

IEEE Region 8 News

Europe, Middle East
& Africa



IEEE
Networking the World

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No 121

Satellites, Windmills

& Clockwork

Disasters, the result of nature's discontent with its environment or man's inability to live in peace with his neighbours, are never far from the television screen or daily papers

The relief agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, work under conditions of considerable discomfort and danger, in countries where roads are almost non-existent and communications between units in the field and base headquarters difficult or absent. Those who provide such communications as do exist, rarely merit the attention of popular journalism, but in a large measure it is thanks to communications engineers that relief agencies are able to keep in touch with one another and their base.

In 1994, when the tragedy of Rwanda created a "township" of more than a million desperately sick

During the 1994 tragedy of Rwanda the UNHCR's established means of radio communication, HF radio transmission, was overwhelmed.

and hungry refugees, the UNCHR's established means of radio communication, HF radio transmission, was overwhelmed. The installation of INMAR-SAT satellite terminals at each UNHCR loca-

tion was unable to cope with the volume of voice, data and fax communication needed to coordinate the international response to such an unprecedented human disaster.

UNHCR then turned to a relatively new technology, Very Small Aperture Satellite Terminals. The name is small enough, but their 3.7 meter reflectors meant that the VSAT dishes were much larger than anything that the technical staff had hitherto experienced, but they did provide eight simultaneous channels in place of the one that had previously been used. One problem came immediately to the fore; the VSAT systems required a much 'cleaner' power supply than that immediately available - UNHCR technicians had to learn about yet another new technology, and 'no-break' power supplies.

The next requirement was for a telephone exchange PABX (Private Automatic Branch Exchange) that would permit everyone to have access to the new systems - the solution this time was the installation of a UHF Telephone link - yet another complication for the hard pressed technical staff. Dozens of VHF repeaters were installed on every accessible, and sometimes inaccessible site. The most difficult of these difficult sites was 3,000 metres up the side of the Nyiragongo volcano; everything had to be carried up the mountain by unaided humans. The installation team did however discover one unexpected advantage provided by this site; there was a constant wind produced by the heat from the volcano's crater.

Now what was wanted was a wind generator. Contact was established with headquarters in Geneva and a request made for a wind generator; this quite naturally was passed to Holland, where else would you expect to find a spare windmill? Recent events in the area had prevented any maintenance visits to the site for over 5 months but the repeater continued to function on wind and solar energy - providing a telecommunications service over an area of more than 100 square kilometres.

...a request was made for a wind generator; this quite naturally was passed to Holland, where else would you expect to find a spare windmill?

Perhaps one of the most promising innovations yet to be introduced into primitive and inhospitable places is the Clockwork Radio; communication over quite a modest distance is to some people the equivalent of interstellar probes or the ubiquitous Internet

The success of these humanitarian projects owes much, not only to those dedicated engineers of all kinds who build bridges over seemingly impossible obstacles, make roads out of puddles and introduce technology into a world which cannot possibly understand it; but to others who possess a variety of skills harnessed in so many different ways to the relief of suffering in some of the world's most uncomfortable places. Sitting in your comfortable laboratory, think of your colleagues who have chosen to tolerate a far less agreeable climate.

Remember too that it is hard to be grateful on an empty belly.

G.H.Byford

France

By Professor Edwige Pissaloux

M. Michel Israel (U. D'Evry) has been nominated the Computer Society's treasurer as from January 1st 1998.

Circuit and System Chapter (CAS004). Its chairman is Dr. Agnieszka Konczykowska, research engineer at CNET, Bagneux. Inf. Agnieszka.Konczykowska@bagneux.cnet.fr. Fax: 33 (0)1 47 46 04 17. Tel: 33 (0)1 42 31 74 62.

OCEANS'98, Conference and Exhibition (with student posters) will be held in Nice, Acropolis Convention Center, 28 Sept. - 1 Oct. 1998. Abstract deadline: February 6, 1998. Inf. Rene Garello, rene.garello@enst-bretagne.fr. <http://oceans98.ifremer.fr/oceans98>. Fax: 33 (0)2 98 00 10 98.

IPMU 98 (Information Processing and Management of Uncertainty in Knowledge-Based Systems), will be held on July 6-10 1998 in Paris. Deadline for paper submission: November 1 1997. Inf.: impu@laforia.ibp.fr. <http://www-laforia.ibp.fr/~baslofti/impu.html>.

