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A classic of engineering design: San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge

IEEE members from 92 countries converge at Sections Congress

IEEE Sections Congress 2011 (SC2011) was held on 19–22 August in San Francisco, California, USA.

The event brought together over 1,100 attendees from 92 countries to collaborate, educate and provide input on IEEE programs and projects. Some 294 Sections and 41 Technical Societies/Councils were represented. The Congress included a total of 33 different breakout session topics, with a total of 84 speakers. These sessions will be incorporated into the IEEE Center for Leadership Excellence.

On the Saturday evening, the IEEE Honors Ceremony was held with hosts IEEE President Moshe Kam and President-Elect Gordon Day. Twenty-seven people were honoured for their contributions to engineering. The IEEE Medal of Honor was awarded to Morris Chang.

Social media enhanced the Congress this year, such as using a blog and social media to receive comments to recommendations. The SC2011 Facebook page generated remarks from around the world



Staffing the IEEE services stand

and Twitter was used to encourage viewing the sessions which were transmitted live and recorded via ieeetv.org. Key presentations can be downloaded from the ieeetv.org website.

Biggest and best AFRICON hears 251 papers in its technical program

THE 10th IEEE Region 8 conference, AFRICON 2011, 'Sustainable Energy & Communications Development for Africa', took place on 13–15 September in Livingstone, Zambia. It was the biggest and best AFRICON ever, attracting more than 300 delegates.

At the opening ceremony, Deputy Permanent Secretary Alfred Chingi, Zambia Southern Province, attending on behalf of the Zambian President, touched on the importance of such international activities for the region. IEEE President Moshe Kam, outlined the IEEE's vision for Africa. The President of the Engineering Institution of Zambia, Henry Mbele Musonda, referred to the importance of the technical profession in development.

The technical program presented 251 papers from over 30 countries from all continents. Eleven countries from Africa were represented. About half of the papers were from South Africa. Many outstanding papers were awarded prizes.

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Region 8 Committee meeting at Congress 2011

THE 97th Region 8 Committee meeting was held on 18–19 August in conjunction with SC2011 in San Francisco.

Region 8 Director Marko Delimar opened the meeting with an overview of the Region's vision

and mission, updates from MGA, and Region 8's 50th anniversary plans. He said the main challenges we face are to develop activities in Africa, to cooperate with European agencies and to establish a long-term conference strategy.

Cecelia Jankowski reported to the committee on 'What's New' in MGA, which includes the [ieeetv](http://ieeetv.org) mobile site, myIEEE volunteer desktop, and Center for Leadership Excellence. One of the outstanding

...continued on page 2



Morris Chang received the 2011 IEEE Medal of Honour



The keynote speech was delivered by Sehat Sutardja, Chairman of Marvell Semiconductor

Region 8 Professional Activities help members develop skills



THE Region 8 Professional Activities Subcommittee's (PASC) goals are to offer support and expertise to Sections, Chapters, Societies and Student Branches. We try to add value to IEEE membership by creating a platform for members where they can learn how to improve themselves.

Region 8 is geographically large and diverse with many nations and languages. Within IEEE, Region 8 has 56 Sections, which vary in size from 100 members, to more than 10,000 members, and all in between.

There is no single answer how this can be done.

We tackle diversity by introducing different concepts to see how they work out. It is of overriding importance that we learn from Sections about their events and lessons learned.

Local knowledge is the crucial element for success. To achieve this, Region 8 needs a strong network of active Professional Activities chairs in each section. They are the source of local information.

How do we plan to achieve this? To increase understanding of Professional Activities, we use written materials, electronic media, social networking sites, and so on. We

collaborate with event organizations and IEEE conference organizers where we believe professional activities should appear in conference programs.

Project management and leadership skills gained through these programs can serve members throughout their careers and have a positive influence on recruitment and retention in IEEE.

Matej Zajc
R8 PASC Chair
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How to plan a Professional Activities event



Participants at Kuwait's Professional Activities event held for its KWE group in May

PROFESSIONAL Activity workshop topics range from leadership skills and project management to 'emotional intelligence' and 'innovation management'. Every time a workshop is conducted, we gather reports from local organizers, the trainers and participants.

Our most recent IEEE R8 PA Summit took place at the University of Jordan on 12–13 November, Amman, Jordan. The attractive program brought together IEEE members from Jordan and also neighbouring countries with get-together opportunities for local IEEE Student

Branches and IEEE GOLD and Women in Engineering affinity groups.

In 2011, PASC team introduced Thought Leadership Program which is focused on professional activities where trainers stimulate people to break boundaries in their thinking.

Pilot events were run this year (in Kuwait in May and Spain in October) with our trainer Han van Loon. 'Reach for the STARS' taught practical teamwork techniques in a highly interesting and enjoyable way: check it out at www.ic-stars.com and plan an event in your section. Visit our web site and contact the team!

r8pasc@ieee.org

Han van Loon leads a 'Reach for the STARS' workshop



The Duke of Edinburgh (left) offers his congratulations

Ted Hoff receives Maxwell award from Prince Philip

AT the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Ted Hoff was presented with his IEEE/RSE/Wolfson James Clerk Maxwell Award by His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Ted, Mrs Hoff, Moshe Kam President of IEEE and other guests visited Edinburgh for the medal presentation.



Region 8 Committee meeting at Congress 2011

continued from page 1...

► works from the Member Activities was the GOLD book which displayed the excellent work of R8 GOLD affinity groups. Our region also submitted recommendations to the Sections Congress, now on the SC2011 website.

The SAC team updated us with cool events that happened in 2011, and pushed forthcoming events: Student Paper Contest 2012, EPICS High and SBC 2012. Student's awards were announced – congratulations to the winners!

For technical activities, there was a call for R8 conferences candidates for SIBIRCON, HISTELCON, MELECON, ENERGYCON and EUROCON. In educational activities, the pre-university programs really caught our attention for helping schools learn more about engineering. All the presentations and reports of the meeting are online at the R8 website.

