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# EUROCON2009 is distinguished by IEEE Milestone for Shilling

ST PETERSBURG Electro-technical University (LETI) and the IEEE Russia Northwest Section were the hosts of EUROCON2009 on 17-22

May, with support from IEEE Region 8 and the St Petersburg government.

The success of the conference was measured by its

strong technical content. Of the 544 papers submitted, a huge team of 186 international reviewers selected 471 papers to be presented at 19 sessions covering all fields of electrical engineering, electronics, computers and the history of electrotechnology. Some 340 of these papers will be published in the IEEE Xplore database. The event attracted 315 delegates from 49 countries.

The EUROCON tradition of a Student Paper Contest was maintained, with eight finalists from six countries. The winner was Ralph Hermans from The Netherlands.

The history session was delivered at the Central Museum of Communications, which displays Shilling's original apparatus used in

the construction of the postal and telegraph service of the Russian Empire.

The conference finished with an overall discussion at the Round Table, featuring main speakers Orest Vendik (Russia), Paul Brenner (Israel) and the Region 8 History Activity Coordinator, Jacob Baal-Schem (Israel), about electrical engineering in the past and the future.

The conference social programme included city evening sightseeing bus and boat tours around the city, including visit to the famous Hermitage museum, a visit to the wonderful fountain centre at Peterhoff, and other interesting events.

Alexander Mikerov  
**Vice-Chair  
Russia Northwest Section**

## Modelski unveils new Milestone plaque



Modelski  
and Puzankov

THE DEDICATION of the IEEE Milestone plaque in honour of Pavel Litov Shilling took place during EUROCON. It was unveiled by Region 8 Director Jozef Modelski, Communication Society President Douglas Zuckerman, Russia Northwest Section Chairman Dmitry Puzankov and Central Museum of Communications Director Ljudmila Bakajutova.

This latest IEEE Milestone commemorates Shilling as the founder of modern communications. In 1832, in St Petersburg, he created one of the first operating electromagnetic telegraphs.

The plaque reads: *Shilling's Pioneering Contribution to Practical Telegraphy, 1828-1837, St Petersburg, Russia. In this building, Shilling's original electromagnetic telegraph is exhibited. PL Shilling, a Russian scientist, successfully transmitted messages over different distances by means of an electric current's effect on a magnetic needle, using two signs and a telegraph dictionary for transferring letters and digits. Shilling's demonstrations provided an impetus to scientists in different countries and influenced the invention of more advanced electromagnetic telegraphs.*



Guests at Eurocon appreciated the history-themed event.



## Russian students guide the EUROCON visitors

FOUR MONTHS before the conference, the IEEE Russia Northwest Section set up a team of 39 English-speaking students from different St Petersburg universities to act as guides during EUROCON. After intensive training, each student-guide chose a guest and planned in advance a detailed visit itinerary including social events. All were IEEE student members who volunteered – but they also had a lot of fun and got to practice their English too.

One of the student guides, Aljena Monosova, said: "The experience was priceless because my future profession intercultural communications starts, from my point of view, with a contact of unfamiliar people, searching any ways of mutual understanding and leaving as good friends."

Jana Romanova added: "I worked with two scientists from Macedonia. We talked in English but they were very interested in Russian. I would like to visit Macedonia – the place where my new friends invited me to."



## Young researchers present 200 papers at WILGA 2009

THE 2009 WILGA symposium on applications of advanced electronics and photonics systems was held in Finland during 25–31 May.

The symposium was chaired by Maciek Linczuk with the assistance of post-graduate students from ISE Warsaw Technical University. It was also supported by professional organisations in

Poland, including SEP, PAN and PSP.

More than 200 papers were presented by in the fields of electronic systems and photonics, Internet engineering, distributed measurement systems, security in information technology, and astronomy.

WILGA is focused on 'young science' with an inter-

national background and with an interest in developing new technology. Young researchers are invited to attend the WILGA 2010 events, to be held on 29–31 January and 24–30 May 2010.

For more information, see <http://wilga.ise.pw.edu.pl>.

**Ryszard S. Romaniuk**  
WILGA Symposium Chair  
[R.Romaniuk@ieee.org](mailto:R.Romaniuk@ieee.org)

## IEEE to expand 'TEP' English courses

IEEE'S TECHNICAL English Programme, 'TEP', will be familiar to many readers who followed the progress of pilot programs at St Petersburg Electrotechnical University, sponsored by IEEE Russia Northwest Section and the IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB).

It is an intensive one-day course involving training and practice presentations using technical English. It is specifically designed to help students develop their technical English skills.

Now the EAB wants to expand the programme further to more institutions in eastern and central Europe, Middle East and Africa – places where English is not the primary local language.

The plan is to launch the programme at selected new sites in 2010.

Faculty, programme directors and other higher education officers in Region 8 are invited to St Petersburg TEP on 2–3 October 2009 at the Corinthia Palace Hotel. Here, you can observe actual programme sessions and meet with IEEE volunteers and staff to discuss how to start equivalent programmes in your locality.

Details and application forms can be downloaded from [www.ieee.org/web/education/technical\\_english](http://www.ieee.org/web/education/technical_english).

You can also contact Charles W Hickman, IEEE University Educational Activities, at [c.w.hickman@ieee.org](mailto:c.w.hickman@ieee.org) to talk over whether or not your institution qualifies.



## AFRICON 2009

[www.africon2009.org](http://www.africon2009.org)

23–25 September 2009 • Nairobi, Kenya

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

**Gerrit Niezen**, [office@aficon2009.org](mailto:office@aficon2009.org), +27 12 420 3736

## IEEE Women in Engineering confirm top business school

IN MAY, a leading initiative was launched between the IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) and one of Europe's top institutions of higher learning, the Instituto de Empresa (IE), Madrid, Spain.

As part of the agreement, IEEE Region 8 members who are also members of Women In Engineering can apply for a scholarship towards a master program at the IE Business School. The IE Foundation, the institution's non-profit organisation, has earmarked €50,000 in scholarships for IEEE WIE members in the 2009–2010 academic year.

So if you are looking to add a top-level designation in business management (MBA or other master) to your engineering training, this is the time to do it. Complementary financial support is also available.

Scholarships:  
[www.ie.edu/financiaid](http://www.ie.edu/financiaid)

Programmes:  
[www.ie.edu/business](http://www.ie.edu/business)  
IEEE WIE contact:  
Pilar Molina Gaudó ([pimolina@ieee.org](mailto:pimolina@ieee.org))

IE Business School contact:  
Joël McConnell ([joel.mcconnell@ieee.org](mailto:joel.mcconnell@ieee.org))

Application Deadline:  
30 August 2009.