IEEE Int. Conf. On Advances in Vehicle Control and Safety (AVCS'98) will be held in Amiens, July 1-3, 1998. It will be hosted by the University of Picardie Jules Verne and the University of Technology, Compiègne. Paper Deadline Feb. 2, 1998. Inf.: avcs@u-picardie.fr.

France Section contacts:

Chairman: Christine Nora. E-mail: nora-@poly.polytechnique.fr.

Secretary: Edwige Pissaloux. Edwige.Pissaloux-@univ-rouen.fr.

IEEE France Section Internet address: <http://w3.u-picardie.fr/~cerin/ieee/>

NEWS IN FRENCH

Le chapitre MTT-ED organise, sous le patronage de INP de Toulouse et de l'ENSEEIH, un workshop sur « Les simulateurs globaux » les 27 et 28 mai au Palais des Congrès à la Rochelle. Inf. secrétariat du GRE, Laboratoire d'Electronique, ENSEEIH. Inf. picq@len7.enseiht.fr, tél. 05 61 58 83 72 ; fax : 05 1 58 82 46. Date limite de réception des résumés : 25 février 1998.

Le chapitre EMC vous invite à le 19 janvier 1998, a « Perfectly Matched Layer - PLM », par J.P. BERENGER, A. BERTHON, Dr. F. MAYER (l'inscription obligatoire auprès de la SEE ; elle aura lieu à 17 heures à la S.E.E., 48 rue de la Procession, 75015 à 17h30 ; tél. 01 44 49 60 15; fax : 01 44 49 60 44.1 58 82 46. Date limite de réception des résumés : 25 février 1998.

LES ANCIENS DE LA RADIO ET DE L'ELECTRONIQUE vous invitent aux conférences suivantes:

- le 17 mars 1998 « La guerre électronique » par Guy Le -
le 21 avril 1998 « Les télécom mobiles » par Michel Bertinnetto, Directeur de France-Télécom Mobiles; Parquier, ancien Ingénieur en Chef du Groupe Thomson;

- le 26 mai 1998 « Les antennes actives ou peaux intelligentes (smart skins), par Michel H. Carpentier.

- le 16 juin 1998 « La cryptographie aujourd'hui » par Joël Lebidois, ingénieur à Thomson-CSF, et Pierre Benaiteau (ex. Thomson-CSF). Parquier, ancien Ingénieur en Chef du Groupe Thomson;

Les conférences ont lieu à 17 heures à la F.I.E.E.C., 17 rue Hamelin, 75 116 Paris, secrétariat M.Crantelle, elles sont suivies d'un pot amical.

Israel

By Dr. Jonah Z. Lavi

Engineering of Computer Based Systems

March 30 - April 3 1998 - Israel - Conference & Workshop

ECBS is an emerging discipline devoted to the design, development and analysis of complex systems whose behaviour is determined or controlled by computers. Its function, performance and reliability requirements are demanding.

Forty five reviewed academic and industrial papers will be presented in the areas of requirements elicitation and analysis, modelling of complex systems, CBS design, system and software architectures, re-engineering and reuse, system assessment and testing, ECBS education and training programmes.

The conference will be followed by a two-day workshop of the TC's working groups: System and software architectures, Process and Information Models, Standards, Education and Training.

Details can be found at <http://www.ece.arizona.edu/~ecbs/ECBS~98.html>

See also the advertisement on page 4 of this issue.

Baltic Workshop

By Professor Algirdas Pakstas

This workshop will be held on April 15-17th, 1998 in Riga Latvia, where it will continue a series of bi-annual Baltic workshops. The previous workshops were held in Lithuania in 1994 and Estonia in 1996.

The word Baltic in the title has a twofold meaning: first it indicates three Baltic countries rapidly developing their information and communications infrastructure on the basis of advanced database and information systems technologies; second it points to the Baltic Sea which does not only separates but also joins different countries as well as research communities in these countries to give them opportunities to exchange ideas and to trigger collaborations.

