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Get ready for IEEE R8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2010

ARE YOU ready for the biggest Region 8 student event of the year?

You should be! From 4-8 August 2010, Leuven Student Branch will host the biannual Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress in the historical town of Leuven, Belgium.

For more than a year, we have been preparing a fully stuffed agenda with a mix of technical, professional and social activities to make this an unforgettable event for students, GOLDies and IEEE volunteers.

As well as speeches by key IEEE officials and hands-on workshops, the Congress will host the 'Elect the President' debate, where you will be able to discuss IEEE's future with the president candidates. You can already join the discussion on our website.

We will also host the Region 8 Student and Student

Branch Awards at the event, and "mad scientist" John Cohn, IEEE and IBM Fellow, will share his enthusiastic passion for technology and engineering.

To make sure you remember your stay in Leuven for the rest of your life, we have also included a wide variety of visits and social activities. These include visits to the magnificent historical city centre of Leuven and Brussels, to one of the world's largest breweries and to our campus. There is a gala dinner in the heart of the city and an open-air barbecue in the green surroundings of the campus. The social program ends with a multicultural evening in the art centre STUK, the finest cultural meeting place in Leuven.

Are you counting the days for the Congress to start as we do?

We are working hard to make sure SBC2010 will be

unforgettable. Check out the information section on our website (www.sbcleuven.org) to prepare your stay in Leuven and keep up to date with

all SBC2010 news. We look forward to seeing you all in Leuven!

The SBC 2010 team
Student Branch Leuven



Left to right: Barry Shoop (IEEE Vice President, Member and Geographic Activities, and Chair of the MGA Board), Joe Lillie, Martin Bastiaans and Józef Modelski (IEEE R8 Director).

Region 8's Martin Bastiaans wins award for his IEEE work

MARTIN BASTIAANS has received the 2009 IEEE MGA Larry K Wilson Transnational Award "for significant contributions to the IEEE volunteer experience and member engagement throughout the world."

The Award was presented at the IEEE Member and Geographical Activities Board meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, on 13 February 2010,

Making the presentation at the ceremony, Joe Lillie, 2009 IEEE Vice President, MGAB, said: "This is a very prestigious award, and the MGA Board is pleased to honor you for the outstanding contributions you have made to numerous IEEE activities and the example you set in carrying forward the goals and objectives of the IEEE MGA Board."

Among other things, Martin served as the Counselor of the IEEE Student Branch Eindhoven (1996-2007), the IEEE Benelux Section Chair (2007-2008) and the IEEE Region 8 Vice Chair, Student Activities (2007-2008).

Martin is 2010 Chair of the IEEE MGA Student Activities Committee and a petition candidate for IEEE Region 8 Director-elect.



The SBC 2010 team from Leuven Student Branch.

Teach technology to young people in Africa

CALLING ALL IEEE members in southern and eastern Africa! Are you interested in improving the exposure of young people in your part of the continent to engineering and technology? Would you be interested in helping teachers of primary, middle and high schools so that they be better prepared to introduce engineering and technology to their students?

Did you know that IEEE provides materials and tools that can help these goals?

Register and attend IEEE's Teacher In-Service Program (TISP) Training Workshop on 24–25 September 2010. The workshop takes place at the Protea Hotel Lusaka in Lusaka, Zambia.

The purpose is to help IEEE members improve the teaching of engineering and engineering design in primary schools, middle schools and high schools. IEEE members will learn how to work with

teachers of pre-university schools, and how to conduct hands-on sessions on engineering topics. The teachers will then use these sessions on a regular basis with their own students.

The expectation is that IEEE members who complete the workshop will contact local schools in months and years to come, and will work with their teachers on lesson plans that demonstrate engineering and engineering design. See examples at www.tryengineering.org/lesson.php.

The event is free of charge for all IEEE members and invited educators. Organized jointly by the IEEE Educational Activities Board, IEEE Region 8, and IEEE Zambia Section.

For more information on TISP, please contact Saurabh Sinha, IEEE R8 Education Activities Subcommittee (EASC) member, ssinha@ieee.org.

EVEN IN this day and age, far too many people in underdeveloped countries live in darkness, without reliable electricity. Far too many doctors are forced to treat patients without accurate information and far too many people die from illnesses easily treatable in the world's developed nations.

Do you think there's nothing you can do about it? Think again.

The Humanitarian Technology Challenge (HTC) was created by people like you, for people like you: technologists, humanitarians, nonprofit organizations, students, government employees – and citizens of the world – who are coming together to identify, and work to solve, some of the world's most pressing challenges.

With a unique, open-source collaborative concept, HTC enables you to make a difference without making a major commitment of your time or resources.

The HTC is an innovative, collaborative endeavor that will develop and implement technological solutions to selected humanitarian chal-

Calling all IEEE members: let's join forces to solve the world's most pressing challenges

lenges in developing countries. Our mission is to:

- Solve three global challenges based upon input from leading humanitarians for their potential impact on humanity and potential for success.

- Create solutions that are sustainable, scalable and adaptable to multiple environments so they can be implemented locally within the environmental, cultural, structural, political, and socio-economic conditions where they will be deployed.

- Support the work of United Nations and other hu-

manitarian assistance groups worldwide.

The Humanitarian Technology Challenge comprises two distinct phases:

- Identifying, selecting and defining the challenges.

- Developing and deploying potential solutions (current focus)

Using our online collaborative platform, technologists, humanitarians and many others, will work together to create potential solution frameworks. The project has passed the selection stage and three challenges selected are:

- Reliable Electricity, which is fundamental to their economic development, education and medical care.

- Data Connectivity of Rural District Health Offices, enabling these remote locations to share vital patient care information with central health facilities.

- Individual ID and Tie to Health Records, providing potentially life-saving access to accurate health information for remote, mobile populations in underdeveloped nations.

With the three initial humanitarian challenges selected, the HTC is now working to create sustainable, scalable solutions that can be implemented locally, and within the environmental, cultural, structural, political and socio-economic conditions where they will be deployed.

For more information and how to participate please visit IEEE Humanitarian Technology Challenge website: www.ieeehtc.org.

Students Win IEEE President's Change the World Competition

THE IEEE President's Change the World Competition is a new initiative that encourages students to develop unique solutions to real-world problems, using engineering, science, computing and leadership skills to benefit their community or humanity as a whole. Over 200 students took advantage of the opportunity.