## IEEE president opens up comms in Hungary

IEEE PRESIDENT John Vig and IEEE VP TAB 2008 Roberto de Marca officially opened the IEEE Wireless Communications & Networking Conference, Budapest, on 5 April. This is a worldwide conference sponsored by the IEEE Communications Society. You can download the keynote address from this website: [www.ieee-wcnc.org/2009](http://www.ieee-wcnc.org/2009).

## Brno's 4 days of keynotes and lectures

BRNO, CZECH Republic was the venue for ISSE-2009 on 13–16 May. The four-day event composed of keynote and distinguished lectures by both academic and industry speakers, and a students' posters session.

Radimir Vrba presented the new interdisciplinary research centre the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC) in Brno. The event closed with the visit to the city of Brno.

**Nihal Sinnadurai**



# Venice welcomes Region 8 Committee in April

ON 25–26 April, the picturesque city of Venice was the host for the 92nd twice-yearly meeting of the IEEE Region 8 Committee.

At these meetings, Region 8 Committee members, Sub-committee members and Section Chairs gather to discuss the future of the Region. One of the goals of the meetings is to continue the best practices and at the same time respond to regional and global challenges.

Many ideas were exchanged in Venice, and caucus groups produced some very interesting results. The format of the meeting was characterized by fewer reports and more time spent on interactive discussions. For the first time, a colloquium

of past Directors of Region 8 was organised by the new Director. This gave a unique opportunity for exchange of ideas for the future direction of our Region.

The IEEE President and Past President also attended as well as the new IEEE Executive Director. The three candidates for the IEEE President-Elect gave their presentations to the meeting and answered questions from the participants.

Pietro Palella, the CEO of STMicroelectronics, gave an excellent speech on the topic "Innovation in a global environment". To read the final reports and presentations, please visit the Venice page on the Region 8 website.

**Zhijia Huang**



## Egypt discusses radio science

NRSC'2009, EGYPT'S 26th National Radio Science Conference, was held on 17–19 March. It was organised by the National Radio Science Committee and the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at Future University in Egypt.

Three invited speakers – Yahia Antar, Ahmed Kishk, and Mahmoud Hanafy – presented new trends in 'Planar

Antenna Research', 'Use of Dielectric Resonator for Multifunction Applications' and 'Electronics Mitigation of Fiber Transmission Impairment'. Fruitful discussions took place between the audience and the speakers.

The Radio Conference generally deals with problems covered by ten commissions of International Union of Ra-

dio Science (URSI). In 24 sessions, 118 research papers were presented which stimulated discussions on current and future research activities in the field of radio science. Speakers and those attending were pleased with the quality and organisation of the event.

**Kamel M Hassan  
and Shorok fouda**

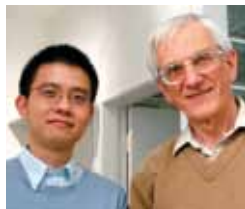
# Share your visions to make things happen

125 YEARS for IEEE professional society is a long time. Developments in electric motors, power generation, electronics, radio, radar and television that form essential parts of our everyday lives now could barely be imagined back then.

The vision of writers such as Jules Verne (1828–1905) could only hint at the kind of subjects we study and work with today.

The IEEE celebration events that are happening this year offer us the chance to think about this progress. Plan to attend an IEEE event this year. Meet others and share your visions.

Visit a science museum. See examples of early apparatus which showed the way to the knowledge we have today. Modelling, measurement and art contribute to discovery. As you read this *IEEE Region 8 News*, please reflect



Your editors: Zhijia Huang and Roland Saam

on the fact that our greatest achievements come from an accumulation of everyday labour, which is inseparable from human relationships.

Help celebrate the future of IEEE by meeting and talking with someone about your ideas and dreams. Visit the new IEEE Global History Network at [www.ieeeghn.org](http://www.ieeeghn.org). Speak to your IEEE Section leaders and work with them to help make our organisation stronger and more relevant for the decades ahead.

**Roland Saam**  
June 2009

## Letter to the Editor:

# Education lies at the core of 'Velcro' management

ON THE day that celebrations for the IEEE's 125th anniversary were held in Munich, Germany, I watched an interview by the renowned scholar CK Prahalad with the BBC.

The top management thinker stated that in this time of crisis we should move away from rigid "silo-based" organisations and replace them with "Velcro structures", i.e. fabrics that connect together in different fashions simply by peeling off and sticking.

In this way, talent re-grouping can take place instead of company restructuring.

In my experience, that has not been easy; it involves: 1) a change in mindset: do not expect to have an expert at hand to solve the problem. 2) a good deal of patience: *omnia horis competentibus*

*compleantur* ('everything will be carried out at the appropriate time').

3) intellectual humility: "what you do not know yet is always more important than what you already know".

But the basic requirement is education, and that is where societies like IEEE come into play, with their broad offer of societies, networking capabilities and simple links among people who share different experiences but a common approach.

As Leonardo da Vinci wrote in one of his so-called 'codes': "those who fall in love with practice without science are like the helmsmen who get on a ship without rudder or compass, who never have the certainty whereto they sail".

**Maurizio Bianconi**  
[maurizio.bianconi@gmx.net](mailto:maurizio.bianconi@gmx.net)

# 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)

## EMAIL ADDRESSES OF REGION 8 COMMITTEE OFFICERS 2009

### Operating Committee (OpCom)

**Director**  
Jozef Modelski  
[modelski@ieee.org](mailto:modelski@ieee.org)

**Director-Elect**  
Marko Delimar  
[m.delimar@ieee.org](mailto:m.delimar@ieee.org)

**Past-Director V/C Strategic Planning**  
Jean-Gabriel Rémy  
[jean-gabriel.remy@industrie.gouv.fr](mailto:jean-gabriel.remy@industrie.gouv.fr)

**Secretary**  
Costas Stasopoulos  
[costas@ieee.org](mailto:costas@ieee.org)

**Treasurer**  
Brian Harrington  
[b.harrington@ieee.org](mailto:b.harrington@ieee.org)

**V/C Membership Activities**  
Pilar Molina Gaudó  
[pimolina@unizar.es](mailto:pimolina@unizar.es)

**V/C Student Activities**  
Eva Lang  
[eva.lang@ieee.org](mailto:eva.lang@ieee.org)

**V/C Technical Activities**  
Rami Al Mushcab  
[rami.mushcab@aramco.com](mailto:rami.mushcab@aramco.com)

### Appointed Members

**Awards & Recognitions**  
Victor Fouad Hanna (France)  
[victor.fouad@lis.jussieu.fr](mailto:victor.fouad@lis.jussieu.fr)