The workshop is planned to include four main tracks: traditional research on database issues, regional IT infrastructure government regulations, conventions, education, networks, registers etc.), advanced information systems and software technology track, and a track to recover once famous Riga conferences on computer programme synthesis, testing, verification and debugging (which amongst other areas was applied to the development of the communications protocols)

The research track includes such topics as client-server and open networked database systems, distributed database techniques and interoperability, information systems and data communication security, hypertext interface and, computer programme synthesis; Technology track will include topics on the traditional information infrastructure development, telecommunication databases, and multimedia database applications.

To activate and motivate PhD students the workshop programme will be preceded by a one-day Doctoral Consortium chaired by invited professors.

Call for papers is available on the web at the URL <http://www.dati.lv/riti/db&is'98.html>

Austria

By Professor Muhr

The Section meeting took place in March 1997 at the ELIN transformer factory in Weiz. The Section activity report was outlined by Mr. E. Trummer and Prof. K. Richter. The Section has approximately 650 members. The IEEE was present at several conferences held in Austria: the Computer Society Workshop on parallel and Distributed Simulation at Lockenhaus in June, and the Transformer Committee meeting in Graz

In 1998 there will also be several IEEE meetings in Austria:

2nd World Conference on Photovoltaic Energy Conversion ICPEC - July in Vienna

IS&T 10th Image and Multidimensional Signal Processing Workshop - July in Alpbach

Neural Computation conference in Vienna.

Activities of the Austria Section

With the support of the Section the International Symposium on Neural Computation NC '98 will take place at the University of Technology Vienna, from 23rd-25th September, 1998. It will be hosted by the Institute fuer Elektrische Regelungstechnik under the patronage of Prof. Alexander Weinmann.

Dr. Michael Heiss from Siemens Austria, head of the New Technologies Group ECANSE, will be co-director of the Centre for Biological and Computational Learning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be honorary chair of the conference.

NC'98 will bring together scientists and practitioners in the field of Artificial Neural networks. The conference will concentrate on the computational aspects of Neural Networks in the widest sense, from convergence theory, numerical aspects and hybrid systems, through to neural software and hardware. In addition, the conference will provide a venue for the discussion of commercial and other practical applications of the technology.

It is hoped that participants will have a common interest in, and a fascination for, self learning systems in nature, their theoretical modelling and interpretation, and their computational implementation.

One of the highlights of the conference will be the plenary lectures by: Prof Tomaso Poggio from MIT USA - Learning Sparse Representation.

Prof Wolfgang Maass, Technical University of Graz, Austria - Spiking Neurons and

Prof. Igor Aleksander, Imperial College of Science, Technol and Medicine, London U.K. - Models of Visual Awareness in a Multi-modul Neural Network

The deadline for abstract submission is January 31, 1998, and for poster submission June 30th 1998. Abstracts may be submitted by electronic mail to iscs@compusmart.ab.ca. Tutorials and demonstration sessions will also be organised

More detailed information about the conference and its beautiful location (September is the best time for a visit to Vienna) can be found at <http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/iscs/nc98.htm> or from the chair - m.heiss@ieee.org. Take advantage of this opportunity to join in this IEEE activity in Austria! [Tutorials and demonstration sessions will also be organised.](http://www.compusmart.ab.ca)

More detailed information about the conference and its beautiful location (September is the best time for a visit to Vienna) can be found at <http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/iscs/nc98.htm> or from the chair - m.heiss@ieee.org. Take advantage of this opportunity to join in this IEEE activity in Austria!

Section Chairman: Prof. Dr. Michael Muhr, HV-Eng. TUG, Inffeldgasse 18, A-8010 Graz, Austria. Tel: 43 316 873 7400. Fax: +43 316 873 7900. E-mail: muhr@hspt.tu-graz.ac.at

Slovenia

By Dr. Andrej Zemva

This year, the IEEE server (<http://www.ieee.si/>) starts operating. In addition, a student corner with internet facilities is available for Student members in Ljubljana and Maribor

In June, our Section organised the lecture "Technical Education in India, with emphasis on the Institute of Higher Education, given by our former PhD student Prof. Viswanath Sinha from the Indian Technical Institute of Technology Kanpur

On September 24-26, the sixth Electrotechnical and Computer Conference took place. This year there were more than 300 participants and lectures. We had the pleasure of hosting a past IEEE president, Wallace Read - an invited speaker with a lecture "The 21st century Engineer". A new and special event was a video conference round table in collaboration with Prof. Eric Persoon from Philips Research laboratories. During the conference, there was a regular annual Slovenian Section IEEE Student paper contest, sponsored by the Hermes Softlab, Ljubljana.