E.quinox, a students' initiative started at Imperial College London UK, was a winner of \$1,000 in the 2009 Outstanding Student Humanitarian category. E.quinox is a non-profit, humanitarian project that hopes to bring cost-effective renewable energy to developing countries.

It is often not possible to implement a full-scale national electric grid in developing countries, leaving

the residents in rural areas without electricity.

In order to solve this problem, e.quinox built an 'Energy Kiosk' – a solar charging station in a village in Africa, where the local population can charge their batteries for a small fee. At home they can use the energy for lighting, phone charging and to power a radio. This is a cost-effective, robust solution. E.quinox believes bringing electricity to rural areas is a key for development: Education – lighting during evening hours; Health – water purification, power medical equipment; Communication – cell phone charging and Economy – prolonged working hours.

The system can support a small village of 50 homes in Minazi, Rwanda. It can be scaled and adjusted to

the community's size and requirement. A comprehensive business plan has been developed; any income from the system will be reinvested in new systems or used for maintenance.

They also work closely with local institutions to raise awareness about electrification, promote renewable energy and ensure a knowledge transfer.

This project is strongly supported by the Rwandan Ministry of Infrastructure and the Belgian Technical Cooperation. The concept is being considered for nationwide implementation from 2010.

For more information about the 2010 Presidents' "Change the World" competition please visit: www.ieeechangetheworld.org.

Shuxian Chen

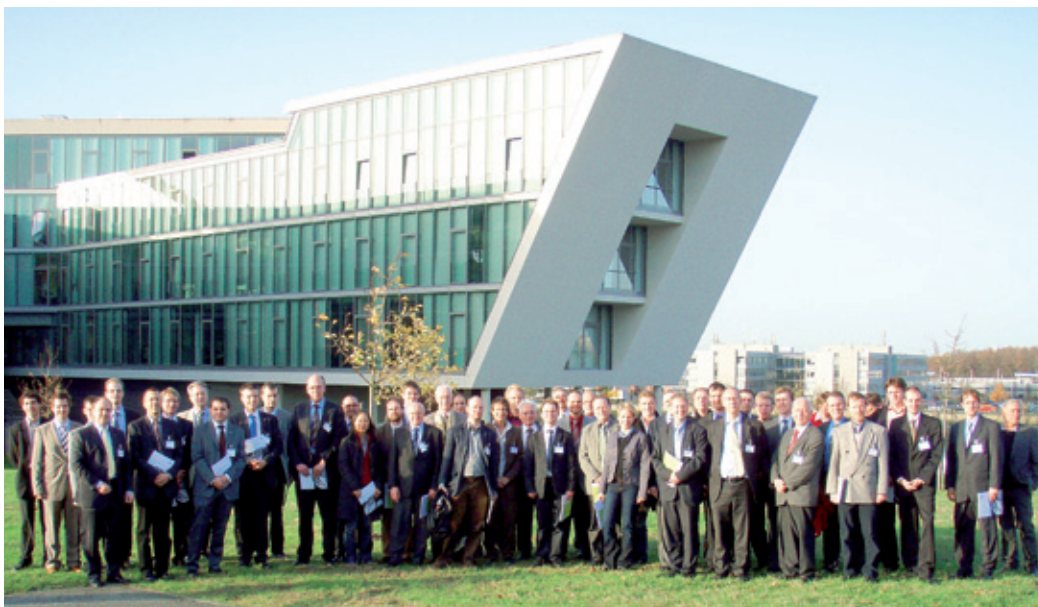
Standards activities

IEEE STANDARDS Association held joint workshops in Geneva on 28 May with the ITU-T on The Future of Ethernet Transport. Topics included protection switching, time synchronization and 'Beyond 100Gb/s'. Registration for workshops are free of charge.

IEEE's 802.X groups are working on higher layer Interface interworking tasks, data center bridging, audio/video bridging, and energy-efficient ethernet. IEEE P802.3.X task forces are working on ethernet MIBs, time synchronization, and 40Gb/s single-mode fibre.

More information at www.itu.int/ITU-T.

David Law



Joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter meets at Volkswagen AG, Wolfsburg

THE IEEE Germany Section joint IAS/PELS/IES Chapter meeting took place at Volkswagen AG in Wolfsburg on 19–20 November 2009. The event started with a visit to the 'Level Green' exhibition in Autostadt which is dedicated to environmental sustainability.

A welcome by Chapter chairman Ingo Hahn was followed by a talk by Dr Böhm

from VW Research: 'Future concepts of drive train technologies'.

Dr Dröder explained the structure NFF (Automotive Research Centre Niedersachsen). He told us about an autonomous vehicle which will guide itself to a desired destination. He also reported on the KOLINE project which aims to optimize traffic flow through cities by exchanging

data of each individual vehicle with the infrastructure especially traffic lights.

Prof B Ponick of Hannover University lectured on electric drive train systems which use different concepts of electric machines.

Prof W Schumacher of Braunschweig Technical University described hybrid car drives, the power split drive train and some opportunities

to minimize the power flow through electric machines.

Another highlight was the company tour at Volkswagen AG, which builds three cars every minute in the Wolfsburg factory – 3,600 per day. The production line is nearly 150km in length!

See us online at www.ewh.ieee.org/r8/germany/fias-pels.

Ingo Hahn

Chapter Chairman

ON 21 February, the IEEE Iran Section organized a one-day event at Shahid Beheshti University to celebrate its 40th anniversary. Around 500 IEEE members and students attended.

IEEE Region 8 director Jozef Modelski presented an anniversary plaque and the

500 attend ceremony for Iran Section's 40th

IEEE president's letter on the occasion to Hamid Soltanian-Zadeh, the chairman. Six technical presentations were

delivered explaining IEEE activities worldwide in industry and academia.

The afternoon session included awards to Mehrdad Abedi (Amirkabir University of Technology) for best teaching, and Caro Lucas (University of Tehran) for research. IEEE University Tehran student branch won 'Most Active SB'. 'Best Thesis' awards went to recent graduates Pedram Pad (BSc – Sharif University Technology), Nima Khademi Kalantari (MSc – Amirkabir University Technology) and Ehsan Adib



Jozef Modelski (presents a plaque to Prof Soltanian-Zadeh (left), chairman of IEEE Iran Section.

(PhD – Isfahan University Technology).

Farzaneh Abdollahi
Iran Section News



Ukraine Section celebrates IEEE Life Fellow's 90th birthday

IEEE AP/C/EMC/SP Kharkov Joint Chapter of Ukraine Section recently celebrated the 90th birthday of IEEE Life Fellow, Yakov Solomonovich Shifrin.