**Chapter Coordinator**  
Peter Magyar (Germany)  
[peter.magyar@ieee.org](mailto:peter.magyar@ieee.org)

**Conference Coordinator**  
Marian P. Kazmierkowski (Poland)  
[kazm@aster.pl](mailto:kazm@aster.pl)

**Editor Region 8 News**  
Roland Saam (UK&RI)  
[r.saam@ieee.org](mailto:r.saam@ieee.org)

**Educational Activities**  
João Costa-Freire (Portugal)  
[jcostafreire@ieee.org](mailto:jcostafreire@ieee.org)

**Electronic Communications**  
Giorgos Michael (Cyprus)  
[xeirwn@ieee.org](mailto:xeirwn@ieee.org)

**GOLD Activities**  
João Carlos Prazeres Figueiras (Denmark)  
[figueiras@ieee.org](mailto:figueiras@ieee.org)

**Industry Relations**  
Benito Palumbo (Italy)  
[bpalumbo@ieee.org](mailto:bpalumbo@ieee.org)

### Life Members & History Activities

Jacob Baal Schem (Israel)  
[j.baal.schem@ieee.org](mailto:j.baal.schem@ieee.org)

**Membership Development**  
Aleksandar Szabo (Croatia)  
[a.szabo@ieee.org](mailto:a.szabo@ieee.org)

**Professional Activities**  
Emine Gokce Aydal (UK&RI)  
[aydal@ieee.org](mailto:aydal@ieee.org)

**Standards Coordinator**  
David Law (UK&RI)  
[David\\_Law@ieee.org](mailto:David_Law@ieee.org)

**Student Representative**  
Pablo Herrero (Spain/Germany)  
[pablo.herrero@ieee.org](mailto:pablo.herrero@ieee.org)

**Voluntary Contribution Fund**  
Christine Nora (France)  
[c.nora@ieee.org](mailto:c.nora@ieee.org)

**Women In Engineering**  
Shaimaa Yehia (Egypt)  
[shaimaa.yehia@ieee.org](mailto:shaimaa.yehia@ieee.org)

### Information helpdesk

[member-services@ieee.org](mailto:member-services@ieee.org)



# IEEE

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*of Engineering the Future*

**The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers**  
3 Park Avenue  
17th Floor  
New York 10016  
USA

### News & articles

[r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org)

### Student News email

[r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org)

### IEEE Region 8 website

[www.ieee.org/r8](http://www.ieee.org/r8)

### Editors

Roland J. Saam  
[r.saam@ieee.org](mailto:r.saam@ieee.org)

Zhijia Huang  
[zhijia.huang@ieee.org](mailto:zhijia.huang@ieee.org)

### Editorial production

Alistair Dabbs  
[ali@bento-media.net](mailto:ali@bento-media.net)

### Printing & mailing

Theresa Smith  
[tlsmith@ieee.org](mailto:tlsmith@ieee.org)

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### Deadlines for upcoming issues

November 2009 issue..... deadline: 1 September 2009  
January 2010 issue..... deadline: 1 November 2009  
April 2010 issue ..... deadline: 1 February 2010  
July 2010 issue ..... deadline: 1 May 2010





## South Africa Section helps direct curriculum

IEEE SOUTH Africa Section helped the South African National Department of Education with the development of lesson plans relating to the South African Technology General Education and Training (GET) curriculum.

The volunteers – including engineers, representatives from universities and the DoE, and members of the SAIEE and the IEEE – met once again on 8–9 May 2009 after their previous workshop held in February 2009. This

second meeting reviewed lesson plans for grades 4 to 9. Another session in September 2009 will put them into final form for printing. Later they will be presented at a nationwide conference.

For more information, please contact Nico Beute, IEEE TISP Coordinator, IEEE Educational Activities Sub-Committee, IEEE South Africa Section, Cape Peninsula University of Technology on +27 21 460 4216 or by email at [beuten@cput.ac.za](mailto:beuten@cput.ac.za).

## Iran Section presents activities at ICEE'09



ON 13 May, participants at the 17th Iranian Conference in Electrical Engineering (ICEE'09) had a chance to meet the IEEE Iran section executive committee.

Iran Section Chair, Hamid Soltanianzadeh introduced IEEE. Questions from the audience related to IEEE

membership procedure and its benefits.

The IEEE Iran section will celebrate its 40th anniversary on 21 February 2010. The section welcomes local and international sponsors and participants. For more information, go to [www.ieee.org.ir](http://www.ieee.org.ir) or email [office@ieee.org.ir](mailto:office@ieee.org.ir).



## Benelux Section unveils an IEEE Milestone to commemorate the invention of the CD by Philips

THE FIRST Compact Disc Audio player was demonstrated to the international press on 8 March 1979 by NV Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken. To mark this remarkably influential event in engineering history, IEEE Benelux section dedicated an IEEE Milestone 30 years later – in March 2009.

Philips demonstrated how digital electronic optical recording and playback could reproduce audio signals with superb stereo quality. The company's research established the technical standard that brought decades of music listening pleasure to the world through low cost, reliable devices and media.

The IEEE Milestone was dedicated on 6 March 2009 at an event at Eindhoven, The Netherlands. University and government officials addressed the gathering, explaining the importance of this research and development to the economic enterprise in the province and country. Joop Sinjou gave a technical historical lecture entitled 'From LP to CD'. A



Above: The bronze Milestone plaque is unveiled by IEEE president John Vig and Hans Noordanus, who was the driving force behind the Milestone nomination.

Below: The CD Milestone commemorative coin depicts 'Pinkeltje', a prototype of the CD system 30 years ago.

first copy of his book *Origins and Successors of the Compact Disc: Contributions of Philips to Optical Storage* was presented to him by IEEE Life Fellow Hans Peek, who played an important role in the development of the CD.

Hiroshi Ogawa spoke about 'Sony's Approach to the CD', reporting on the role of Japan's Sony Corporation. Frans Greidanus, spoke about 'Innovation and Optical Storage'.



This was the first IEEE Milestone to be dedicated in the Benelux Section. At the event, IEEE President John Vig made the presentation to Rick Harwig, CTO, Royal Philips Electronics.

For more details, go to: [www.ieee.nl/milestone.html](http://www.ieee.nl/milestone.html).

## Antwerp hosts 50th anniversary

IEEE BENELUX Section celebrated its 50th anniversary in Antwerp, Belgium on 13 May. The event took place simultaneously with IEEE's 125th anniversary events.

Two parallel tracks were run – an ExCom meeting and an anniversary event – along with a cultural visit to Antwerp's famous diamond dis-

trict and massive new train station. IEEE president John Vig sent his congratulations letter to all IEEE Benelux members.

During the official anniversary meeting, Jan Biemond presented a history of the IEEE, recounting how IEEE Benelux section was founded. He described the

key people during the early years (Herre Rinia and Bruce Barrows) and the section's great achievements.

Dirk Van Hertem presented the student activities within Benelux.