Let me use this opportunity to announce that on July 5-9th 1999, our country will host an International Symposium on Industrial Electronics, organised by the University of Maribor and supported by the Slovenia Section.

Deadlines: Summary December 1st 1998
Notification of acceptance 15th Feb. 1999
Final manuscript due April 30th 1999.

Additional information may be obtained from: the general co-chair: Prof. Karel Jezernik: E-mail: karel.jezernik@uni-mb.si or Prof. Guiseppe Buja: E-mail buja@light.dei.unipd.it

Section Chairman: Prof Jurij F. Tasic, Univ of Ljubljana, Fac Elec Eng. Trzaska 25, SI-1000, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Tel: +386 61 1768 440. Fax: +386 61 1768 492. E-mail: jurij.tasic@fe.uni-lj.si

New Project Benefits Region 8 Student Branches

By Professor Charles Turner

Starting in January 1998, 12 Student Branches in Region 8 will benefit from a new project financed by the Voluntary Contributions Fund established through donations from Regional members. The project enables the Student Branches to receive, free of charge, the IEEE All-Magazine package, which includes the newsletters and magazines of all 37 IEEE Societies (but not the journals) for 1998.

This project grew out of the aim to stimulate growth of student membership and to provide more resources to Student Branches. The magazines will be held locally by the Student Branches so that the collection will be accessible to student members of IEEE. Because the magazines are not considered to be archivable they are particularly suitable for the informally held collections typically maintained in student branch offices.

The 12 recipients chosen in the pilot programme are:

The universities of: Bogazici, Cairo, Eastern Mediterranean, Istanbul, Jordan - Science and Technology, Lebanese American, Mansoura (Egypt), Sarajevo, Teheran, Varna, Sofia -, Technical, Parma, (Italy).

The programme will be reviewed at the end of this year to assess its value to the student members. Other Student Branches will be invited to join the scheme, subject to availability of funds, in 1999.

All student members at the 12 universities taking part in this year's pilot programme are invited to send their comments to me by E-mail at c.turner@ieee.org to help us evaluate the project.
IEEE Region 8 Planning Co-ordinator

Jerusalem, Israel

March 30 - April 3, 1998

ECBS '98 Engineering of Computer Based Systems Design, development, deployment and analysis of complex systems, determined or controlled by computers

Secretariat: P.O.B. 3401, Jerusalem, Israel
Fax: 972-2-6520-558 E-mail: isas@netvision.net.il

Professor E. Folke Bolinder

Folke Bolinder has since 1980 looked after the interests of distinguished Regional members nominated as Fellows or for an Award; an activity that has occupied much of his time and talent. Amongst his many distinctions are: Technical Director of the Royal Institute of Technology, member of the New York Academy of Sciences, and Fellow of the IEEE; he was Chairman of the Swedish Section and Director of Region 8.

His ample frame and a cheerful personality endeared him to friends and colleagues alike; we wish him a very pleasant and rewarding retirement from the Region 8 Committee.

E. Folke Bolinder: Askims Kyrkasvag 9, S-43640 Askim, Sweden

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- Extended coverage of power system components
- Includes a new chapter on power system economics and management issues
- Features worked examples at the end of each chapter and concise explanations of difficult concepts making it an ideal student text

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Hungary

By Professor Imre J. Rudas

Foundation of the Hungarian Joint Chapter: Industrial Electronics and Robotics and Automation Societies

On the occasion of the 1997 IEEE Conference on Intelligent Engineering Systems, the Inaugural Meeting of the Hungarian Joint chapter of the Industrial Electronics, and Robotics and Automation, Societies was held in Budapest, Hungary on 15th September, 1997.

On the basis of advice and constructive suggestions from a number of prominent engineers, the appropriate Petition and Declarations were submitted; the date of the Section's formation was declared to be 8th October 1997.

Hungary, a relatively small Central European country experienced a period of considerable difficulty during the years of its economic transition. The negative "side effects" of the first half of this transition strongly influenced those sectors of the national economy that encompass the use of modern equipment, especially the use of robotics and other electronic devices. The shortage of domestic capital and the diverse interests of foreign investors produced a wide gap between the industrial and university sectors.