Zhijia Huang



The GOLDies and Ali El-Mousa (second left) in attendance

Conference analyses event organization

THE 2011 IEEE Panel of Conference Organizers (POCO) was held in Beijing, China on 21–23 July. The conference covered the planning and delivering of IEEE conferences, from inception to post-conference reporting.

A new approval level for co-sponsorship will soon be in place. Chapters, Geographic councils, Affinity groups and Student organizations will need to get approval from their Section or Region before entering a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

The criteria for acceptance of co-sponsorship includes good financial planning, benefits to the IEEE members, no conflict of interest with IEEE conferences, and sound technical quality. These criteria are crucial to maintain the quality of IEEE conferences and protect the IEEE brand.

Another important issue that defines quality is that of plagiarism. IEEE CrossCheck is a tool available on IEEE website that compares submitted manuscripts with a large database of published material, including web pages, and issues a similarity score. This gives an indication of whether the manuscript contains plagiarism.

POCO 2012 will be held in Region 8 so conference organizers are urged to attend to gain knowledge on good practices and familiarize with IEEE procedures.

Carl James Debono
R8 Conference Coordination
Sub-committee chair



Member Activities focus on human issues of tech

MEMBER Activities in Region 8 have enjoyed high profile events in recent months.

First was the IEEE Sections Congress 2011. You can find links to many of the presentations on the Member Activities page on the Region 8 website.

The IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT) focuses on environmental, health and safety implications; on ethics and professional responsibility; public policy; peace technology; and social issues. I had a productive discussion with SSIT board members which emphasized interesting

issues. See www.ieeessit.org.

Next year, Region 8 will adopt a theme for region-wide activities which will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its formation. With your support, we plan to highlight the effects IEEE, and our region in particular, has had on its members who serve and advance humanity. Please follow us at ewh.ieee.org/reg/8/cms/.

Ali El-Mousa
R8 Vice Chair
Member
Activities
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Rejuvenating Region 8 technical leadership

IN 2011, our IEEE Region 8 Chapter Coordination subcommittee brought together representatives from IEEE Societies, Councils and Sections. A webinar was held for current chapter chairpersons, which explained web communication 'V-tools', 'L-31' reports, MGA eLearning and chapter funding (MGA and TAB).

About 300 conferences are held every year in Region 8, but few conference organizers understand the benefits of collaborating with the 'cluster' of the many IEEE entities that are active in a given technical or geographical area. To showcase the benefits, the IEEE Region 8 Conference Coordination

subcommittee's webinar told how to gain these advantages of technical and financial co-sponsorship.

For professionals to remain competent, IEEE runs formal continuing education programmes. Region 8's Educational Activities subcommittee held its webinar on developing leaders in an IEEE Section covering Section-specific web portals, access to eLearning materials by IEEE organizational units (Chapters, Sections, etc) and partnering between IEEE and local CE providers.

Saurabh Sinha



The first WIE meeting at Munich-Passau

Give your career a better chance with the help of WIE

JOIN the Women in Engineering affinity group. WIE is the largest international professional organization dedicated to promoting women engineers and scientists.

WIE offers you:

- the opportunity to network through 66 WIE affinity groups in R8 and over 350- worldwide
- programs aimed at attracting, retaining and supporting women in engineering, including access to scholarships and mentoring
- technical and professional events designed to encourage young girls to enter the exciting fields of engineering
- the regular magazine *Women In Engineering*

To learn more, contact Ferdinanda Ponci, WIE R8 Coordinator, at ponci@ieee.org.

ICED brings renewable energy tutorial to life

A TUTORIAL on 18–19 October, 'Renewable Energy Technologies', was part of the Industry Continuing Education Development (ICED) organized by IEEE Region 8 Industry Relations with IEEE Saudi Arabia section.

Dr Fulcieri Maltini, an IEEE life member and consultant in Switzerland, lectured on the state of the art for renewable energy systems, technologies and integration into large grids.

The ICED initiative supports industry professionals and aims to enhance the collaboration between IEEE and industry within Region 8. More details on our website.

Ghaleb AL-Dandan
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Celebration for France 50th

IN October, IEEE France Section celebrated its 50th anniversary.

France Section was created in 1961 and now has over 4,000 members. Each year, it organizes numerous events, and its members participate actively in research activities, through their publications and conferences.

Celebrations were held on 20 October at the National Conservatory of Scientific and Technical Culture (CNAM) in Paris.

Frédérique Vallée
France Section Secretary



Salih Carsimamovic (left) accepts the award from Meliha Selak, Bosnia and Herzegovina PES Vice President

'Outstanding' Carsimamovic

THE IEEE Bosnia and Herzegovina PES Chapter presented the Power & Electronics Society Outstanding Engineer Award to Dr Salih Carsimamovic for his outstanding contribution. His award recognizes his leadership and contributions to power engineering education in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was presented by Meliha Selak, IEEE PES Vice President.

The award ceremony was organised together with an attention-grabbing talk on 'Future of Nuclear Energy after Fukushima', given by Zdenko Simic from the University Zagreb, Croatia.

The event was organized at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Sarajevo. It gathered B&H PES Chapter members together with guests from the power engineering industry. This was an opportunity to make a statement about the importance with which the IEEE Power Engineering Society values engineering education.

Dusanka Boskovic
Chair, Bosnia and Herzegovina Section

Help increase IEEE Xplore accessibility

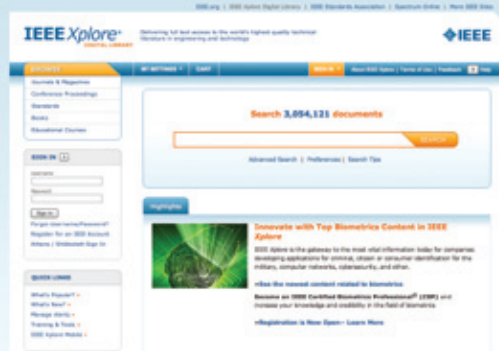
IEEE Region 8 seeks volunteers who are interested in supporting the expansion of access to IEEE Xplore which contains

more than two million peer-reviewed conference and journal articles.

Accessibility is directly related to scholarly development, and innovation and research in a given area.

Articles from IEEE publications are mentioned more often on new patent filings.