His 1970 monograph was translated in the USA as *Statistical Antenna Theory* by Golem Press, USA, 1971.

Born in the town Mstislavl (Belarus) on 23 April 1920, Shifrin graduated with honours in Physics in 1941 from the Leningrad State University. A remarkable man of unbending spirit and morality, he fought in World War II and became a commander of radar units.

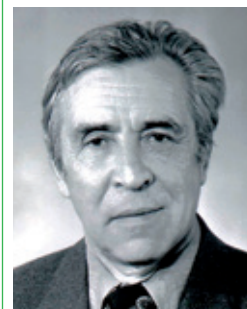
From 1948–80 he worked at the Artillery Radio Engineering Academy in Kharkov, where he became Professor and head of department.

After his retirement from the Armed Forces in 1980, he worked at the Kharkov National University of Radio Electronics.

Yakov Solomonovich was an active organizer of several international conferences and of the IEEE Ukraine Section, East-Ukraine and Kharkov Joint Chapters. He is regarded an outstanding educator and his scientific work was awarded the AS-Popov prize USSR.

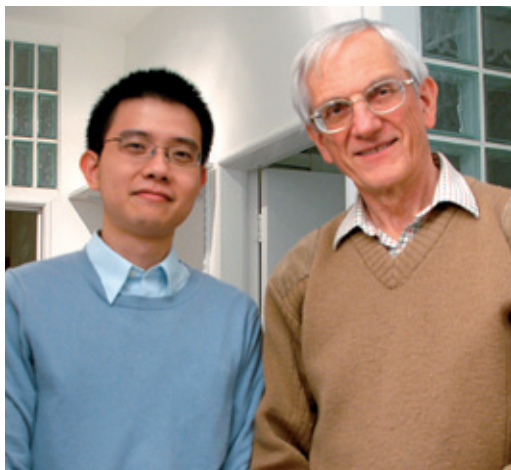
He is President of the Ukrainian National Antenna Association and Academician of the International Academy of Sciences of Applied Radio Electronics.

Nikolay Kolchigin



IEEE Life Fellow, Yakov Solomonovich Shifrin.

Get involved in your Region with the help of IEEE incentives



Your editors: Zhijia Huang and Roland Saam

WE REALLY appreciate your contributions to this issue of *Region 8 News*. This time we have a good variety of articles with interesting and important information for IEEE members, especially motivated students and young engineers.

The Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2010 will be hosted by IEEE Leuven Student Branch. It is a biannual gathering of exceptional student and GOLD volunteers around our region, with training sessions and workshops to further inspire them. Please check with the R8 SAC and GOLD team for qualification and funding.

Also in this issue, you can read how a team of students in Imperial College London UK was awarded the 2009 Outstanding Student Humanitarian Prize. The project hopes to bring cost-effective renewable energy to developing countries.

We strongly believe that R8 students and young professionals 'got talent'! So if you have the interest, idea, knowledge and time, the IEEE President's Change the World Award and Humanitarian Technology Challenge are the two targets for you.

On this note, we are glad to announce that Martin Bas-

tians received the 2009 IEEE MGA Larry K Wilson Transnational Award for his "significant volunteer contributions".

This issue also includes the second part of Roger Pollard's series of articles on society membership – again, please get involved in the debate. Not least, we provide updates from IEEE Standards activities and information on a mini grant available for Student Application Papers with an industry standards component.

Please continue to send in your news and developments to us at this email address: r8news@ieee.org.

Zhijia Huang

Correction

We got some names mixed up in the March 2010 issue of *Region 8 News* in the story *Lebanon Communication Workshop attracts around 230*. Apologies to everyone concerned.

The text ought to have read as follows: Zaher Dawy is the Chair of the IEEE Communications Society Lebanon Chapter and Dean Ibrahim Hajj is the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at AUB.

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Bylaws and descriptions of the committee offices — refer to www.ieee.org/r8

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Extra copies 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 put *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 put *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.ieee.org/go/r8news.

Deadlines for upcoming issues

September 2010 issue..... deadline: 1 July 2010
December 2010 issue..... deadline: 1 October 2010
March 2011 issue..... deadline: 1 January 2011
June 2011 issue..... deadline: 1 April 2011

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For more information, visit <http://www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/whatis/policies/p9-26.html>.

Keynote and handover feature at Greece's annual meeting

GREECE SECTION held its annual meeting on 23 March 2010 in order to welcome the new members and award those members that exhibited exemplary research, volunteer activities and scholar excellence.

The meeting took place in Athens at the Main Hall of the National Technical University of Athens. This year's meeting was highlighted by four events: the hand over of the Section's leadership from N Hatzigiorgiou to A Skodras, the honour to the newly elevated Greece Section Fellow members, a keynote speech by T Sellis and the EMBS best thesis award.

The new Fellow Members of the Greece IEEE Section are T Sellis, Y Ioannidis and N Uzounoglou. The keynote talk was given by T Sellis on 'Trends and Challenges in Data Management'.

The Meeting was closed with the speech of the newly elected Chairman of the Greece Section Board, Athanassios Skodras, who presented his vision for the development of the Section and referred to the strategic plan to achieve these goals. The meeting was well attended by approximately 100 IEEE members of all grades and closed with a light banquet.

Thanos Kakarountas



IEEE Fellow Prof T Sellis during the keynote lecture.



IEEE/SEE joint award presented to Catherine Douillard in Paris

THE ALAIN Glavieux Prize is sponsored jointly by IEEE France Section and the Société des Electriciens et Electroniciens (SEE). It is given every other year in the domain of information and communication sciences, system control, signal and image processing.

The 2009 prize was awarded to Catherine Douillard

(shown accepting the award, above) "for pioneering work on turbo-equalization and exceptional contributions in the standardization of new coding and modulation techniques in prominent telecommunication systems".

Catherine Douillard is a professor at Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications de Bretagne. She is

responsible for the turbo-algorithms and circuits group.

At the ceremony in Paris, held at SEE's headquarters on 2 December 2009, a €4,000 prize and certificate were presented by Paul Friedel (SEE president) and Daniel Pasquet (IEEE France Section chair).