By the end of 1997 this tendency had changed, with the result that relations between industry and academia have strengthened. The Chapter intends to continue work on the development of this trend.

Section Chairman: Prof. Peter Arato, Tel: +36 1 463 2699
E-mail: arato@fsz.bme.hu. Fax: +36 1 463 2204

EES-UETP

1998 COURSE PROGRAM



Electric Energy Systems University Enterprise Training Partnership (EES-UETP) an association of twenty institutions in seven European Countries

One of the main tasks of the EES-UETP is to improve the knowledge and expertise of electric power engineers. To achieve this objective the EES-UETP organises every year a course program. Since 1993 27 courses have been held in many different European countries.

- Electrical Energy Storage Systems for System Optimisation
- EMC in Power Plants and Substations
- Power System Protection
- Load Models and customer load data in open energy markets
- Electric and Magnetic fields in Power Systems
- Recent Advances in Optimisation Generation Management
- Towards a competitive Electricity Market
- Electrical Power Quality
- Operation and planning of Distribution MV Networks

INFORMATION

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Fax: +34 1 542 31 76. E-mail: ees-uetp@it.upco.es
URL: <http://www.it.upco.es/~eesuetp>

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Second Int'l Conf. on Evolvable Systems: From Biology to Hardware

EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland, Sep. 23-26, 1998

The 1998 International EPFL-Latsis Foundation Conference

Topics include (but not limited to): Evolving hardware systems. Evolutionary hardware design methodologies. Evolutionary design of electronic circuits. Self-replicating hardware. Self-repairing hardware. Neural hardware. Adaptive hardware platforms. Autonomous robots. Evolutionary robotics. Bio-robotics. Applications of nanotechnology. Biological- and chemical-based systems. DNA computing.

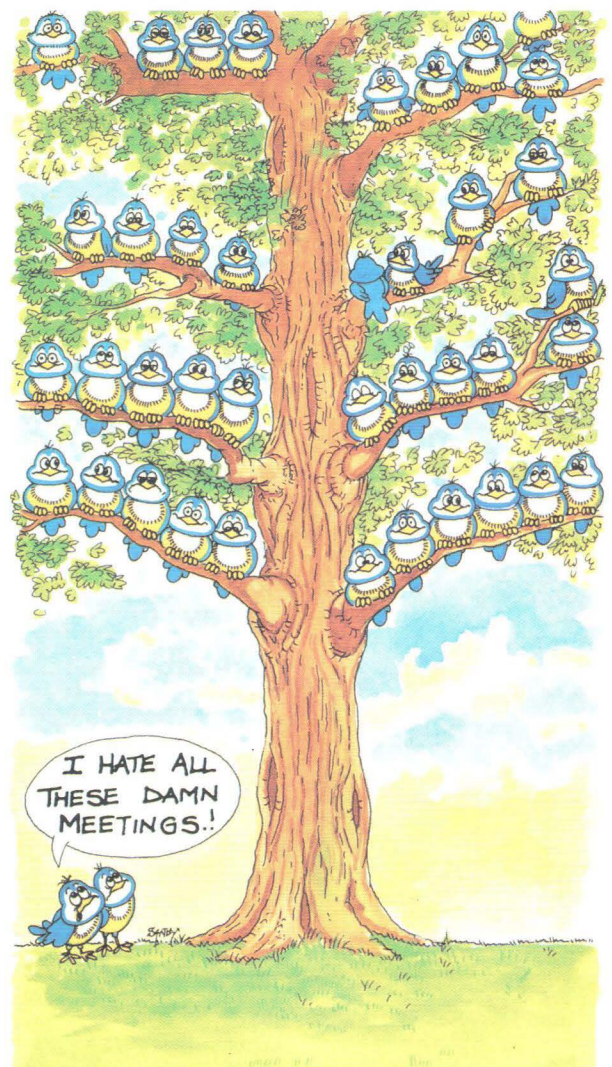
Submission deadline: March 1, 1998

<http://lslwww.epfl.ch/ices98/>

General Chair: Daniel Mange, EPFL
Program Chair: Moshe Sipper, EPFL
International Steering Committee:

T. Higuchi, H. Kitano, D. Mange, M. Sipper, A. Perez-Uribe

Inquiries: Andres Perez-Uribe - ICES98 Secretariat,
Logic Systems Laboratory, EPFL, 1015 Lausanne,
Switzerland. E-mail: ices98@lslsun.epfl.ch



Benelux

- Herman Emile Maes:** For contributions in the field of non-volatile silicon memory devices and MOS reliability physics.
Rik Pintelon: For fundamental research in frequency domain system identification and its application in instrumentation control, and signal processing
Andrew S. Tanndnbaum: For contributions to research and education in computer networks and operating systems.