Stefano Zanero
Publications
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Zhijia cycles by the Golden Gate Bridge

California dreaming: the grand Sections gathering

EVERY three years, IEEE invites section volunteers and headquarters staff to meet for a Sections Congress. It is all about IEEE, volunteering and networking. This was the largest Congress ever, and I went to San Francisco full of expectations.

Know more about IEEE

Having been an IEEE volunteer for five years, I thought I knew IEEE quite well. But I realized that wasn't true when I walked around the exhibition hall. Stopping by every stand and chatting with either staff or volunteers, I learnt much new information about IEEE services: organizing conferences, publishing, management, and so on. The IEEE Foundation is a great place to start find good funding for projects.

The stars of technology

In *IEEE Spectrum* this year, you've read about tech stars: Morris Change (2011 IEEE Medal of Honor), Sehat Sutardja and Vint Cerf.

At Sections Congress they gave keynote speeches. An unexpected guest was Grant Imahara, from TV's *Mythbusters*, who shared his passion for building robots.

Computer history

I visited the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California. Exhibits show how humans have developed tools for solving problems. I saw the famous calculating machines, including the Babbage Difference Engine No.2, PDP-1, Apple-II, IBM System360 and Cray 2, and also the game consoles that I enjoyed so much: Pac-Man, the red-white Nintendo and original PlayStation.

Delegates participated in workshops on what IEEE should be and how it should operate. See how they voted for the future progress of IEEE on the web at ieee.org/sc2011. Highlights of the Congress and the IEEE Honors Ceremony can also be found at ieee.tv.

Zhijia Huang

Helping L'Aquila to fly again

ON 6 April 2009, a catastrophic earthquake hit Abruzzo, a mountain region in central Italy, and its beautiful capital L'Aquila was almost destroyed. In the disaster, 308 people died, 1,500 were injured, and around 65,000 were made homeless.

Also destroyed was the city's renowned school of engineering.

This year, with the help of the IEEE Foundation, IEEE Italy Section helped to rebuild an electrical engineering lab facility. The US\$15,000 grant by the IEEE Foundation was

matched by a €10,000 donation from Italy Section.

This money helped to replace equipment destroyed the old laboratory, notably:

■ a Digital Logic Analyzer Tektronix TLA5202B

■ a Digital Multimeter FLUKE 8846A

■ six Digital Multimeters AGILENT U3401A

This disaster relief effort was the subject of a poster presentation during the 2011 IEEE Sections Congress in San Francisco.

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If you would like extra copies of *Region 8 News* for distribution at your IEEE events, please email a request to the editor before the deadlines below, specifying quantity and delivery address. Please type 'R8 News Extra Copies' in your email subject line.

Submitting articles

We welcome news, articles and letters from any member of the IEEE. Please send these to the editor as plain text by email to r8news@ieee.org, remembering to type 'Region 8 News' in your email subject line. If sending photos or graphics, please make sure they are high-resolution files. Read our full guide to writing and submitting articles at www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/8/news/contributors.html.

Deadlines for upcoming issues

March 2012 issue deadline: 1 January 2012
June 2012 issue deadline: 1 April 2012
September 2012 issue deadline: 1 July 2012
December 2012 issue deadline: 1 October 2012



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Hamburg hosts OFDM workshop

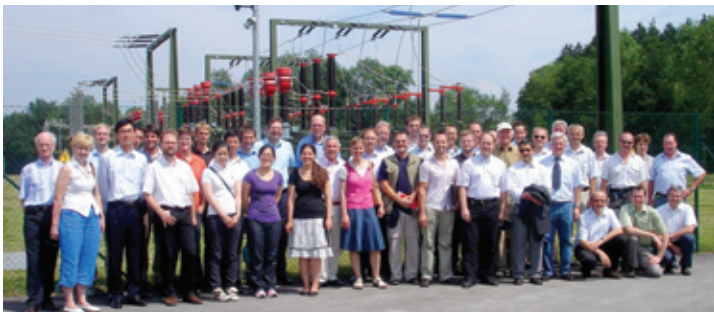
ON 31 August, the 16th OFDM workshop was held at the Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH).

OFDM is the acronym for 'orthogonal frequency division multiplexing' transmission technique. One hundred participants from 12 countries joined the event, and 34 papers were presented in seven sessions.

This annual conference was founded by Hermann Rohling in 1996 at Braunschweig, Germany, before moving in 1999 to Hamburg.

The 17th workshop will be organized by Andreas Czylik of the University Duisburg, Essen. See the website: ofdm.tu-harburg.de.

Hermann Rohling
Chair, ComSoc Germany Chapter



Austrian and German IAS/PELS/IES Joint Chapters get together

THE Austrian Joint Chapter – Industry Application/Power Electronics/Industrial Electronics Societies – met in Upper Austria (Timelkam and Altmünster) for their first joint meeting with German IAS/PELS/IES Chapter. The foundation of the Austrian Chapter had been initiated by Annette Mütze of Graz University of Technology.

On a day with warm weather and plenty of sunshine, the meeting started with an excursion to the static converter plant of the Austrian Railway (ÖBB) and the 50Hz power plant of the Austrian Energie AG, both located in Timelkam.

The second day saw two presentations. Frede Blaabjerg (Aalborg University, Denmark) gave an

overview on 'Power Electronics – Key Technology for Renewable Energy Systems'. The second lecture, by Dr Mircea Popescu and Dr Dave Staton (both from Motor Design, UK), looked at 'Heat Transfer Analysis of Electrical Machines and Power Electronics'.

Another meeting at Karl Ernst Brinkmann GmbH in Barntrup, Germany, was planned for the autumn. Please visit our websites for details: ewh.ieee.org/r8/germany/ias-pels (German Chapter) or ieee.ict.tuwien.ac.at (Austrian Section and Chapter).

Andreas Wagener and Annette Mütze
Joint IAS/PELS/IES Chapter Chairs
Germany and Austria



Annette Mütze,
founder of the
Austrian Chapter

Kuwait Section focuses on contemporary topics



The year's program has included leadership and e-learning workshops

IEEE Kuwait Section organised several successful workshops this year.