Daniel Pasquet

France Section Chair

Spain Section elects a new committee for 2010

ON MONDAY 18 January, following a snowy week, the sun was shining gently in the sky of Madrid. This weather shift was welcomed at the faculty of telecommunications in the Technical University Madrid (UPM) where a new executive committee for the IEEE Spain section was announced. Once all members' e-votes were counted, the result was:

- Chair: Manuel Castro
- Vice Chair: Pilar Molina
- Secretary: Andrés Santos
- Treasurer: Margarita Cabrera
- Women in Engineering: María Ángeles Martín
- History and life Members: Jose Antonio Delgado

Volunteers will concentrate on members, industry, communications, knowledge

and relations. The new Ex-Com defined several strategies to be followed in each

specific area. The meeting finished at 5.30pm with a visit to the office that the

IEEE Spain Section has in the UPM.

Agusti Solanas



Joint VT & AES Greece Chapter creates educational network

THE IEEE Joint VTS & AESS Greece Chapter is creating a network of groups at each educational institution in Northern Greece.

You can visit the main International Hellenic University site at www.ihu.edu.gr. Other institutions involved are: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (www.auth.gr), University of Macedonia (www.uom.gr), University of Western Macedonia (www.uowm.gr), Technical Educational Institute of Thessaloniki (www.teithe.gr), Technical Educational Institute of

Serres (www.teiser.gr) and the Centre for Research and Technology of Hellas (www.certh.gr).

A workshop on 'Modern Information Systems and Wireless Telecommunication Issues' was organised for 23 March 2010, at the International Hellenic University, Thessaloniki.

The workshop gathered an audience of 350 from universities and government. The Chair spoke to the audience (including about 30 members of the IEEE) on IEEE and its Chapter ac-

tivities. She received a lot of questions especially on the benefits of joining IEEE community.

This workshop inspired the formation of an IEEE Student Branch at Dept. Informatics and Telecomm. Eng'g. at the Univ. of Western Macedonia, Kozani, Greece.

More events in various capital cities of Northern Greece are being planned by the Chapter.

For more information, visit us online at www.ieee.org/r8/greece/avtc.

George Papadopoulos



Some 350 people attended the workshop in March.

UAE, Ghana, Italy and Egypt win website contest

THE IEEE Region 8 announced the results of the IEEE Region 8 Section Website Contest in April 2010.

The goal of this Contest is to give a motive to all Sections to create or improve their own website that will serve as a reference point for all their members. This will help the Sections place their mark on the map and facilitate their future actions and activities.

The United Arab Emirates Section grabbed the first prize with \$500 cash to the Section and a plaque to the webmaster that will be given in person at the next IEEE Region 8 meeting.



Ghana Section, Italy Section, and Egypt Section won the second, third and fourth prizes respectively.

The rest of the winning Sections of the Contest will receive the following prizes: Second place \$500, third place \$250, and fourth place \$250. All get a plaque dedicated to the Section's webmaster.

SIBIRCON 2010

<http://sibircon2010.sibsutis.ru>

11–15 July 2010 • Irkutsk, Russia

SIBIRCON 2010 is one of IEEE Region 8's flagship events – an international conference focusing on computational technologies in electrical and electronics engineering.

Energy conference focuses on efficiency

THE 2ND German American Energy Conference, organized by the German American Chambers of Commerce and the German Energy Agency, took place on 22–23 March 2010 at the House of German Business in Berlin.

The conference focused on renewables and energy efficiency. Our representatives included Uwe Jungfer, the head of Standards and More, the IEEE's sales entity in Germany, Paul Canning, IEEE HQ and members from IEEE Germany Section and IEEE Power Engineering German Chapter.

Chapter vice chair, Wilfried Fischer, moderated the Energy Efficiency Block which comprised introductions by US and EU officials, a panel on 'How to Increase Efficiency Capabilities in Industry', and a presentation on best practices: 'The energy efficiency field is a real challenge for the future'.

IEEE's information booth was set up by staff from Piscataway. Other notable organizations included the US Department of Energy, Bundesverband BioEnergie eV, and the Solar Energy Industries Association.

IEEE members contributed much expertise on technology, standardization and education. There was significant exchange of ideas regarding energy efficiency optimization and renewable energy expansion.

The two-day event was also a great opportunity for people to network within numerous energy relevant programmes and institutions. A wide spectrum of topics



brought much discussion, including the following:

■ Rainer Brüderle, Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, on 'Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency – keys for a sustainable energy supply in the US and Germany'.

■ Richard O'Neill, Chief Economic Adviser USA Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on 'Integration of Renewables into National Grid – extension of power grids, storage and smart grids'.

■ Scott Gregory Minos, US Department of Energy, on 'Current National Incentives for Energy Efficiency in the USA'.

■ The German Energy Agency's Chief Executive, Stephan Kohler, wrote in his welcome note to the conference's attendees: 'Energy efficiency and renewable energies are essential industries for the 21st century'. What we have heard during the event only proves him right.

More information is available on our website: www.gae-conference.com.

UKRI Section keeps its members in touch with new monthly e-letter

THE 11,000 members of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Section have been receiving an electronic newsletter (an 'e-letter') on a monthly basis since December 2009.

The e-letter is sent as a brief email, with links and references to a dedicated website where more details are posted. This format is more acceptable to those members with a limited email service than a full-scale newsletter sent electronically.

The aim of sending the e-letter on a regular basis is to keep members informed of

current developments in the Section and Chapters, and to announce meetings, lectures and conferences.

Organisers can be confident that their meeting notices will be posted in a timely manner. It is also hoped that members will provide feedback and other comments on their IEEE membership experience, and that the e-letter will help to keep members' interest alive, therefore improving member retention.

The editorial team:

**Anne Abeygunasekera,
Bob Chew, Brian Harrington
and Charles Turner (Editor)**



Phateng STAR learners with IEEE WIE South Africa's Excomm.

WIE South Africa mentor STAR performers at Dinaledi school

THE IEEE Women In Engineering (WIE) – IEEE South Africa Section started the 'Mentor and Involve' phase of its STAR program with 23 STAR learners from Phateng Comprehensive school in Mamelodi, near Pretoria, on 23 September 2009.

Phateng is a Dinaledi school (for more information on Dinaledi schools, visit www.thutong.doe.gov.za). The IEEE WIE STAR programme operates under permission and support from the Department of Education (Tshwane South District).

This phase is based on

essays students had written on whether they would like to choose a career in science, engineering and technology and on how they think these fields contribute to development in South Africa.