France

- Pierre Duhamel:** For contributions to the optimization of the Fast Fourier Transform.
Jean Menez: For the development of noise masking techniques in low-bit rate speech coding.

Germany

- Wolfram A. Boeck:** For contributions to the development of gas insulated substations (GIS).
Bernd Girod: For contributions to the theory and practice of video communication.
Hans-Helmut Nagel: For research into the analysis and interpretation of digitised real-world image sequences and for theoretical and experimental contributions to motion analysis from image sequences.
Hans-Hellmut Nagel: For research into the analysis and interpretation of digitised real-world image sequences and for theoretical and experimental contributions to motion analysis from image sequences.
Wolfgang Pfeiffer: For achievements in the field of Ultra High Speed Diagnostics in electrical Insulation.

Hungary

- Istvan Novak:** For contributions to the theory and practice of radio-frequency monitoring techniques, and to the measurement and simulation of high-speed digital systems

Israel

- Nadav Levanon:** For contributions to radar signal analysis and detection.
Yehuda Leviatan: For contributions to the developments of new computational techniques for electromagnetic scattering analysis.
Joseph Shamir: For major contributions to the theory, analysis and design of electro-optic signal processing systems.
Moshe Tur: For contributions to the theory and practice of laser phase noise management in fibre optic lightwave systems for sensing, signal processing and communication.

North Italy

- Luigi Fratta:** For contributions to packet switching technology.
Roberto Domenico Graglia: For contributions to the application of numerical techniques in the study of electromagnetic structures.
Alfredo Vagati: For contributions to the research, design and application of high performance synchronous reluctance drives.

Norway

- Asle Schei:** For development and design of overvoltage protection systems and contribution to international standardisation.

Poland

- Marian Piotr Kazmierkowski:** For contributions to research, education and industrial developments in power electronics and induction motor control.

South Africa

- Duncan Charles Baker:** For leadership in engineering education in electromagnetic compatibility, computational electromagnetics, and ionospheric propagation, and contributions to ionospheric modelling.

Spain

- Ramon Pallas-Areny:** For contribution to medical and electronic instrumentation and biomedical sensors.

Sweden

- Thomas Ericson:** For contributions to communications and coding theory and practice
Rolf Johannesson: For contributions to the understanding and application of convolutional codes

United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland

- Antonios Georgiou Constantinides:** For contributions to the development of digital signal processing methods.
Michael Peter Kenedy: For contributions to the theory of neural networks and nonlinear dynamics, and for leadership in nonlinear circuits research and education.
Alan Miller: For contributions to the understanding of ultrafast phenomena in semiconductor materials and nonlinear optoelectronic devices.



Region 8 Student News

No 3 — February 1998

Editors:

Jens Hannemann (Regional Student Representative), J.Hannemann@ieee.org
Levent Onural (Regional Student Activities Committee Chairman), L.Onural@ieee.org

Editorial

Hi folks,
as we have pointed out in the first issue of this newsletter, student matters are currently among the very top priorities of the IEEE as a whole and, of course, of Region 8 as well, as can be illustrated by the following fact: a significant amount of money out of the 1998 Region 8 budget has been allocated to hold the first Region 8 Student Branch Congress. Of course, there will be some additional money from other sources, but this is by far the largest single item in the 1998 budget. And, by the way, this item has been agreed upon unanimously in the Region 8 committee! So let's make this a worthwhile investment and prove that students and Student Branches are beneficial for the Region 8 for growth of both membership and quality of service. The Congress is a perfect example of what is meant by IEEE's new logo, "Networking the World", where networking is taken in its technical sense only in the second place. Perhaps even more important is the idea of networking by members serving members. We very much look forward meeting you all in August in Istanbul.

To acknowledge the outstanding work Levent Onural has done as our SAC chair, he has recently been elected Vice President/Student Activities of the Regional Activities Board and will therefore be chairman of the IEEE Student Activities Committee. Levent's new responsibility means that we will soon have a new Regional Student Activities Chairman.