This was followed by an awards ceremony. The IEEE Benelux section anniversary flag was unveiled by section chair Georges Gielen, host Dirk Rabaey and Region 8 past-director Baldomir Zajc. Then Hans Noordanus was given the Region 8 Volunteer Award. All past chairs received an IEEE 'past-chair' pin from chairman Georges Gielen. After the awards, everyone attended a reception and dinner at the castle Den Brandt.





## Undergrads battle in circuit design comp

THE INNOVATIVE Electronics Interconnection Technology (TIE) Design competition, organised by IEEE Components, Packaging and Manufacturing Technology (CPMT) Romania and Hungary Chapter, took place in Galati Romania on 9–10 April.

The competition comprised a two-day workshop and a one-day hands-on competition for undergraduates. CPMT Distinguished Lecturer Program and others

highlighted benefits of joining the society.

In the student competition, each competitor had to carry out a circuit design and layout project within limited time. Bogdan Raducanu from Polytechnic University of Bucharest won the first place. The top three students were handed the prizes, which were scholarships for their study and one year CPMT Student membership.

**Nihal Sinnadurai**



Top: The competition gets under way!

Above: The student winners. Bogdan Raducanu, who achieved the highest score, is third from the left. On the far right is Paul Svasta who conceived the competition.

Below left: Nihal Sinnadurai delivers his lecture.

Below right: Paul Svasta, TIE Chair, with Nihal Sinnadurai.



## Lebanon Section opens new PE/PEL/CAS joint chapter

A NEW joint chapter for Power Engineering, Power Electronics and Circuits & Systems societies has been inaugurated by the IEEE Lebanon Section.

The Executive Committee chairman, Ahmad Adar, will

be assisted by Rabih Jabr (Vice Chair), Hadi Kanaan (Treasurer), Walid Kamaly (Secretary) and Zaher El Tawil (Industry Relations Officer).

Official approval for the joint chapter was given by IEEE on 31 March 2009.

# Alpine Sections celebrate 125 years with transport analysis

IEEE SECTIONS in the European Alpine regions will celebrate the organisation's 125th anniversary with an event entitled 'From hydrocarbons to alpine hydro-power: the future of carbon free transportation' on 4–5 December 2009 at St Moritz, Switzerland.

Lighting became electric in Switzerland in 1879, when Johann Badrutt first switched on DC electric-arc lamps at his Engadiner Kulm Hotel in St Moritz. Railway transportation became electric 1906, when the Swiss Federal Railways first pulled a train through the Simplon, then the world's longest Alpine tunnel, with an AC driven electric locomotive.

In 1898, Ferdinand Porsche built the world's first hybrid car in Austria, and thereafter for about 10 years the combined gasoline-electric automotive power became a fashionable option, as illustrated in a poster dating from the early 1900's.

This 193x142cm poster (pictured right) was a lithography by the famous artist Marcello Dudovich, and was printed between 1907 and 1908 at Officine Ricordi of Milan. It is a timely

document, pinpointing to the renaissance of electric and hybrid cars across the whole range of automobile manufacturers of the world.

The STAE company was founded 1905 in Turin, having acquired a licence from the French Compagnie Parisienne des Voitures

Electriques, founded earlier by Louis Krieger, an engineer holding many patents in the field of electric drive system for vehicles. STAE then adopted 1907 its actual name, meaning 'Turin Company for Electric Vehicles'.

**Hugo Wyss**  
h.wyss@ieee.org



## West Saudi Arabia is growing fast

WESTERN SAUDI Arabia Section has moved up to second place in the membership percentage growth table for Region 8. This achievement is due to the collective effort and teamwork approach adopted by the section.

A seminar with dinner was held on 14 January to discuss proposals for helping the section continue its successful achievement.

In the first quarter of 2009, West Saudi Arabia Section established four Student Branches at the major universities: King Abdulaziz University (KAU) in Jeddah, Faculty of Computer Sciences & Information Systems,

Umm Al-Qura University at Makkah City, and Tibah University at Madinah City.

To date, there are five active Student Branches in West Saudi Arabia. Additionally, there are two further Student Branches currently undergoing the establishment process at Effat University and Yanbu Industrial College.

The students of Dar Al-Hekmah College achieved first place at the section's programming competition. A ceremony was held on 15 March at Jeddah Chamber of commerce to celebrate the success of the competition and welcome the winners.

West Saudi Arabia Section established a new PES chapter and website on 15 July, chaired by Bander Allaf. The chapter has 22 members including students and senior members.

The KAU Student Branch organised wonderful activities this year. Students visited the training centre at Saudi Electricity Company on 31 March.

The branch also hosted the Career Day, the Robotic Workshop, and seminars such as 'IEEE Introductory Lecture', 'How IEEE PES helps professional power engineers', and 'Intelligent Systems'.





Manfred Depenbrock accepts IEEE Fellowship.

## IAS/PELS/IES holds first meet of the year

ON 19–20 March, the IEEE Joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter held its first meeting of the year with more than 60 members attending at the Technical Faculty of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.

Chairman of the Chapter Ingo Hahn welcomed everyone. Four topics formed the basis for the day's discussions: Sensorless Control of an Induction Motor with Multiple Anisotropies, Increasing the Reliability of Power Semiconductors, Drive Converter with Z-Source Topology and the Impacts of Alternative Energy Sources on Electric Power Quality.

The other important part was a ceremony to honour Manfred Depenbrock for his life's work and selection as an IEEE Fellow. In his acceptance speech, Depenbrock emphasised that no-one is as good as the story of one's legacy and that we need to promote the advancement of our students and colleagues.

Later in the afternoon, participants visited the Semikron company's headquarters in Nuremberg, which brought a close to the meeting.

**Hans-Juergen Pfisterer**  
IEEE Joint IAS/PELS/IES  
German Chapter  
hans-juergen.pfisterer@drive-consult.eu

## UK&RI Section plans its IEEE anniversary at Royal Institution

UNITED KINGDOM & Republic of Ireland section will celebrate 125 years of IEEE on 6 October this year.

The get-together will be held in the historic Faraday Theatre at The Royal Institution of Great Britain, acclaimed as the oldest independent research body in the world, where Michael Faraday lectured and worked between 1820 and 1840. Faraday discovered electro-magnetic induction and in electro-chemistry he established his laws of electrolysis.

The event programme includes presentations by Chris Toumazou, chief scientist

and director of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering at Imperial College, and Wendy Hall, professor of Computing Science at the University of Southampton and president of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM).

IEEE President John Vig and Roger Pollard, VP-elect IEEE Technical Activities Board, will preside over this ceremonial occasion.

All are welcome but seating capacity is limited. Please check our website ([www.ieee.org.uk](http://www.ieee.org.uk)) for the latest information.