The STAR day included a three-hour Experilab science workshop. Six hands-on experiments gave an understanding of various concepts. They also constructed a bottle jet drag racer (a vehicle powered by pressurized air) based on Newton's laws of motion.

The next phase of the STAR program for 2010 will

be a tutoring session to be held during the last school term. The focus will be on maths and physical science to prepare learners for their coming end of year exams. The session will involve IEEE volunteers as well as student volunteers from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

The IEEE WIE Affinity Group in South Africa is thankful to the global WIE committee for funding its IEEE STAR program.

Oladayo Bello
Chair (2008–2009), IEEE
WIE, South Africa Section
oladayo@ieee.org

Merged Italy Section deals with complexity

COMPENG, THE Conference on Complexity in Engineering, took place in Rome, Italy, on 22–24 February 2010, at the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche building.

The event was the first topical Conference organized by the Italy Section after the merging of the North and Central/South Sections in 2006.

More than 80 participants attended the nine sessions of the two-and-a-half day program. These were: Power Grids and Systems I, II, and III; Communication Networks I and II; Critical Infrastructures I and II; and Complex Systems Science I and II.

There was a very good participation, not only from

Italy but also other European countries, US, Canada, Japan, Malaysia and China.

The texts of the 48 papers presented at the Meeting have been collected on CD, edited by the Computer Society and available for sale by the Italy Section – contact R.Falciai (r.falciai@ifac.cnr.it).

As a follow-up, a European COST action has been submitted so that the small but very active community of the 'complexans' can meet regularly to report and discuss on advancements of the state of the art. Candidates for the next edition of the Conference, COMPENG II, planned for the end of 2011, are University of Florida and Aachen University.

Silvano Donati

ENERGYCON 2010

www.ieee-energycon.org

18–21 December 2010 • Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

ENERGYCON 2010 is the premier IEEE forum for the exchange of experience in the practical application of electronics, power and instrumentation in the Oil and Gas and Petrochemical Industries

Live web conference runs for 24 hours



THE SIXTH annual Global Marathon For, By and About Women in Engineering, a live webcast and teleconference, took place in Europe on 11 March.

The Global Marathon was a free, 24-hour live webcast; Internet Chat and teleconference event themed 'Launching Tomorrow'. It was managed by volunteer Chairs in each continent who arrange for four hours of live internet or telephone chat from their region as it followed the sun around the globe.

Sessions came from China, India, North America, South America, Africa and Europe/Middle East. They were sponsored by companies such as Rockwell Collins, IBM, Motorola, BP, Verizon, DuPont and others. But anyone anywhere can

join any session to connect the world.

Topics included tips on heightening awareness of science, technology, engineering activities in schools and industry. Senior women in different sectors discussed their achievements and challenges and examining issues such as retaining women in engineering programs and the workplace.

The event in UK was hosted at the Big Bang Fair in Manchester which was attended by 15,000 schoolchildren, parents and teachers and connected women everywhere. See www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/viewitem.cfm?cit_id=383735. The event archive is available at www.globalmarathon.net and www.eweek.org/media/video/0210_marathon.wmv.

New workshops target computer graphics

IN SEPTEMBER 2009, a new series of GraVisMa (Computer Graphics, Vision and Mathematics) workshops began at the University of West Bohemia, Plzen, Czech Republic.

The first GraVisMa workshop was specially targeted at the application of geometric algebra.

Four keynotes were delivered: 'Fourier and Wavelet Transformations in Geometric Algebra' (Eckhard Hitzer), 'Using Geometric Algebra for Navigation in Riemannian and Hard Disc Space' (Werner Bengler et al), 'Rigid Body Motion and Conformal

Geometric Algebra' (Anthony Lasenby), and 'Conformal Geometric Algebra by Extended Vahlen Matrices' (Leo Dorst).

More than 60 participants had a great opportunity to discuss mutual influence of the latest mathematical developments which are used in computer graphics and computer vision.

The next GraVisMa workshop will be held in Brno, Czech Republic, in September 2010. For more details on this and other future events, please visit our website at <http://GraVisMa.zcu.cz>.

Vaclav Skala

region8studentnews

www.ieee.org/r8sac

BY THE time you receive this edition of *Region 8 News*, the global IEEE website will have been significantly improved. The Region 8 SAC page has added some new interactive features and the timing is just right for last-minute preparations for the biennial Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress (see the front page of this issue).

Improved Region 8 SAC webpage

Every time you check back at www.ieee.org/r8sac, it becomes even more interactive. Make sure to register there to get in contact with us on our forum, follow us on our Twitter feeds or Facebook pages or chat with us and meet in advance the other attendants of the SBC using our chat component. You miss some web 2.0 apps on the page? Shoot us an email to r8sac@ieee.org or post a note on the wish list in the forum.

Help us keep the website alive and dynamic by submitting in your articles along with some pictures for publication on the webpage. Send us your Student Branch RSS feeds so that the whole region knows about your latest IEEE activities as you post them on your own Student Branch website. Or just shoot us an email. We're happy to hear from you!

Get ready, get multi-cultural!

If you are planning on attending the Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress in early August, we would like to give you a few things for planning your stay and making the best out of it.

Besides many opportunities for leadership training, the 'Elect the President' show as well as industry and historic visits, one of the core parts is the multi-cultural evening (MCE) to be held on 7 August. On that special night, every Section equips a stand to show highlights of their cultural, spiritual and historic heritage.

Make sure to get in contact with your Section Student Representative to coordinate your stand and check with the local organising team in Leuven for space and setup requirements. You can bring your favourite music, wear traditional dresses, and present historical dances, food and customs to introduce your cultural background to your fellow students at the SBC.

New Region-wide contest

Do consider yourself a good IEEE advertiser? Now you can prove it and earn prize money too (\$500 for first prize, \$250 for second and \$125 for third). We have launched the IEEE promotional multimedia contest where you can win amazing prizes.

Show us in a video with a maximum length of three minutes how you or your branch promote IEEE products and services,

with activities, resources. You can also show every kind of material that you can think of which serves for IEEE promotion. Encouraging stories about how IEEE changed your life or your community are welcomed.

All videos will be posted online for public viewing and the finalist videos will be shown in a plenary session of our Regional Student Branch Congress in Leuven. Winners will be chosen there by the SBC attendants.

The contest is open to every Student and Graduate Student Member of the Region 8. If you want to participate, just send the compressed video to pablo.herrero@ieee.org. The deadline for sending the videos is 15th July.

