA SAC
- IEEE MGA Nominations & Appointments Committee Member
- IEEE SIGHT (Special Interest Group of Humanitarian Technology under Humanitarian Activities Committee) Steering Committee, Chair of Communications Committee

2019

- IEEE MGA Student Activities Committee –Branch Chapter Representative (appointed by TAB and MGA)
- IEEE Humanitarian Activities(HAC) Chair, Assessment Committee
- IEEE MGA Nominations and Appointments Committee Member
- IEEE MGA Women in Engineering Committee : Chair of IEEE MGA WIE Travel Grants Ad-hoc & Member of IEEE MGA WIE Subcommittee of Societies and Chapters Liaisons & Awards Subcommittees

2018

- IEEE SIGHT(Special Interest Group of Humanitarian Technology) Steering Committee Engagement Chair
- Chair of IEEE MGA Women in Engineering Committee Outreach Subcommittee (Educational Activities, Pre-University Activities and Student Engagement)

2017

- IEEE SIGHT (Special Interest Group of Humanitarian Technology) Steering Committee Engagement Chair
- Chair of IEEE MGA WIE Committee Awards Subcommittee and Liaison to IEEE Awards Board

- IEEE MGA Women in Engineering Committee- Young Professionals Representative
- IEEE Technical Activities Board(TAB) – Women and Underserved Groups Committee Member

2016

- IEEE MGA Women in Engineering Committee - Young Professional Representative
- IEEE MGA Women in Engineering Committee - Awards Subcommittee Chair
- IEEE Technical Activities Board – Women and Underserved Groups Committee Member

2015

- IEEE MGA Young Professionals Committee Marketing and Communications Member
- IEEE MGA Young Professionals Committee WIE Liaison
- IEEE MGA Women in Engineering Committee Awards Subcommittee Chair

2013-2014

- 2013-2014 IEEE MGA Women in Engineering Conference Subcommittee Member
- 2013-2014 IEEE Day Team Lead (Global)
- IEEE MGA Young Professionals Committee Member Products and Services Committee Member & Women in Engineering Liaison

REGIONS: (Region 8 and others)

2019-2020: IEEE Region 8 Student Activities Committee Corresponding Member (appointed as Vice Chair of MGA Student Activities Committee) & IEEE Region 8 Strategic Planning Committee Member

2017-2018: IEEE Region 10 Committee Member (WIE, Humanitarian Activities, Industry Relations)

2016: IEEE Region 10 Entrepreneurship Committee Chair & Young Professionals Committee Industry Collaborations Coordinator

2015: IEEE Region 8 Women in Engineering Committee Chair

2013-2014: Region 8 Student Chapters Coordinator (Chapters Coordination Subcommittee & SAC Member)

2012: IEEE Region 8 Student Branches Coordinator (R8 Student Activities Committee Member)

SECTIONS/CHAPTERS:

2020 IEEE Turkey Section Treasurer/ Secretary

2020 IEEE WIE Turkey Affinity Group Chair

2016-2018 IEEE Nanjing Section & China Council SAC Initiatives- IEEE China Student Congress

2011-2012 IEEE Turkey PES Student Coordinator

2009-2011 Turkey Twin Student Branches Coordinator

2009 IEEE Turkey WIE Student Representative

STUDENT BRANCHES:

2010-2011 IEEE METU Student Branch- Executive Board Chairperson

2007-2010 IEEE METU Student Branch- Executive Board Vice Chair and Other Roles

2007-2009 ISBIR (IEEE Student Branches Industry Relations) Project Task Force Member/ Public Relations and Communication Responsible

CONFERENCES:

IEEE International Smart Cities Conference 2020 Publicity Co-Chair

IEEE EnergyCon 2020 Committee Member

IEEE Ethics'14 Symposium Students and Young Professionals Liaison

AWARDS:

- IEEE Global Young Professionals Hall of the Fame Award 2018 (IEEE PES Young Professionals Team)
- IEEE MGA (Global) Young Professionals Achievement Award 2017
- IEEE MGA (Global) Achievement Award 2014 (as IEEE Day Team Lead)
- IEEE Day Leadership Award 2013

OTHER: (Society Memberships)

Member of IEEE PES, IEEE SSIT and IEEE IAS and several committee involvements

2018-2020: IEEE PES Young Professionals Committee Vice-Chair (2020) Industry Liaison (2018-2019)

2014-2020: IEEE PES Women in Power Committee Vice-Chair (2015-2017), Director of Events (2017-2019), WIE Liaison (2019-2020), YP Representative (2020)

2013-2014: IEEE PES Global Student Chapters Coordinator (2013-2015)

Chair of the First Global PES Student Congress 2014 in Ankara, Turkey

QUALIFICATIONS

I am currently Vice Chair of IEEE MGA Student Activities Committee & Chair of Virtual Speakers Bureau Initiative in 2020 and also MGA SAC Branch Chapter Representative in 2019. I am member of R8 SAC last 2 years and I was R8 SAC Member in 2012-2014. I have enough experience on the ongoing operation of student activities worldwide. I have served several student activities roles since 2007 and experienced different levels: SB Chair, Section responsibilities, R8 Student Branches Coordinator (2012) and R8 Student Chapters Coordinator (2013-2014), China Council SAC (2016-2018), IEEE PES Global Student Chapters Coordinator (2014-15). Since R8 SYP2008, I continually have been many of the following Section, Regional, Cross-Sectional events across R8, R10 and also other regions. Thanks to all experience and network, I have deep understanding of the structure and operation of SAC at the global level, also knowledge of all the best practices across the years.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Leading a new initiative “Virtual Speakers Bureau” at IEEE MGA SAC in 2020
<https://students.ieee.org/virtual-speakers/>
- Starting The First IEEE PES Global Student Congress initiative in 2014
- Initiating successful Student Chapters Best Practices Guideline, Workshops& Trainings (MGA&R8)
- Founding IEEE Turkey Twin Student Branches Project and ambassadors structure(ongoing and successful)
- Leading a Student Branch: METU is an award winning SB over 10 years. I am still mentor to many student branches across the world.
- Initiating “IEEE Day Ambassadors structure” first time: Encouraging students worldwide to organize IEEE Day celebrations and we increased the number of global events dramatically, hence as Team Lead of IEEE Day 2013-2015, we received MGA Achievement Award in 2015

POSITION STATEMENT

As R8 Vice Chair for Student Activities, I would like contribute to leverage organizational structure and operation with all my experiences. My focus will be on:

- Increasing the number of student chapters and highlighting the importance of Technical Societies for students
- Supporting the improvement of Section SAC Structures by sharing best practices between sections.
- Enabling new initiatives and developing training structure for student leaders
- Strengthening collaboration with other IEEE OU’s
- Targeting to the keep the student branches active. As R8 SAC team we have achievement on Student branch retention at the current term. This success should continually increase and remain alive
- Empowering the industry engagement: *having several years of management experience in the industry gives me opportunity*