On 19 March, Kurt Richter gave an 'Introduction to Writing Technical Papers'. With an emphasis on preparation for IEEE conferences – structure, layout and expected content – he illustrated challenges for authors for whom English is not their first language. 'Development of Leadership Skills' followed, which introduced team building with interactive participation, exercises and case studies.

On 28 May at Coffee Bean Café, our speaker was Dr Han van Loon, whose STARS Knowledge programs addressed two contemporary topics: 'How should

leadership change in the age of social networks?' and 'E-Learning Awareness'.

Leadership style, good characteristics and the impact of social networks were the hot topics, highly engaging us, and many opinions were argued. We learned how to demonstrate leadership – 'walk the talk' – inspiration and confidence.

The second topic looked at what would be needed to create an E-Learning Awareness Strategy for the Kuwait government.

On 29 May at Kuwait Society of Engineers (KSE), a workshop explored the issues of high-performance teams and handling personal views with the TIME-Whirlpool framework.



Nigeria Section elects its new executive committee

ON 21 May, IEEE Nigeria Section elected a new executive committee.

The new chairman, Gloria Chukwudebe, expressed her joy in assuming office and assured everyone of her continued dedication. The Section meeting included three technical presentations, and several new members and students

were recruited to join IEEE.

The meeting was hosted by Okey Ugweje at the Digital Bridge Institute, Abuja.

Check out our webpage at ewh.ieee.org/r8/nigeria to see the new executive lineup.

Raphael Onoshakpor
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BioPhotonics 2011 aims to build up a scientific community of specialists

THE IEEE Photonics Society Italy Chapter promoted the International Workshop on BioPhotonics held on 8–10 June at the S Elisabetta Congress Center of Parma University, Italy. With 110 participants from diverse scientific fields, one of the main goals of the workshop

was to illustrate many facets of biophotonics and to start building up a scientific community of people acting on the subject.

It was chaired by Stefano Selleri of the University of Parma and by Roberto Pini of IFAC-CNR Florence. Participants came from

many European countries, USA, Canada, Japan, Taiwan and Australia – every continent included.

A plenary session which dealt with light-based diagnostic techniques was followed by workshop sessions on fibre-based sensing, spectroscopy-microscopy and imaging, and many others. Selected papers can be found on the IEEE Xplore digital library.

A pleasant social program included a guided tour to the famous Cathedral and Baptistry of Parma, and dinner held at the ALMA International School for Italian Cuisine with typical and exquisite Italian dishes and wines.

Stefano Selleri

Conference Co-Chair

Tiziana Tambosso

Chair, Photonics Italy Chapter



Plenary and workshop sessions looked at many topics in depth



The event is now second in size only to Egyptian Engineering Day (see page 9)

ITW 2011 encourages young Egyptian engineers to engage with industry

ON 17–18 September, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference Center great hall hosted IEEE Alexandria SB's annual conference 'Interact with Today's World' under the slogan 'When the Sphinx talks in Binary'. This was the fifth in a series since 2005.

This event is now second in size only to the Egyptian Engineering Day, a nationwide graduation project exhibition that is organized by the IEEE Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) affinity group.

The main theme is to narrow the gap between young Egyptian engineers and industry, demonstrating new trends and offering some qualifications to face the market.

A series of sessions over the two days covered technical topics and some personal development techniques. About 600 delegates attended, mostly undergraduate engineers from different departments.

Several public figures attended, such as: Ali Faramawy, President of Microsoft Middle East & Africa; Wael Fakharany, Google Egypt & North Africa; Dr Hazem Ezzat, CEO of Optumatics; together with some of the best professionals in the fields of technology and personal development.

Sally Hammady

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Seminar targets young researchers in comms

THE joint VT/COM/IT (Vehicular Technology/Communications/Information Theory societies) Chapter of IEEE Sweden Section, a recent winner of an Achievement Award, made another mark on 19–21 October.

A three-day seminar for young researchers from the general area of communication technologies was held at the Technical University (KTH) of Stockholm. Twenty communications-related topics were selected for presentation, including two half-day tutorials. The Sweden Section is particularly proud of this event, as one of its two organizers is the Section's Vice-Chairman, Dr Imadur Rahman.

Igor Gazdik

Chairman, Sweden Section

Solid-State Circuits Chapter holds first events in UKRI



Members at the inaugural UK meeting

HISTORY was made in September 2011 when the United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland Solid-State Circuits Chapter hosted its inaugural event.

SSCS Distinguished Lecturer Asad Abidi of UCLA gave presentations in Ireland and the UK on the 'Basics of Phase Noise and Jitter' on 2 and 5 September. Members Mike Keaveney of Analog Devices and Hashem Zare-Hoseini of CSR organized the talks in Limerick and Cambridge, respectively. There were 50 participants at the UK seminar, almost all from industry, of which half were IEEE members.

Michael Peter Kennedy

SSCS
Distinguished
Lecturer Prof.
Asad Abidi



Giving Chapter Chairs better information on management

THE IEEE Region 8 Chapter Coordination subcommittee has launched a series of Chapter Chairs meetings. The idea is to give chairmen and chairwomen of Chapters good information on how to manage a Chapter and how to manage relations between Chapters, Sections and Societies. Another purpose of the meetings is to gather the Chapters' questions in order to get answers from the right person in the IEEE organization.

In Bucharest, Romania, on 29 June, the first meeting was organized by Mihaela Albu and Nicolae

Tapus. 26 attended from Romania, Germany, Serbia-Montenegro, Italy and Israel.

MTT-S will meet during European Microwave Week in Manchester, UK. This event is attended by many other society members (AP-S, AES-S, EMC-S, CAS-S, ED-S, CPMT-S etc) and representatives from the corresponding Chapters are welcome. Another meeting is being planned during MELECON in Hammamet, Tunisia, in March 2012.

Daniel Pasquet

Region 8 Chapters Coordination Sub-Committee chair



Slovenia celebrates 2011 with a pair of notable anniversaries



THE 20th anniversary of ERK conference was marked during IEEE Slovenia Section's 40th year.