Keep your SB reports up to date

IEEE pays your branch for being active. All you have to do is report! Use the online reporting system after every election of new officers that you conducted. Tell us what happened in your last academic year by filling out the Annual Report form available on our web page in the branch operations section. Tell us what your branch is up to in the next academic year by completing the Annual Plan.

Even easier, you can now use the new online reporting system for doing both reports at the same time: check www.ieee.org/r8sac for further details. If Plan and Report are received before November 1, the annual Student Branch rebates will be sent out by the end of the calendar year. Don't miss out on that money!

Your Student Activities Team,
Eva, Amélie, George, Jorge,
Muhammad and Pablo
r8sac@ieee.org



Eva and Amélie at SBC, London.



Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Jordan

Seminars on ensuring anonymity online and emotional intelligence

ON 24 December 2009, the IEEE PSUT Open Source Affinity Group And Jordan Open Source Association invited Jacob Appelbaum to talk about the TOR Project, the open-source program that provides anonymity online.

Appelbaum is an independent computer security hacker currently employed by the project. He is known for his research on the cold boot attack amongst other things. During the speech, he highlighted the capabilities of the TOR project, how it can be of use to the world, and yet face abuse of use. For details on the speech, please go to our branch's YouTube page.

In other events, PSUT Student Branch hosted an Emotional Intelligence seminar, continuing the series of seminars this year. The one-hour seminar was given by Jerjes Shahin, which attracted around 80 attendees.

During the seminar, Jerjes defined emotional intelligence, the method by which emotions can be utilized, regulated in oneself and others. He also outlined the four branch model factors affecting emotional intelligence; the connection of IQ with EQ; Gardener's intelligence classifications; Thorndike's classifications of EI; and last but not least the importance

of emotional intelligence.

PSUT Student Branch has many upcoming events and you will read about them in the future issues.

Bassam Ali



Jacob Appelbaum (left) explained the TOR Project.

Claim a \$500 mini-grant for work on standards

THE IEEE, through the IEEE Standards Education Committee, is offering \$500 mini-grants to students and for faculty mentors, to help with student design projects with an industry standards component. The IEEE will publish the results as Student Application Papers.

To apply for the grant, students beginning a design or development project need to submit an application form that can be found at www.

[ieee.org/web/education/standards/applications.html](http://www.ieee.org/web/education/standards/applications.html).

Applications may be submitted at any time. Deadline for summer 2010 funding is 15 June. For autumn 2010, the deadline is 15 October.

The IEEE Standards Education website serves as the focal point for all information on education about standards. You can find tutorials, case illustrations and student application papers there.

David Law



"ARE YOU ready to take control of your life, to take responsibility and to form your own destiny?" Engineering, IT and ICT students were led to answer this question, through the Student Professional Awareness Conference 2010, held by IEEE Student Branch, on 11 March at the University of Malta.

The half-day conference was opened up by Dr Edward Gatt, representative of the

Committee 'writes the book' on Region 8 GOLD activities

DURING 2010, IEEE R8 GOLD has been aiming at continuously increasing the visibility of GOLD around Region 8 members.

The committee started the year by making a GOLD handbook. The idea of this book is to gather all the activities successful or not that are organized by each AG in our region from previous years.

After that, we lunched the first Region 8 GOLD Outstanding Activity Award to recognize the outstanding GOLD members for their great efforts towards the GOLD vision.

Currently we are in the phase to select the best activity. Apart from this, several ideas have been brainstormed and a few start to get shape. For instance, the IEEE Day is an idea that was born recently and aims at defining a date in the year to celebrate the achievements of IEEE all around the world together. The details are being worked out and proper deliverables will be available by the end of the year.

The R8 GOLD committee also continues to be engaged in supporting as much as possible all the activities

running in the several Affinity Groups. The focus has been given to the setup of new such groups. It is the major role of the GOLD Affinity Group which is to retain students members and help them to continuously use IEEE advantages after graduation.

So far Portugal and Kenya GOLD AG were setup this year and other AGs establishment are under process. We also encourage GOLD members to disseminate and support the STEP (Student Transition & Elevation Partnership) program and humanitarian activities.

Last but not least, our committee is involved in the organization of the IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2010 which will be held on 4-8 August 2010 in Leuven, Belgium (see front page of this issue). This Congress is the opportunity for us to meet exceptional GOLD delegates in each section and help them in leading their mission by proposing a rich program of workshops and presentations.

Region 8 GOLD Committee
r8gold@ieee.org
<http://ewh.ieee.org/reg/8/gold>

University of Malta

SPAC attendees told: form your own destiny

IEEE Malta Branch, followed by Mr Dylan Seychell, Chair of the IEEE Malta Student Branch, and a sequence of 10 minutes speeches. After this, students had the chance to ask questions of company representatives and request relevant information.

Six professional speakers were invited to give a presentation on four professional awareness issues of concern: Entrepreneurship, Presen-

tation Skills, Importance of IEEE Professional Society to You and Career Growth.

The conference was organized by the IEEE Student Branch as one of a series of regular activities for students following technical and engineering degrees aimed at enhancing relations between students and industry.

Luana Chetcuti Zammit
Secretary, Malta SB
luana.chetcuti@ieeesb.com



Albalqa' Applied University, Jordan

Membership boost makes a perfect year for busy BAU-SB

LAST YEAR was one of the most successful that the Student Branch at Albalqa' Applied University (BAU) has witnessed.

With an influx of new members, a new spirit was added to the team, so some reorganisation was needed to take advantage of the branch's new abilities.

A Techno Group was established to run courses for both IEEE and non-IEEE members, including practical electronics course, time management, computer simulation and CAD/CAM. Further, a 'Graduation Project Optimal Selection' seminar was arranged, introduced by Imad Yarid.

New scheduled trips were added to our calendar, such as field trips to some industrial constructions in Jordan – including PETRA, one of the world's leading manufacturers of internationally recognized high quality HVAC equipments – and Ad-Dustor Press, one of the leading newspapers in Jordan. These trips included a demonstration on the industrial process of design, manufacturing and troubleshooting.

Further, an IEEE SB-BAU Fan Club has been established by our WIE committee, which aims to spread the idea of IEEE and WIE in the university's campus.

As part of WIE's activities, weekly seminars were held on subjects such as NLP, foreign languages im-



Branch members on a visit to an industrial site.

provement (speaking and translation) and a series of lectures focusing on inspecting a general approach of how things work.