**Seán McLoone**  
Chairman, IEEE UKRI Section



Wendy Hall will be one of the speakers at the event.

## Primary school visit aims to encourage more children to study science

IEEE UNITED Arab Emirates Section WIE paid a visit to Al Qasemeya primary male's school in Sharjah April 2009.

The main purpose of the visit was to encourage the children to study science subjects and become engineers in the future. Volunteers from University of Sharjah IEEE Student Branch organised games and ran competitions, with prizes being awarded to the winning children.



Volunteers with the pupils in the Primary School

At the end of the visit, appreciation certificates were given to the primary school representatives, Badreya

Mohammed Murtada and Amnah Al Gharby.

**Soha Jawabreh**  
soha@ieee.org

IT IS very sad to report that Robert C (Bob) Winton died in February 2009 at the age of 94.

Bob's passing has elicited many expressions of sadness from his IEEE friends and colleagues, not only for his years of dedication to IEEE but especially for the manner in which he carried out his volunteer duties.

He was involved in the original formation of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Section, and continued to be an active committee member until very recently. He also took part in IEEE Region 8 for many years and was in-

involved in its establishment.

About 50 years ago, when Bob first became active as an IEEE volunteer, our Institute was essentially an American organisation with only a small minority of members in other countries. He was perceptive enough to realise that the inevitable growth of membership outside the USA would present a complex and difficult challenge. He resolved to work with others, first in the UKRI Section with his good friend RCG Williams, and then in Western Europe, to bring



together senior engineers to build a new infrastructure (now known as IEEE Region 8) that would prove capable of developing technical activities and services for ordinary IEEE members.

Bob's deep understand-

ing of cultural and political differences became invaluable as IEEE expanded beyond the Iron Curtain and into the Middle East and Africa. His efforts to encourage growth in Eastern Europe were particularly successful. His skill in resolving differences of view across national boundaries set a high standard for his successors to emulate. His meticulous record-keeping underpinned the integrity of the new organisation, in which he served as Secretary and Treasurer.

Bob maintained that the 'rules' should always be observed. Coincidentally, the rules that IEEE adopted many years ago for the conduct of meetings are known as 'Robert's Rules', although this particular 'Robert' was an American Military Officer.

Bob was widely appreciated for his wisdom and wit, for his kindness and thoughtfulness, especially towards new recruits, and for his basic humanity. He will be greatly missed.

A biography of Bob Winton is available on the IEEE History Center website at [www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/history](http://www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/history). **Charles Turner**



IEEE and VDE together [left to right]: Wolfgang Kordes (VDE Council), Petra Friedrich (Chair VDE branch), Volker Schanz (Secretary IEEE Germany), Dr Fanny Klett (IEEE EAB Chair Awards) and Stefan Klett (TU Ilmenau).

## Munich celebrates IEEE anniversary

ON 27 April 2009 at Technische Universität München historic campus, the IEEE Germany section was host to a special 125th anniversary event.

Speakers came to congratulate IEEE on its anniversary as well as share their perspectives on the future of technology. A keynote speech was given by Felicitas Paus, from CERN, the international laboratory devoted to basic research in particle physics. She told how IEEE members work on engineering standards – particularly electromagnetic compatibility – is vital for complex scientific instruments.

Wolfgang A Herrmann, president of TU München, welcomed everyone and told about the founding of his organisation in 1868 and its role in development of electrical telegraphy with the establishment of a laboratory in 1889.

The importance of education is reflected in their motto: 'In order to transfer the spark of science into the industrial world'. TU-M aims for a high percentage of professors from industry and international. It tries to design studies to be 'female friendly', encouraging the participation of women in engineering (as yet only 12% of students).

Martin Zeil, the Bavarian economics affairs secretary, declared his policy for investment into high technology: R&D is particularly important for innovative products that will be needed to pull industry out of economic crisis.

Josef A Nossek, president of Verband der Elektrotechnik, Elektronik und Informationstechnik (Germany's electrotechnical society), highlighted areas in which IEEE and VDE work together notably in antennas and electromagnetic radiation.

National School of Engineers (ENIS), University of Sfax, Tunisia:

## ENIS Student Branch is launched with more than 100 members

LESS THAN a year after the foundation of IEEE Tunisia Section, National School of Engineers, University of Sfax, Tunisia hosted a special event that officially launched the Student Branch on 1 April.

The first meeting took place in ENIS to elect an executive committee, with Habib M Kammoun as the new Chair heading the team. The new committee would like to thank Adel M Alimi, Student Branch Counselor, and Mourad Loulou, IEEE Tunisia Section Chair, for advice and help in setting up this new Student Branch.

From 16 to 18 April, the



branch established an IEEE stand on the campus presenting IEEE and encouraging students to join. The SB now has more than 100 IEEE student members and the number is expected to increase after the promotion event. Two members of the

branch represented the Tunisia Section in the first IEEE Middle East Student Branch Congress in Amman, Jordan. For more details visit: <http://ewh.ieee.org/sb/tunisia/enis>

**Habib M Kammoun**  
ENIS SB Chair  
[sb.enis@ieee.org](mailto:sb.enis@ieee.org)



Vienna Student Branch, Austria:

## Vienna SB organises first international meeting

FOR THE first time since its launch, the Student Branch in Vienna has organised the international IEEE Student Branch meeting, held in Vienna in March.

A total of 17 students from different countries and Student Branches had the opportunity to share their experiences and ideas. Participants from Poland, Croatia, Turkey, Germany and Austria were offered a full-scale programme. Each student branch presented its own activities and then discussed with the others. A lecture was given by Heinz Zemanek, and participants visited the laser laboratory and the clean room facilities of the Vienna University of Technology.



Zagreb Student Branch, Croatia:

## Robotics Workshop in Zagreb is a synergy of mechanics... and fun

From 23 to 31 May, IEEE Student Branch Zagreb, together with EESTEC LC Zagreb, successfully organised an international workshop under the title 'Robotics, a synergy of mechanics, electronics and software'.

IEEE SB Zagreb/EESTEC LC Zagreb welcomed 22 students from all over the Europe together with 20 local students. Classes were held in the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing

in Zagreb. During their stay in the city, students also enjoyed a number of sightseeing trips in Croatia, and made a lot of new friends.

Selma Kovacevic from IEEE Student Branch Sarajevo found that the workshop encouraged young engineers to get involved in developing robots and hoped to join a similar workshop again.

**Jelena Matovina**  
Chair IEEE SB Zagreb  
[Jelena.matovina@fer.hr](mailto:Jelena.matovina@fer.hr)

I see no formula for you  
for system design, construction,  
or process management.





**Budapest University  
of Technology and  
Economics, Hungary:**

## SB Chapter for power engineering

BY MEETING the requirements of the Member and Geographic Activities Board Operations Manual, a new IEEE Power Engineering Society Student Branch Chapter has been formed at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, in Hungary.