On 19 September, the 20th International Electrotechnical & Computer Science conference was opened by chairman Baldomir Zajc. 13 sections of topics during three days made a full program. Besides showing state of the art in scientific area, the biggest annual event of

IEEE Slovenia section also offered networking and re-uniting with friends.

The social program included tasting of Slovenian wines and a gala dinner with awards to the winners of the Student Papers Contest. For more details go to: iee.si/erk.

Katarina Gašperlin

Chair, IEEE SB Ljubljana

katarina.gasperlin@iee.org

Corfu hosts the latest in the longest running series of conferences on DSP

THE 17th International Conference on Digital Signal Processing, DSP2011, the oldest in the area of DSP and organized in cooperation with the IEEE and EURASIP, was held on 6–8 July on the island of Corfu, Greece. It addressed the theory and application of controlling, recording, and reproducing signals by means of digital devices or techniques.

The technical program included 160 presentations by researchers from 48 countries, and the proceedings are available for online access via IEEE Xplore digital library. More information about this series can be found at dsp-conferences.org.

Athanassios Skodras
Chair, Greece Section



Electromagnetics conference attracts 167 authors of papers

THE 10th International Conference on Applied Electromagnetics, ITEC 2011, was held at the University of Niš, Serbia, on 25–29 September. There were presentations of papers by 167 authors from 20 countries. Special sessions included 'New technologies for improving energy efficiency' and a presentation of 3D computer models of the inventions of Nikola Tesla.

Earlier in April, the Electromagnetic Compatibility Society EMC Chapter of Serbia and Mon-

tenegro Section was founded. On 26 September, IEEE EMC Society distinguished lecturer, Mark Stefka of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, lectured on two topics.

Celebrating world IEEE Day on 6 October, we organized a technical lecture together with the Serbia and Montenegro Section executive meeting. This year was also the 40th anniversary of our Section.

Dr Vesna Javor

Chair, Serbia and Montenegro EMC Chapter

Lithuania and Morocco Sections join forces over breast cancer



TWELVE members from the IEEE Lithuania Section and IEEE Morocco Section met in the technology park Technopolis, Rabat, on 13–14 July for a joint project involving Lithuanian company Geozondas and Moroccan company MASCIR Micro-electronic.

This aims to develop a non-invasive early breast cancer detection system based on ultra-wide band microwave very high resolution medical imaging.

The idea fits in perfectly with IEEE's strapline: 'Advancing Technology for Humanity'. Several technical

and managerial talks were presented by Mohamed Essaidi, Morocco Section chair; Irina Naidionova and Boris Levitas of IEEE Lithuania Section and of Geozondas; and Jihad Kiwan and François Bourzeix from MASCIR Microelectronics.

We learned about microelectronics industrial activities in Morocco and opportunities at MASCIR while visiting their facilities. Moreover, other cooperation between the Lithuania and Morocco Sections was also discussed.

Mohamed Essaidi

Chair, Morocco Section

R8 GOLD in San Francisco

At IEEE Sections Congress 2011, your Region 8 GOLD committee was there! The GOLD summit of IEEE was also an ideal place to network, exchange ideas and gain in-depth knowledge of IEEE and GOLD.

During the day, we attended a busy program of sessions, meetings and presentations. In the evening, we had time for networking and knowledge exchange on organized or spontaneous meetings. A lot of joy and encouragement filled us

with ideas to plan further Region 8 GOLD events.

We participated in a very successful STEP event organized by local GOLD AGs. The Region 8 GOLD Book was distributed and highly esteemed.

Rafal Sliz
Region 8 GOLD
Committee



The GOLDen jump to thank everyone who made this trip to happen!



Speakers share their industry know-how at STEP event

IEEE GOLD Lebanon organized a STEP event on 25 July. It was held in Beirut, at the American University of Science and Technology (AUST), with great help from AUST Student Branch.

The occasion gathered graduating IEEE members from major engineering universities in Lebanon and congratulated their achievements. Speakers from the industry came to share their know-how, while other speakers gave soft skills presentations.

Paul-Marc Bougharios talked about 'Linux and Freedom'; Samir Zehil shared how to keep 'Personal Growth'; Afif Tabsh spoke on 'Time & Stress Management'; Elias Nassar, Region 8 Student Activities chairman, explained his role; and finally Michel Khayat, vice-chair of GOLD Lebanon concluded with an overview of the current and planned activities.

Michel Khayat
Vice-Chair, GOLD Lebanon AG
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ATHENA Summer School looks at wireless technology



THE 2nd ATHENA Summer School was held 3–8 July in Pyrgos, Ileias, Greece.

The event was technically sponsored by IEEE Greece GOLD Affinity Group and hosted by the Informatics and MM Department of the Technological Educational Institute of Patras.

The purpose was to gain significant knowledge of wireless technology and developments in telecommunication networks.

Participants learned about GSM, GPRS, WCDMA/UMTS, LTE, Networks Design, Applications, and Networks Security and Energy, with applications and uses in mobile.

For more details, go online and visit the website at www.athenasch.gr.

Angi Andreopoulou
Greece GOLD AG

*General Chair
Nicolas Sklavos
opens event*

*Spyros Louvros
delivers his
course on LTE*



Week-long innovation event invites fresh ideas to Tunisia

ON 19–23 July, the first International Summer School on Innovation (SSI'2011) was held in Sousse, Tunisia, with the theme 'From Idea to System: Design, Development, Evaluation, and Presentation'.

Sixty participants came from Germany, England, Canada, Qatar and Tunisia. It was organized by the IEEE GOLD Tunisia, National Engineering School of Sfax (ENIS) Student Branch. The main goal was to help students, academics and engineers gain hands-on knowledge on how to go from idea to implementation.

The summer school opened with a presentation on IEEE benefits, the STEP program

and its benefits for young professionals. It was a good occasion to encourage recent graduates to renew their memberships.

The program combined theory and practical techniques on innovation. The need for innovation was discussed illustrating the importance of new ideas for creating businesses and new jobs.