We were so glad to introduce the activities to the non-member students, and keep on that by preparing new activities for 2010, such as our

Weekend Project and 'I Did It Easily' competitions, and lectures on designing and building small robots. A new collection of events has been scheduled for 2010, and we hope to keep on our activity and enthusiasm as always.

Abdulmunem N Jamal
Chair, ABU SB

École Nationale d'Ingénieurs (National School of Engineers), University of Sfax, Tunisia

ENIS sees launch of eight Student Chapters

AFTER THE establishment of the National School of Engineers of Sfax Student Branch in April 2009, efforts were dedicated to the establishment of technical student chapters. Thanks to the support from Adel Alimi, our branch counsellor and eight volunteers, the SMCS Student Chapter was established in July 2009.

This was the first SMCS Student Chapter in Region 8. Seven more student chapters were later approved between January and March 2010: AESS, CIS, CS, EMBS, ES, RAS and SPS.

Furthermore, a WIE student affinity group was established in February 2010, by Fatma Elleuch, a student member from our school.

We do wish great success for these new units!

In January 2010, the Student Branch comprised 198 members (156 graduate students and 42 students). A new executive committee was elected.

Our scheduled activities in 2010 include: a visit to the children's village of Mahres, a robotics competition, a strategic games contest, a Linux day, a quality and certification day, a culture industrial day, a student paper contest and various technical lectures and courses.

For more details, visit our website at <http://ewh.ieee.org/sb/tunisia/enis>.

Habib M Kammoun
Chair, ENIS SB
sb.enis@ieee.org



The newly elected SB executive committee at ENIS.

Tarbiat Modares University, Iran

TMU Student Branch hosts Iran's 40th anniversary



At the SB fair, Region 8 Director Jozef Modelski (third right) spoke on the accomplishments of Region 8.

ON 21 February, the 40th Jubilee of IEEE Iran Section was celebrated by the Student Branch at Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran.

During the ceremony, Region 8 Director Jozef Modelski delivered a lecture introducing our region and elaborated on the accomplishments of its members. He also presented a certificate of honor to Iran Section Chair, Hamid Soltanianzadeh, to thank him for his services in the section.

Other important scientific figures from Iran and abroad also took part in this event and delivered lectures.

As hosts for the event, the Tarbiat Modares University Student Branch set up a fair to present the branch's activities, introduce IEEE to the visitors, and enroll new IEEE members. For more information, please visit us at www.modares.ac.ir/~ieee.

Iman Kiaei
Tarbiat Modares Univ SB
e.kiaei@ieee.org



Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

Need technical info? Go attend a 'Soirée'!

AS AN engineering student, people expect you to know and understand all things technical. But when one of your non-engineering friends or family ask you about a hot technical topic, do you know the answers?

Often, you probably know as much as they do. So wouldn't it be nice if experts in the field could help?

That's how the Student Branch at Leuven came up with the 'Soirée Technique' concept, involving short, to-the-point seminars on popular scientific and technical hot topics in the engineering world.

Typically, a pair of experts share their expertise in an entertaining way so that afterwards, people attending know more than the average guy in the pub or than they can read in the newspapers. After the sessions, there is an opportunity to discuss the topic with these experts in an informal way at the reception.

Having already organized three successful editions on popular topics, with a growing success of up to 170 attendees, the Student Branch Leuven is now installing this quarterly 'Soirée Technique' as a fixed part of their yearly activities.

The first 'Soirée' of the new calendar was on intelligent energy networks (SmartGrids). Ronnie Belmans,

IEEE Fellow and chairman of the SmartGrids European Technology Platform, amongst others shared his view on the topic.

The second 'Soirée' dealt with cloud and supercomputing, with academic and industrial speakers explaining how these concepts are put into practice.

With 169 participants, the third edition, on electric vehicles, was the most successful so far. Toyota explained about the design of the Toyota Prius and its hybrid drive train, and Umicore gave a lecture about state-of-the-art battery recycling for battery-powered vehicles.

Jef Beerten (Chair)

Jan Verveckken (Secretary)

www.ieee-sb-leuven.be



Discussing hot topics in Belgium.

Why is society membership in decline?

Roger D Pollard

2010 IEEE Vice-President, Technical Activities

In this second part of a series for Region 8 News, Roger Pollard looks at ways of encouraging more IEEE members to join your technical societies.

IN AN IEEE Forum last month, I asked why fewer IEEE members are joining Societies. I hope that you will join in the debate.

Membership in IEEE technical societies seems to be static or in decline. Not long ago, the majority of IEEE members used to join one or more Societies. Now 50% of IEEE members do not join any IEEE technical society at all.

Is this simply because it's no longer necessary to be a member to get a monthly copy of the journal that you regard as essential reading? What is the value proposition for Society membership? Does it, perhaps, need to change to reflect a changing social/digital environment?

There are many reasons that members give for joining technical Societies: keeping informed of advancements; obtaining Society publications, technical information and resources; professional networking; contributing to the profession; continuing education opportunities; serving as a volunteer; attending local chapter activities; and saving money on Society conference fees.

Subscribing to Society Transactions was also important. But now many employers subscribe to IEEE Electronic Library provides access to the full range of IEEE publications at work, making it unnecessary to join Societies as individuals.

There is also a perception that Societies cater for academics or researchers and do not offer enough practical application. Some



observe that Society Transactions are filled with heavyweight articles full of mathematics which many practicing engineers find of little interest. They may feel too intimidated to join a Society or to participate on Committees and Working Groups, get involved with conference organization, etc. or there may just be no local chapter.

Many are put off by cost. IEEE dues are now \$147 per year; Society dues range between \$12 and \$50. For those whose work encompasses several disciplines, the cost of joining several Societies can become very high.

Some suggestions that are being discussed include:

- Give one year free (or reduced rate) Society membership to all who join IEEE. However, evidence shows that when it is free, members join, but when charged, they leave.
- Provide a basic (electronic only) Society membership at much lower cost.
- Develop more Society products for people who don't need or want the Transactions. On-line virtual conferences; Networking, Virtual communities, discussions; Self-help forums to help resolve technical questions; Continuing education; etc.

Please join in the discussion and contribute your opinions and suggestions on this vital issue. Visit <http://discussions.rogerpollard.org>. You can read the discussions, but you will need to register (please use your real name) before you can contribute.

Anadolu University, Turkey

Invitation to attend meeting in Eskisehir

THE 8TH IEEE Turkey Student Branches and GOLD Congress and Region 8 Meeting will be hosted by Anadolu University's Student Branch between 2-7 July 2010 in Eskisehir.