Congratulations, Levent, and thank you very much for what you've done for the students in Region 8!

Jens

1998 IEEE Region 8 Student Branch Congress Student Branches Are Invited to Meet in Istanbul

We are excited to invite you to an extraordinary student event in 1998: the first Student Branch Congress (SBC) will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on 10-13 August 1998. The event will be the first opportunity to get *all* the branch chairs in Region 8 together. During the four day congress, there will be tutorials, branch leadership training, interaction among the branch chairs and key IEEE volunteers, and plenty of socio-cultural activities. The IEEE President, the Region 8 Director and other distinguished guests will also attend.

Actually, this event is an enlarged version of the Leadership Training Meetings we had during the past two years. Since our region is so large, we never had the resources to get together all branch chairs; instead, we had smaller meetings in limited geographies. There were leadership training programs only in Italy (1996), Turkey (1996 and 1997) and Germany (1997). Only those branches in Italy, Turkey, Germany, Switzerland, Benelux

and Austria had a chance to attend. Thanks to the Region 8 committee, we had some regional sources committed this year for this "branch congress". Not only the covered geography is extended (now it is the entire region), but also the content is enlarged and the duration is extended. We will have a four-day get-together in Istanbul. The first day is devoted to arrivals: participants will be welcomed at the airport by the Boğaziçi University Branch members and guided to the university dorms. There will be a welcome party in the evening. On August 11, the Congress will officially start; there will be leadership training sessions all day long. In the evening a boat-trip with dinner will take place on the legendary Bosphorus. The group will have a tour of Istanbul on the 12th. Istanbul has been the capital of Byzantium Empire for about 1000 years, and the capital of Ottoman Empire for more than 450 years. The heritage is incredibly rich.

(continued on p. 2)

Conference Support for Students

Student members who attend an IEEE conference in 1998 may get a voucher up to \$30 to be used for their 1999 membership renewal. To receive the voucher, your IEEE mailing address must be in Region 8 and information about the conference, your membership number, proof of payment of the conference registration fee as well as your address (plus your e-mail if you have one) must be mailed to Levent Onural, Elektrik ve Elektronik Müh. Böl., Bilkent Üniversitesi, TR-06533 Ankara, Turkey. You'll get your vouchers before the 1999 membership renewal cycle starts. More information can be obtained from:

www.ee.bilkent.edu.tr/~onural/free.html

Deadlines & Upcoming Events

February 28 *Outstanding Counselor Award* nominations due to Student Services (for more information on awards, see previous issue).

March 1 *Half-Year dues cycle* begins

March 1 *Outstanding Student Award* recipient should be named to Student Services. Allow 4 weeks for preparation of certificates (and additional time for mailing).

March 31 *Larry K. Wilson Award* nominations deadline (send nomination to RSAC (Levent Onural)).

March 31 *Symposium* of the Student Branch Eindhoven. The title is "Future without limits — Communica-

tion in the 21st century". More info is available at <http://www.ele.tue.nl/ieeesb>

April 1 *Elections* for new branch officers to be held. Inform Student Services about new officers and counselor.

May 1 *Annual Report* must be submitted to Student Services. \$1.10 per member rebate checks will be issued only upon timely receipt of the Annual Report!

May *Student Paper Contest Finals* will be held most likely at the MELECON '98 in Tel Aviv, Israel.

August 10 – 13 *IEEE Region 8 Student Branch Congress* in Istanbul, Turkey in conjunction with STUDENT'98.

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On August 13th, an exhibition will take place. We ask all the participants to bring with them local IEEE related materials (newsletters, meeting pictures, trip memoirs, seminar and conference announcements, etc), as well as, their local ethnic materials with them. Each branch will have a table to display their material for a couple of hours. In the afternoon, there will be technical tutorial sessions and a farewell party. The program is still being worked out; there may be changes, for example, a trip to an industrial site is sought.

In addition to the Student Branch Congress, there will be another exciting student event right after it: the IEEE STUDENT'98 conference. This is a conference organized by students (Boğaziçi University Branch) for students. The first conference (STUDENT'97) was very successful, so they decided to repeat it in 1998, too. Now, the conference will have an international flavor. Indeed, the last day of the Student Branch Congress and STUDENT'98 are going to be a joint event on Aug 13. The student congress will continue for another 3 days. So, participants of the congress will be also the participants of STUDENT'98 on August 13. If they wish, they can extend their stay and enjoy the complete conference.