On the last day, SSI'2011 was concluded by awarding the winner of the contest for the most innovative idea during the summer school. Please visit: ssi2011.ieee-enis.org

Habib Kammoun
Chair, GOLD Tunisia AG
ewh.ieee.org/r8/tunisia/gold

Engineering Day is another resounding success for Egypt



ON 6–7 September, IEEE GOLD Egypt organized the 10th Egyptian Engineering Day (EED) at Cairo International Conference Center under the auspices of HE Dr Essam Sharaf, Prime Minister of Egypt; Dr Mohamed Salem, Minister of Communication & IT; Dr Moataz Khorshed, Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research; and Dr Ahmed Gamal El Din, Minister of Education.

The Egyptian Engineering Day (EED) is an expo for engineering graduation projects aimed at implementing those which can benefit our real life. How deep are our youth's skills at different scales of their ages and capabilities? It gave us the opportunity to present their ideas and to contact industry.

EED celebrated its 10th anniversary with the theme '10 Years Serving Egypt'. EED aims to open new horizons as we start the first steps towards a new era in our country. Fresh graduates face the hardest obstacles and challenges that draw their vision towards a better Egypt.

In addition to our main goals, we help them discover the Egyptian labour market. Our 10th anniversary engineering day saw more than 4,000 visitors and 213 projects. With sponsors such as Siemens, and Vodafone, and speakers from Google, Etisalat Misr and Egypt's industry, it was an outstanding success. See the videos and photos on our website: www.eed2011.org. You'll make plans to come next year!

Amgad I Kamal
Secretary, Egypt GOLD AG



The 10th Engineering Day attracted more than 4,000 visitors and 213 projects to discuss



Latest news from your Region 8 Student Activities team

Good News from San Francisco

At the Region 8 meeting at SC2011, the Student Activities Committee (R8-SAC) held an award ceremony for winners in Student Branches. Among the top five recommendations to be considered by IEEE in the next three years, two were delivered by Region 8:

- To Increase support to students in technical activities with grants to attend conferences and organization of technical competitions.
- To encourage interest in pre-university students in engineering careers, IEEE to publish a subscription periodical (paper or electronic) targeted to high school students.

UKRI SBC

Eva, Jef and Jorge traveled to London to participate in the Student Branch Congress in the United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland Section on 1–4 September. Representatives from many Student Branches attended technical lectures and got training and information from workshops about how to plan and organize events. See ewh.ieee.org/r8/ukri/sbc.

Why not plan an SBC in your section? We can assist you: just drop us an email at r8sac@ieee.org.

Reporting reminder

As of 25 July 2011, Region 8 had 9,086 student members, plus 11,221 grad students, in 352 Student Branches! The year is coming to an end, and many branches still haven't reported their activities.

Student award certificates were handed to Section chairs during the Region 8 Committee meeting in San Francisco



All reporting takes place online – it is easy and quick. Please don't forget to report activities (sbr.vtools.ieee.org) and officers after election (link.ieeeer8.org/officer_reporting). This will tell us what you are doing and brings your Student Branch the yearly rebates. And reporting is a required condition for you to apply for awards!



Report on Region 8 chat sessions

In 2010, R8-SAC started a new activity: a monthly chat session to discuss IEEE activities and events. Anyone can participate in these chat sessions, which take place on our website at www.r8sac.org. We'll try to cover students' major concerns and needs.

Last month, we chatted about Student Branch reporting, congresses, awards and contests, and best ways to recruit members. The R8 SAC committee answered many questions, and attendees have found them very helpful. If you have a topic you want to discuss, send an email to r8sac@ieee.org.

SB & GOLD Congress 2012

The next congress will be late June 2012, in Madrid, Spain. Our student event of the year will be organized by the UPM SB. Watch for details.

Your Region 8 SAC Team: Elias, Eva, Jorge, Jef, George, Hosam and Mohammad

UKRI Section hosts the Student Branch Congress

Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran

MATLAB competition winners announced

TO help create an incentive for undergraduate students to understand technical computing, the Ferdowsi University of Mashhad Student Branch introduced a competition within the electrical engineering department back in 2010: the ITCM (implementa-

tion of technical computing using MATLAB).

We prepared a series of problems that could show a 'silhouette of computing challenges' that are often found in engineering analysis. The top three winners from 11 teams were given their awards

in the electrical engineering New Year's ceremony on 14 March this year. Over 200 students and professors attended, enjoying a cake festival where student-baked cakes with electrical engineering oriented designs were tasted and voted upon by professors.

University of Bedford, UK

A busy year of seminars, a conference and a visit to see aircraft engineering

THE University of Bedfordshire has been highly excited with events this academic year. The Student Branch has so far organised two seminars.

The first, on 28 March 2011, was 'Wireless Technology Innovation', delivered by Ben Allen of the Department of Computer Science. The second, on 15 April, was 'Wi-Fi Networks: The Practicalities of Implementation', delivered by Geraint Williams, the Infrastructural Manager.

A conference on Security, Telecommunications and Networking (STAN 2011) was held at the Luton campus on 12 July. Fifty staff and students attended from the department of Computer Science and Technology.

The conference set out recent projects and research by third-year undergraduates and postgraduate students. Guest speakers Peter Gunther and Mick Garrett from RoboTraders presented an overview of their company's research



Student presenters and award-winners at the STAN conference

John Swords talks to students while John-Paul Williams (right) watches on during the visit to Monarch Aircraft Engineering



and design work in the motor manufacture and aerospace industries. They presented awards to student presenters and told about career opportunities for graduates.

Seventeen Student Branch members visited Monarch Aircraft

Engineering at London Luton airport on 28 June 2011. During the visit, students boarded aircraft and saw first hand how maintenance was carried out.

Kesiena Chris-Iwuru
Chair, Student Branch

An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine

Celebrating IEEE Day with environmental message

ON 6 October, An-Najah Student Branch celebrated IEEE Day with all of its members. Inspired by the logo, we launched an environmental awareness day and campaign aiming to create a better future for humanity.

Branch members worked together to reach out to audiences and supporters to raise awareness about the environment. We organized an exhibition full of pictures and explanations of solar energy, wind energy and eco-friendly systems.