The effective date of this Student Branch Chapter's formation is 20 May 2009. The 16 chapter members are PhD students of power system and power plant engineering in the university. We would like to thank Tamas Ruzsanyi, head of IEEE HS IA chapter chair and Peter Magyar, Region8 Technical Activities Chapter Coordination Subcommittee Chair for their support on forming this new chapter.

Peter Kadar

**Eastern  
Mediterranean  
University, Famagusta  
Northern Cyprus:**

## 2009 Turkey Congress held in Nth Cyprus

IEEE TURKEY Section President's Congress 2009 was held by Eastern Mediterranean University IEEE Student Branch, Famagusta Northern Cyprus, on 13-17 February.

The Congress is one of the IEEE Turkey Section events held by a Student Branch every year with attendees from other Student Branches all over Turkey. More than 100 students from 50 different universities attended the congress. The IEEE's 125th Anniversary was also celebrated with a cake and champagne.

At the end of the week-long event, students attended parties and enjoyed a trip around Northern Cyprus.

# region8 student news

[www.ieee.org/r8sac](http://www.ieee.org/r8sac)

STUDENT ACTIVITIES are everywhere. Student Activities cover broad topics, be it social parties or trips, technical lectures or company visits, shows or fun events. You can get a good glance of examples by reading this and all the other issues of the students' news.

On Region 8 level, the coordinating body is the Student Activities Committee. In 2009 it is led by the Region 8 Vice Chair for Student Activities, **Eva Lang** from Passau, Germany. Her team includes the Region 8 Student Representative **Pablo Herrero** from Spain (studying in Germany), Past Chair **Martin Bastiaans** from the Netherlands, Student Branch Coordinator **Amélie Anglade** from France (now living in UK), Awards and Contest Representative **Yasemin Basar** from Turkey and Student Branch Counselor Program Coordinator and South Africa Section Chair **Saurabh Sinha**.

One of our new programmes this year is the so-called Twin Student Branch Programme. This aims to create links between Student Branches in different Sections of the Region 8. If you want to add an international dimension to your Student Branch activities, this program is ready for you! Like twin towns, pairs of Student Branches choose to be partners and exchange their good ideas, useful documents, projects, etc. They can also organise the same events on the same day but in their respective cities, motivating each other and going through the same organisation schedule as each other. For further information please visit the web link: <http://ewh.ieee.org/reg/8/sac>.

### Listen up: the IEEEExtreme is back!

IEEEExtreme is a worldwide 24 hour programming contest for IEEE Student Branches organised by IEEE MGA Student Activities Committee. It is a global challenge in which teams of student



members, supported by an IEEE Student Branch, advised and proctored by an IEEE Member, compete in a 24-hour time span against each other to solve a set of programming problems. Mark your calendars for 24 October 2009! More information is available from [www.ieee.org/xtreme](http://www.ieee.org/xtreme).

### Website contest: big success

With 25 participating Student Branches, IEEE Website Contest was again a big event for our region. The jury had to make a hard decision since most of the websites were very successful and professional. Thanks again to all our Student Branches for giving such importance to this contest. As for the regional results, the following Student Branches made it to the top three: Bilkent University (Turkey), Cairo University (Egypt) and Fatih University (Turkey). Congratulations to all participants!

### Technical highlight in Region 8: the student paper contest

The 2009 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest received 13 papers from 11 Student Branches in 10 countries. The oral finals took place in St Petersburg, Russia, on 19 May 2009 as part of EUROCON 2009. The winners were: 1st Ralph Hermans, Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands (\$800); 2nd Bernhard Geiger, Technical University of Graz, Austria (\$500);



*The student paper contest jury (left to right): (standing) Hossein Hajimirsadeghi, Khaled S Refaat, Ralph Hermans, Jef Beerten, Bernhard Geiger; (sitting) Martin Bastiaans, Irina Vendik, Józef Modelski, Djordje Paunovic, Carlos López-Barrio*

3rd Jef Beerten, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium (\$200). The Dick Poortvliet Award (\$250) goes to the branch where the winner comes from: Eindhoven.

The deadline for the 2010 Contest is 15 December 2009. For more information about the contest, check the R8SAC web site: [www.ieee.org/r8sac](http://www.ieee.org/r8sac).

### Promotional Multimedia Contest

You can still submit your videos, banners, posters for the Promotional Multimedia Contest. Make sure to celebrate 125th Anniversary of the IEEE in your designs! For the results of all awards and contests, please visit [www.ieee.org/r8sac](http://www.ieee.org/r8sac).

### New SPC coordinator

The Region 8 Director Józef Modelski has appointed Djordje Paunovic (Belgrade, Serbia) as the new SPC coordinator, with thanks to Martin Bastiaans (Eindhoven, Netherlands) who was the coordinator for the past 11 years.

### We want your input!

You just took part in a terrific event? You organised a congress, a field-trip, a meeting? You want to share best practices? You have ideas how the IEEE can better serve you? Don't be shy, tell us your story! Just drop us a short email to [r8sac@ieee.org](mailto:r8sac@ieee.org) or join us in our online conferences and training sessions. Find out more information on [www.ieee.org/r8sac](http://www.ieee.org/r8sac).

Last but not least, don't forget to celebrate! IEEE is 125 years old this year, so participate in the festivities all over the globe. Join us in the big events in Munich and London or come up with your own celebration.

Help us spreading the young and fresh IEEE spirit in our Region!

**Your Student Activities Team:**  
Eva, Pablo, Martin, Amélie,  
Yasemin and Saurabh

## American University in Dubai, UAE:

# Six competitions mark fourth outing for UAE Student Day

IEEE UAE Student Day has become an annual event for IEEE UAE Section. American University in Dubai (AUD) was the host and Dubai Cable Company (DUCAB) was the sponsor this year. On 2 May, IEEE members and student members all around the UAE gathered for this event.

The day started with an opening by IEEE UAE Section Chair Eesa Al Bastaki

followed by the competitions. This year, students from the 10 participating universities

took part in the six exciting competitions: Common Design Project Competition,

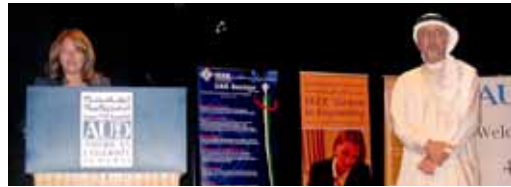
Senior Design Project Poster/Demo Competition, Software Engineering Design Competition, Engineering Design Competition, Community Service Competition, and Made in UAE Competition.

The main objective was to enhance competition, recognise outstanding achievements, exchange experience, enhance leadership, and introduce the IEEE to the gen-

eral public. Two workshops were held afterwards: 'Tips for Professional Success' and 'Engineering Ethics'.