In addition to 250 Turkish participants, we are eager to

meet 150 participants from Region 8 and fellow groups. The main purpose of this event is to create a common network among IEEE Student Branches.

We are planning to organize the session days into three main categories:

today and tomorrow's game industry, information technologies and, of course, the IEEE. Moreover, there will be plenty of workshops about management, leadership, self-improvement and so on.

We invite you to attend this important event and



look forward to welcoming you to our student paradise city Eskisehir. You can find the information about accommodation, transportation, and schedule on our web site: www.sbcanadolu.org.

Caner Pinarbasi

Increasing student awareness by contest

THE EGYPTIAN Student Branches have launched the Regional IEEE Student Engineers Contest (RISEC), aimed at developing students by increasing their awareness with market needs and professionalism. The idea is to encourage every team to act as an entrepreneur, dealing with real world's needs and its dynamic demand.

The competition was divided into two levels – Basic and Advanced – in which students form teams to implement projects that satisfy a market need or solve a technical problem for a particular industry.

The Basic Level is for first and second year students. Their projects are assigned by professors in their universities which aims to help them to learn team work, how to do research, and finally make a real project.

The Advanced Level is for the next two consecutive years, in which teams research their projects by themselves.

RISEC's mission is to encourage students to work in a team to solve a business problem or provide new solutions to the market, while increasing their technical and soft skills, and their awareness of the market.

RISEC committee hopes to increase the number of student members in Egypt for the next competition by inviting three more Student Branches, bringing the total involvement to nine. It is hoped that RISEC becomes an international competition among other IEEE Sections.

For more information about the competition, please visit the RISEC website www.risec-egypt.org or email info@risec-egypt.org.

Noha Moustafa
RISEC Secretary
noha.moustafa@risec-egypt.org

Conference calendar

Workshops, conferences & symposia in Region 8

See also www.ieee.org/web/conferences/home

JULY

IEEE HealthCom 2010

Ambient Assistive Living for Better Health
01–03 July 2010
Lyon, France
www.ieee-healthcom.org

ISIE 2010

IEEE International Symposium on Industrial Electronics
04–07 July 2010
Bari, Italy
www.isie2010.it

ISVLSI 2010

IEEE International Symposium on Industrial Electronics
05–07 July 2010
Lixouri Kefalonia, Greece
<http://isvlsi2010.org>

ICALT 2010

IEEE 10th International Conference on Advanced Learning Technologies
05–07 July 2010
El Mouradi Palace Hotel, Sousse, Tunisia
www.ask4research.info/icalt/2010/others

IPCC 2010

IEEE International Professional Communication Conference
07–09 July 2010
University of Twente Enschede, Netherlands
<http://ewh.ieee.org/soc/pcs>

SIBIRCON

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

WCCI 2010

IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence
18–23 July 2010
Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona, Spain
www.wcci2010.org

MEMOCODE 2010

8th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Formal Methods and Models for Codesign
26–28 July 2010
University Joseph Fourier Grenoble, France
www.memocode2010.imag.fr

SSRR 2010

IEEE International Workshop on Safety, Security & Rescue Robotics
26–30 July 2010
Jacobs University, Bremen, Germany
<http://robotics.jacobs-university.de/SSRR2010>

SEPTEMBER

INOWO 2010

15th International OFDM-Workshop
01–02 September 2010
Hamburg, Germany
<http://ofdm.tu-harburg.de>

ASE 2010

25th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Automated Software Engineering
20–24 September 2010
University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium
<http://soft.vub.ac.be/ase2010>

EuRAD 2010

European Radar Conference
30 Sep – 1 Oct 2010
CNIT, Paris, France
www.eumweek.com/2010/EuRAD.asp?id=c

OCTOBER

SM2ACD 2010

11th International Workshop on Symbolic and Numerical Methods, Modeling and Applications to Circuit Design
5–6 October 2010
Gammarth, Tunisia
www.sm2acd-2010.org

ICABB 2010

International Conference on Applied Bionics and Biomechanics
14–16 October 2010
Venice, Italy
www.icabb-iss.org

IIH-MSP 2010

6th International Conference on Intelligent Information Hiding and Multimedia Signal Processing
15–17 October 2010
Darmstadt, Germany
<http://igd.fraunhofer.de/igd-a8/iihmsp10>
<http://bit.kuas.edu.tw/~iihmsp10>

IMCSIT 2010

International Multiconference on Computer Science and Information Technology
18–20 October 2010
Wislá, Poland
www.imcsit.org

NOVEMBER

Histelcon 2010

2nd IEEE Region 8 Conference on the History of Telecommunications
03–05 November 2010
Madrid, Spain
www.aeit.es/histelcon2010

ISABEL 2010

3rd International Symposium on Applied Sciences in Biomedical and Communication Technologies
07–10 November 2010
Rome, Italy
www.isabel2010.it

IEEEI 2010

26th Convention of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in Israel
17–20 November 2010
Hilton Hotel, Eilat, Israel
www.eng.tau.ac.il/~ieee/Convention

DECEMBER

ICECS 2010

IEEE International Conference on Electronics, Circuits and Systems
12–15 December 2010
Athens, Greece
www.icecs2010.org

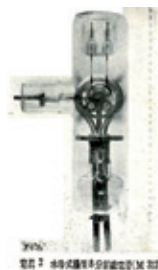
EnergyCon 2010

Towards Sustainable Energy
18–21 December 2010
Manama, Bahrain
www.ieee-energycon.org

Note to Organizers

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, putting *R8 News Calendar* in your subject line. Remember to state the event's full title, location, date and URL.

Photo Quiz revisited: more on magnetrons



FURTHER TO the answer given in the March issue of *Region 8 News* to December 2009's Photo Quiz, Tony Davies writes to pass on some information about magnetrons from Prof Tosiyo Koga in Japan.

The water cooled magnetron M312 designed and made by S Nakajima (of which one was on display at Bournemouth in the collection of Rod Burman) is called 'Tachibana'

(たちばな), the name of a flower of an inedible citrus fruit native to Japan.

Other Japanese magnetrons are called 'Kiku', which is the Japanese name for Chrysanthemum.

The photo on the right shows a magnetron on display in Bournemouth; the photo on the left was taken from an out-of-print book in Japanese owned by Prof Koga. The similarity is very clear.