One of the main topics was 'triple R' – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – and we successfully collected 400 signatures to support recycling in the University. During the IEEE Day activities, the Student Branch organized a one-hour presentation of our initiative. We ended the day with a cake party.

Alaa MM Shaheen, a member of Najah SB studying computer engineering, became the first Palestinian to attend the Singularity University at NASA AMES Research Center, California, USA (singularityu.org).

Singularity University is a new organization "to focus on solving the planet's most pressing challenges". Alaa joined a real project, 'the Primer Life', which is a social platform using an AI engine to empower people's health (see demo.primerlife.com).

Thuraya Aghbar
Secretary, Najah Student Branch



Arab American University, Palestine SB makes its case for software freedom

AAUJ Student Branch participated in the Software Freedom Day 2011 at Palestine, where they were a part of the exhibition at the Al-Quds Open University, Jenin.

The chairman of the AAUJ Student Branch, Iyad Jaradat, delivered a talk about the benefits of IEEE and about the IEEE Xtreme 24-Hour Programming Competition in which the branch is participating.

Iyad Jaradat
Chair, AAUJ Student Branch

Pictured above:
the governor of
Jenin, Qaddura
Musa, and
president of
Al-Quds Open
University, Dr
Imad Nazal,
meet members
of the Student
Branch



American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Student research on display at SIPS 2011

THE international workshop on Signal Processing, SIPS 2011, was held in American University of Beirut, Lebanon on 4–7 October. We were pleased to have the expert in hardware design and signal processing, Jan Rabaey, presenting on the first day.

Posters showed the research work of two AUB students, Lama Shaer and Ihab Nahlus. On 6 October, we also celebrated IEEE Day. Chair of AUB's student branch, Caren Zgheib, introduced her fellow students to the numerous events coming up over the next couple of years, most importantly the Middle East SBC conference that will be held at AUB in 2013.

Karim Zahed

AUB SB Subcommittee Representative



University of Ibadan, Nigeria

SPAC looks in depth at 'technopreneurship'

IN keeping to the annual practice, University of Ibadan Student Branch hosted its Students Professional Awareness Conference (SPAC) on the 17 August. This year's SPAC was tagged 'Technopreneurship – building entrepreneurs of technology'.

The event started with a talk from Didunoluwa Olukoya about technopreneurship from a student's eye. Having given a good overview to the concept of technopreneurship, speakers from various organizations delivered their talks.

Kayode Yusuf from Telecoms Associates Institute talked about opportunities in the university environment and noted that one could set up an enterprise for free through Facebook. He encouraged students to build up their ideas, however small. Gbenga Sesan, executive director of Paradigm Initiative Nigeria, emphasized the importance of school, to start to avail ourselves of all opportunities to learn. This was followed by Abiodun Adepoju, a Google Student Ambassador, who talked on 'YouTube for business'. Finally, Titi Omo-ettu, President of the Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria, concluded the event.

Nwankwo Mary Theresa
Head, UI SB Reporting Committee

University of Cape Town, South Africa High schoolers learn about solar power for creating water supply



Students
soldiering
individual
panels

READERS of *IEEE Region 8 News* may remember our two previous projects – a wind turbine model and installation of a wind turbine at a local school. Now University of Cape Town Student Branch members are currently building a working model of a pumped solar water geyser. They plan also to install a high pressure solar power water geyser system at Emasithandane Children's Home in Nyanga – a township in Cape Town, South Africa – with the help of the high-school students.

On 7 October, 34 students from four schools within the Cape Town area participated in a day trip to PV manufacturing company Solaire Technologies. They assembled a 1KW array of solar panels by themselves. The learners saw the manufacturing process for PV panels, and understood the concept of solar energy as a clean generator of electrical power.

The panels, along with others donated by project partners, will help power the basic load at the Children's home. In parallel to this, a 300 litre high pressure solar geyser system will eventually be installed.

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Joyce Mwangama joyce.mwangama@ieee.org



High school learners and Student Branch members with the completed PV panel

IN September, Slovenia Section organized its annual student paper contest. The winner will be invited to present at the IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2012.

The event was part of the 20th ERK conference on 20 September, opened by Andrej Zemva and Katarina Gašperli. Followed by oral presentations of research projects, the jury chose three best student projects. The winner of the contest was Andrej Debenjak, second place went to Ludvik Strauch (both from University of Ljubljana SB). Third prize went to Miha Grešak from University of Maribor SB.

At a gala dinner, the winners received their prizes. First prize was a €1,000 course. Second and



University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Local student paper contest determines winner to take part in Region 8 finals

third prizes were development boards. All seven finalist papers were included in Proceedings of the ERK conference.

Ljubljana Student Branch also organised two successful events: a round table discussion entitled 'From Triple Integrals And Maxwell Equations To First Salary' and an

invited lecture, 'High-Performance Organization: It is not about the Structure' delivered by Nadya Zhexembayeva of the IEDC Bled School of Management, with more than 100 attendees.

Katarina Gasperlin
University of Ljubljana SB
katarina.gasperlin@ieee.org



Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon, Portugal

Workshop teaches how to use productivity tools

IST Student Branch just finished a warm welcome to the freshmen at IST. We had a welcome table to receive all the newcomers, and a reception session where we explained all the details of IEEE and our dedicated webpage.

On 12 October, the Student Branch organized a workshop where software productivity tools were demonstrated. Participants tried them out and were shown the tricks that older students use to keep to schedule and deliver a project on time. They also learned how to work in teams, to manage their time and that preparation is the secret to success.

IEEE-IST TV will launch a video of the event soon, so stay tuned to www.youtube.com/user/IEEEISTTV.

On 1–2 October, Portugal Section organized the 2nd Portugal Student Branch Congress (PSBC) at the IST Student Branch, Lisbon. Our goal was to bring together student volunteers from all over the country, who will share their experiences and improve partnership between branches.

It turned out to be much more: participants received volunteer training and attended an invited technical talk on mobile robotics by the RAS Portugal Chapter Vice-Chair, Pedro Lima.