At the closing ceremony, participants gathered in the auditorium where competition winners received their certificates and prizes with the announcement of the next host, Petroleum Institute.

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



IEEE UAE Section Chair Eesa Bastaki and WIE UAE Chair Boutheina Tlili

## Alexandria University, Egypt:

# Alexandria students find out what it takes to be an 'Ethical Hacker'

PORT SCANNING, buffer overflow attack, black box tests and many other hacking and security terms are now very clear to IEEE Alexandria University SB members, thanks to the Ethical Hacking seminar organised by the Student Branch in March.

The seminar was led by the highly experienced trainer Muhammad Moustafa, who is an expert in the field. He started by introducing the attendees to the importance of information security in today's world then moved on to



discuss the elements of security, main types of hacking, and then focused on 'ethi-

cal hacking'. He explained that an Ethical Hacker is an individual who is usually employed with an organisation and who can be trusted to undertake an attempt to penetrate networks and/or computer systems using the same methods as a hacker.

At the end of the seminar, he also discussed the importance of being certified in this field. For more information, visit [www.alexsb.org](http://www.alexsb.org).

**Ahmed Saieed Khalils**  
**Alexandria University SB**  
[a.saieed@ieee.org](mailto:a.saieed@ieee.org)



Mr Sawma with the NDU Branch Executive Committee and some of the workshop attendees.

## Notre Dame University, Lebanon:

# Ethical Hacking workshop held at Notre Dame Uni

ON 28 March, the Notre Dame University IEEE Student Branch organised a workshop on Ethical Hacking. This is a new field for

engineers and computer scientists. It is intended to help companies test their computer systems for security against intruders and hackers. The speaker Victor Sawma gave a very dynamic and interactive presentation which included hands-on exercises in testing of security measures for a hypothetical company.

The workshop was attended by more than 100 students from six universities in Lebanon as well as engineers and scientists from the industry. The event was also co-sponsored by the IEEE Lebanon Section.



A very attentive audience of students.

## Politecnico di Milano, Italy:

# i3Poli celebrates 125th Anniversary of IEEE

ON 13 May the Student Branch of the Politecnico di Milano hosted a celebration for the 125th anniversary of IEEE.

The event took place at the Dipartimento di Elettronica e Informazione with almost 50 participants. Since the Student Branch was the only one in Italy to hold such an event on the official birthday of IEEE, we had the pleasure to have IEEE Italy Section Chair Silvano Donati to open the event with a brief review of IEEE in Italy.

Additionally, Luka Lugaric, member of the Professional Development Committee, took part in the celebration and encouraged the students to actively participate in IEEE activities.

Other talks were held by Sergio Pignari, Chairman of the Italian IEEE Electromagnetic Compatibility Society, on the role of the EMC in Italy; Alessandro Ferrero on the advancement of



Silvano Donati, Chairman IEEE Italy Section speaking to the audience

knowledge and the cultural growth of generations of Engineers; and by Luigi Dadda on the birth and development of Electric technology in Italy and the role of professional associations.

At the end of the anniversary event, five new students joined IEEE and the i3Poli Student Branch. For more information, please visit the i3Poli website at <http://i3poli.org>.





University of Central Greece:

## Greek students discuss health information

UNIVERSITY OF Central Greece IEEE Student Branch organised its first event on 19 March this year.

The Student Branch was founded by students in the Department of Computer Science and Biomedical Informatics with the help from Athanasios Kakarountas.

The full-day event with the theme 'Health Information Systems' was run in two sessions with invited speakers from academia and the IT industry. Representatives from the IEEE Greece Section and IEEE EMBS Greece Chapter delivered lectures.

The event also included a poster session and a round-table discussion. The meeting was supported by the lo-

cal and regional authorities of Central Greece and attracted more than 250 participants. It included not only members of the local Student Branch, but also students from other educational institutes, electrical and computer engineers, hospital managers, doctors and local authorities' representatives.

A major event in the City of Lamia, where the Department is located, the meeting was covered by local TV stations. The Branch had managed to bring engineering and technology closer to the locals, strengthen the bonds of the newly founded University with the local and regional authorities, and motivate students to get involved.

Benelux Student Chapter:

## Ghent event gives the photonics industry a chance to present job prospects

IN THIS first edition of the Photonics Event, held on 30 March in Ghent, the Student Chapter invited innovative companies with an expertise in photonics to give presentations to the attendees.

The aim for this annual event is to make MSc and PhD students familiar with the photonics industry in the Benelux countries and increase their awareness for future job prospects. The event was organised by the Student Chapter with more

than 100 students participating and 21 companies enthusiastically presenting their most recent technology.

Some of these companies demonstrated their products at the exhibition booths while others delivered presentations on the role of a photonics engineer. There was a large variation between the different participating companies, from multinationals to small spin-offs, and with applications varying from space to automotive indus-

try or sorting technology. The Student Chapter also promoted IEEE and the related societies to participants.

The event ended with a plenary talk of Martin De Prycker on technological innovation. There was also a reception sponsored by Gent BC, where students had a good time networking.

Koen Huybrechts

IEEE Photonics Society

Benelux Student Chapter

koen.huybrechts@intec.