A travel agent is organizing post-meeting tours within the country. You may find this a good opportunity to sample Anatolian culture and history. And maybe relax under the sun. I am sure there will

be another taste when you are with other IEEE people who have always been friendly.

Please note that the events (except the post-meeting tours) are going to be heavily subsidized by IEEE. First of all, the travel costs associated with the Student Branch Congress of all eligible branch chairs will be reimbursed by IEEE Region 8. All chairs are being contacted by personal invitation letters; a request form must have been returned and approved to receive this subsidy. If you are a branch officer, and if you have not received such a letter of invitation, please contact Levent Onural, immediately. (e-mail: l.onural@ieee.org; you will find other contact points on the header of the first page). Others will enjoy the whole program by paying a small fee; partners are welcome. For non-students, hotel accommodations are handled by a travel agent; please send us your intentions to participate and you will get the complete information. All those who wish to participate in the subsequent STUDENT'98 will be charged a reasonable conference fee.

The whole sequence of events described above are organized by the Boğaziçi University Branch members. I would like to thank the local organizing committee. The chair of the branch, Arda Yurdakul and her committee is working very hard to make your experience a memorable one. You may wish to get in touch with the local organizers, if you wish: Just drop an e-mail to ieeesb@boun.edu.tr See you in Istanbul...

Time to Say Bye Bye...

Farewell Message from Levent Onural

It has been a great pleasure for me to serve as the SAC Chair of IEEE Region 8 since 1995. Though my term has extended by the Region 8 Committee, I have to leave this position to take the responsibility of another task within IEEE: In November 1997, the Regional Activities Board (RAB) Assembly of IEEE honored me by electing me to the position of RAB Vice-chair in charge of Student Activities. One of my duties is to serve as the chair of the Student Activities Committee (SAC) of IEEE. As the SAC chair of Region 8, I had been a member of this committee for three years. Now I will have a chance to affect the IEEE policies regarding student issues, worldwide.

During my term, I always enjoyed the endless enthusiasm of the IEEE Region 8 committee to support its student members. In addition to the lively student participation in IEEE affairs in Region 8, this willingness of the Region 8 committee was my main drive to bring more service to the students. Here is an overview of what happened since 1995:

- Dick Poortvliet Award was officially established.
- Branch-get-a-branch program was established and new branches are promoted through this program.
- Conference support for student members is established and implemented.
- Branch leadership program is started and implemented.
- A "students page" is reserved in Region 8 News.
- Region 8 issues have been successfully carried to IEEE SAC committee and other IEEE bodies. One of the outcomes of these efforts is the "reduction of student membership dues".

- Web pages that link the student branches in Region 8 was established. (Thanks to branches who made their individual pages and to Turkey Section who helped to have the regional page.)
- An IRC has been active. (Thanks to Bochum branch and Christian Borgert.)
- Student paper contest has been continued; guidelines have been reviewed and updated.
- Branches are supported by regional funds for their projects.
- The first Region 8 Student Branches Congress is planned. (Thanks to Boğaziçi Branch.)
- Branches are guided in their routine businesses; and questions and requests from student members, branch officers, counselors and others are answered.
- About 2000 e-mail requests have been handled.

I thank Andrej Zemva and Jens Hannemann, the two Student Representatives in the Region 8 Committee that I worked with; their contributions have always been crucial in all the issues outlined above. Special thanks goes to Peer Martin Larsen and Maurice Papo, the two regional directors that I have the honor to work with.

I will be more than happy to help you in any IEEE matter regarding students from now on, too. Please keep in touch...

Levent Onural

1998 IEEE Region 8 Paper Contest Record Interest

As a consequence of better communications among our members, we received a record number of submissions to the contest this year. There are 19 submissions to the contest. The papers are already received and will be forwarded to an international jury for evaluation. The best five or six will be invited to the oral fi-

nals. Probably, at the time when you read this article, the jury will have already chosen the finalists. The costs associated with the travel of the finalists will be covered by IEEE Region 8. We thank those who participate. We hope the other branches will also submit papers to the contest next year.