During the awards dinner, the first annual Portugal Section Student Awards were given. The Universidade Nova de Lisboa Student Branch was distinguished with this year's Outstanding Student Branch Award, and Jorge Soares received the Outstanding Student Volunteer Award.

Attracting more than 30 active participants, this Congress was a great success.

João Dias
Portugal Student Branch
Representative



Malta Student Branch

We are now 'exemplary' – that's official

REGION 8 SAC chose Malta Student Branch to receive the IEEE Exemplary Student Branch Award 2011. It was presented during the 'IEEE Awards Night Ceremony 2011' held on 28 August at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta, Malta.



Dr C J Debono, Vice-Chair of Malta Branch, presents the Exemplary Student Branch Award to Malta Student Branch chair, Dylan Seychell

The Branch has been active since 2001, organizing activities for engineering and ICT students alike. It sponsors a robotics competition entitled 'Robot Wars' and runs Student Professional Awareness Conferences. It participates in the annual Region 8 Student Paper Contest, and makes regular visits to industries. Social activities including Christmas parties and summer barbecues bring students closer to academic staff and help to establish relationship with industrial companies.

The activities aren't possible without the effort of volunteers. Malta Section gives us constant help and encouragement. We are lucky to have Simon G Fabri as our 'Outstanding Student Branch Counsellor and Advisor 2009'. Paul Micallef, Malta Section chair, has given valuable help to us too. We also thank Tracey Cassar for her guidance and encouragement.

Luana Chetcuti Zammit
Secretary, Malta Student Branch
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www.ieeesbmalta.org



Tracey Cassar receives the 'Outstanding Student Branch Counsellor 2011' nomination

Croatia Section Student Branches

Joint lectures comprise powerful series of learning opportunities

DURING summer 2011, Josip Balen and Iva Bojic organized a series of joint lectures for Croatia Section Student Branches at Zagreb and Osijek. Ten lectures were attended by 350 guests and 80 IEEE members. They gave an overview of technologies, the necessary tools and the basics for developing mobile applications on different platforms.

At Zagreb, 'Scientific Article Writing' was delivered by Iva Bojic, Vedran Podobnik and Ana Petric. Ivan Kristo explained 'Using LaTeX in Scientific Writing'.

In a second series, 'Programming applications for mobile devices' saw Tomislav Car presenting his experiences with different mobile platforms. Luka Abrus and Domagoj Pavlesic lectured on Windows Phone 7. Marko Sever explained 'How to participate – Imagine cup competition'.

At Osijek, Kruno Milicevic's 'How to write a scientific paper' was followed by 'Developing mobile apps for Android OS'. Then followed 'How to sell more than 500 Symbian mobile applications in a month', 'Windows Phone 7' and 'Developing mobile applications for IOS'.

Josip Balen, Osijek Student Branch

josip.balen@etfos.hr

Iva Bojic, Croatia Student Branch

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Students attending one of the Zagreb lectures



National Engineering School of Sfax (ENIS), Tunisia

Software Freedom Day investigates open-source projects in industry



ATTRACTING more than 350 participants, International Software Freedom Day (SFD Tunisia 2011) took place on 17 September in Sfax city with the backing of the Tunisian secretary of state for technology, and leading software companies. It was opened by Mourad Loulou, IEEE Tunisia Section chair, and Adel M Alimi, IEEE ENIS Student Branch counselor.

The guest speaker was Chris DiBona from Google who presented the open-source projects at Google and encouraged students to participate in the Google Summer of Code.

Presentations followed: Tunisian Android, the Tunisian community

working and promoting the Android open source system; Ubuntu Tunisia community; Mozilla Tunisia community; and INSAT 'SecuriNets', the club of computer security.

Professionals told their success stories: Zied Ben Salem of Alpha Engineering showed business models for open-source software; Mouna Sghaier of Jasmine Conseil spoke about JasForge, an open-source collaborative development platform.

The whole event was closed with a beautiful closing ceremony where many awards were offered.

Habib Kammoun

Chair, ENIS Student Branch

sb.enis@ieee.org

ieee-enis.org



Russia North-West Student Branch

English-only zone helps students learn the lingo

THE English Language Discussion Club is a weekly event held by the Student Branch, and it is now in its second year.

About 10–15 students gather in St Petersburg Electrotechnical University (LETI) every week to share their ideas on different topics: science, books, movies, politics, technology, hobbies and so on. The topic is selected by the moderator or by simple voting. Students with advanced skills in English are always ready to help others in their studying and correcting mistakes.

During our meetings, we make the room 'English-only zone': nobody is allowed to speak Russian. It helps us to create the atmosphere of being in a foreign society with people who can't speak your language. Even when someone needs a translation, it's provided as a description in English. This rule helps our participants get used to the English-speaking atmosphere.

The club offers its participants

a unique chance to discuss different topics from making a cookie to constructing a plane. Being a rookie is not a problem because we have newcomers at every session, and we organize special team-building games in order to help everyone get acquainted.

Students taking part not only develop their communication skills, but also find new friends and have a great time. We create a comfortable atmosphere at our classes; drinks and snacks are served for participants and provided by the Student Branch.

Feedback from participants shows us that it's a encouraging experience: a lot of students confessed that they haven't been talking English so much for years!

We are proud that this event can improve students' English, help to find new friends and discuss interesting topics among fascinating people.

Sergey Shaposhnikov

Russia NW Section Vice Chair

American University of Science and Technology, Beirut, Lebanon

IEEE Day @ AUST empowers members

AUST Student branch organized its 'IEEE Day @ AUST' on 6 October. This year's focus was 'Empowering Members to Create the Future'.

The event began with a review of IEEE benefits from Marc Attieh, vice-chairman, and a report from Eddy Dib, events manager. Elie Mchleleh introduced the first Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society Student Chapter in Lebanon. This was followed by Aziz Barbar,

chair of the Computer Society Chapter, who explained how to be an active IEEE member. George Salloum spoke on student activities. The event was brought to a close with a general knowledge competition. The first prize, one year free IEEE student membership, went to Micheal Abdullah.

Michel Owayjan

AUST Student Branch counselor



The winner with Mr. Owayjan, the branch counselor, and the executive committee