ugent.be

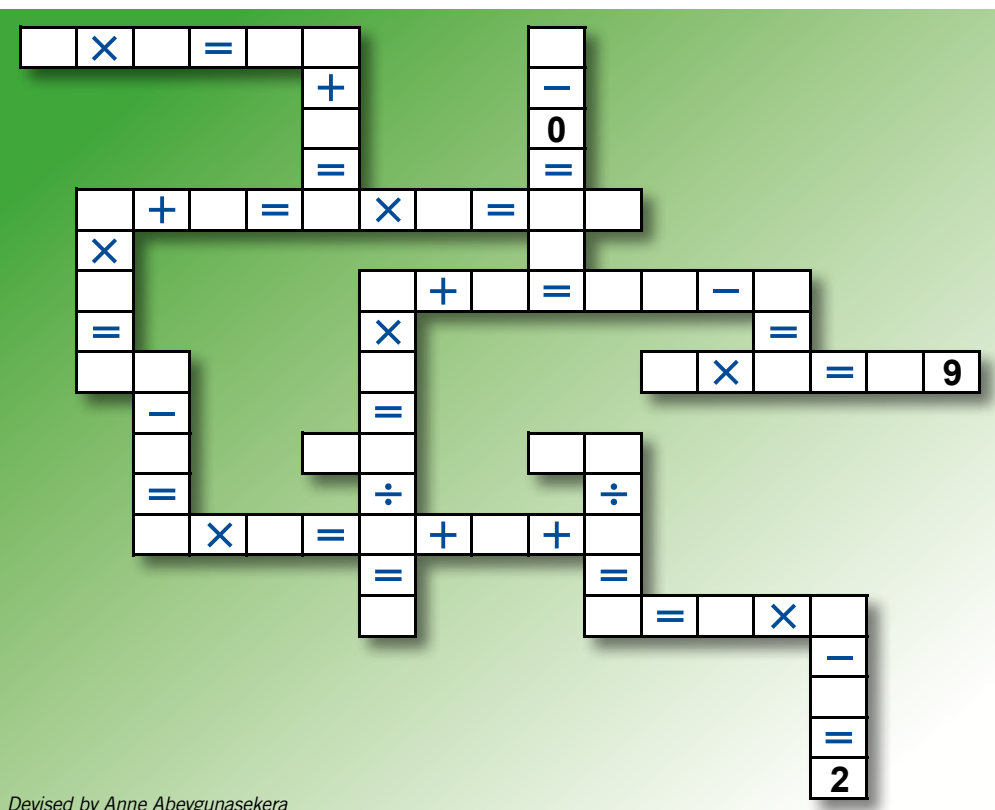


## Maths puzzler

Give your arithmetic reasoning a workout with our simple puzzle. Like a crossword, the calculations work left to right and top to bottom. Like sudoku, you need to find out what the missing numbers are – with the infuriating differences that the numbers can be subtracted, multiplied and divided as well as added, and nor do the rows and columns produce the same sum!

We have filled out a few of the number squares to get you started. Now just complete the rest, sit back and bask in the glory of your own mastery of simple arithmetic.

For anyone struggling to calculate all the missing numbers and ready to give up, you can find the solution to the puzzle online at the Region 8 News website. Go to [www.ieee.org/go/r8news](http://www.ieee.org/go/r8news) and click on the link for the current issue.



Devised by Anne Abeygunasekera



University of Sharjah, UAE:

## Student Branch and WIE visit cancer patients

A GROUP of IEEE and WIE members from University of Sharjah and Friends of Cancer Patients in UAE (FOCP) visited children cancer patients in Dubai Hospital on 22 April.

The aim of the visit was to encourage the children and hold a party for them. The party was started by giving the children gifts, playing puzzle games, drawing on their faces and hands, and colouring paints.

The kids were so happy in

playing with the student visitors. The party ended with a magic show.

Senior social worker Fatma Al Sewad at Dubai Hospital really appreciated the visit which made a great impact on the kids' treatment.

The students have also promised to come back in the future for more visits. For more information, see [www.focp-uae.org](http://www.focp-uae.org).

**Soha Jawabreh**  
WIE Coordinator in Sharjah  
[soha@ieee.org](mailto:soha@ieee.org)

Student Branch Graz, Austria:

## International Students Meeting welcomes 60



NEARLY 60 students from all over Europe (including Poland, Netherlands and Germany) took part in the International Students Meeting in Graz, Austria on 5–7 June.

During this three-day event, the students had the opportunity to learn, get to know each other, network and have fun. Among the guests were IEEE Region 8 VC Student Activities Eva Lang, Vice-Rector of Graz University of Technology Michael Muhr and the Dean of the faculty of electrical engineering Heinz Stigler. In the course of this event Michael Muhr was awarded

the IEEE R8 Outstanding Branch Counselor and Advisor Award.

The programme consisted of several short lectures from industry and IEEE representatives and the demonstration of high voltage experiments in the Nikola Tesla laboratory at the University.

Participants also had the chance to take part in a guided city tour, a soccer tournament, and a party, closing with a brainstorming activity.

The meeting was co-organised by the IEEE Student Branch Graz and the student organisations YoungOVE and HSZS.

## Conference calendar

Workshops, conferences & symposia in Region 8

See also [www.ieee.org/conferences](http://www.ieee.org/conferences)

### AUGUST

#### ICE-GIC 2009

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

#### IDAACS'2009

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

### DECEMBER

#### ICECS

IEEE International Conference on Electronics, Circuits and Systems  
13–16 December 2009  
Medina International Exhibition Center, Hammamet, Tunisia  
[www.icecs2009.org](http://www.icecs2009.org)

### SEPTEMBER

#### AFRICON 2009

9th IEEE Region 8 Conference in Africa  
23–25 September 2009  
Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa  
[www.africon2009.org](http://www.africon2009.org)

### OCTOBER

#### LEOS 2009

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

#### INOWO 2009

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

#### 125 IEEE Celebration UKRI

IEEE 125th Anniversary London event  
6 October 2009  
The Royal Institution of Great Britain, London, UK  
[www.ieee.org.uk](http://www.ieee.org.uk)

#### ECBS-EERC 2009

Eastern European Conference on Engineering of Computer Based Systems  
7–8 September 2009  
Novi Sad, Serbia  
[www.ecbs-eerc.org](http://www.ecbs-eerc.org)

#### TELSIKS 2009

9th International Conference on Telecommunications in Modern Satellite, Cable & Broadcasting Services  
7–9 October 2009  
Nis, Serbia  
[www.telsiks.org.rs](http://www.telsiks.org.rs)

#### Applied Electronics 2009

International Conference  
9–10 September 2009  
University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, Czech Republic  
<http://appel.zcu.cz>

#### RADAR 2009

Radar 'Surveillance for a Safer World'  
12–16 Oct 2009  
Bordeaux, France  
[www.radar2009.org](http://www.radar2009.org)

#### 36th IET Engineering History Weekend

10–13 September 2009  
Mulhouse, Alsace, France  
[www.theiet.org/mulhouse2009](http://www.theiet.org/mulhouse2009)

### NOVEMBER

#### TELFOR 2009

17th Telecommunications Forum  
24–26 November 2009  
SAVA Center, Belgrade, Serbia  
[www.telfor.rs](http://www.telfor.rs)

#### Reliability OutReach Seminar & Workshop

Developing Highly Reliable and Trustworthy Engineering Systems  
14–15 September 2009  
University of Greenwich, London, UK  
<http://reliability-outreach.gre.ac.uk>

### APRIL 2010

#### CAVMAG 2010

Radar System powered by Cavity Magnetron  
19–20 April 2010  
Bournemouth University, UK  
[www.cavmag2010.org.uk](http://www.cavmag2010.org.uk)

### JULY 2010

#### ISIE 2010

IEEE International Symposium on Industrial Electronics  
4–7 July 2010  
Bari, Italy  
[www.isie2010.it](http://www.isie2010.it)

#### SIBIRCON

IEEE International Conference on Computational Technologies  
11–15 July 2010  
Irkutsk, Russia  
<http://sibircon2010.sibsutis.ru>

#### Note to Organisers

Only IEEE co-sponsored conferences and workshops 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. Remember to state the event's full title, location, date and URL.