

# Unapproved Minutes of the 100th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting held on 20-21 April 2013 Madrid, Spain

## List of Participants

Position	Name
R8 Director	Martin Bastiaans
R8 Director-Elect	Costas Stasopoulos
R8 Past Director	Marko Delimar
R8 Secretary	Ali El-Mousa
R8 Treasurer	Brian Harrington
R8 Vice Chair Member Activities	Aleksandar Szabo
R8 Vice Chair Student Activities	Pablo Herrero
R8 Vice Chair Technical Activities	Carl James Debono
Austria Section Chair	Peter Roessler
Bahrain Section Chair	Wafeeq Ajoor
Belarus Section IRO Officer	Valentin Baranov
Benelux Section Chair	Luc Vandendorpe
Bosnia and Herzegovina Section Chair	Dusanka Boskovic
Bulgaria Section Chair	Rossitza Goleva
Croatia Section Chair	Mislav Grgic
Cyprus Section Chair	Panayiotis Symeou
Czechoslovakia Section Chair	Peter Farkas
Denmark Section MD officer	Peer Martin Larsen
Egypt Section Chair	Ahmed Darwish
Estonia Section Chair	Kalle Tammemäe
Finland Section Chair	Pasi Kallio
France Section Chair	Pierre Borne
Germany Section Chair	Axel Richter
Ghana Section Vice Chair	George Eduful
Greece Section Chair and R8 Sections	Athanassios Skodras
Hungary Section Chair	Peter Kadar
Iceland Section Vice Chair	Thomas Philip Runarsson
Iran Section Secretary	Farzaneh Abdollahi
Italy Section Chair	Dario Petri
Jordan Section Chair	Isam Zabalawi
Kenya Section Chair	Vincent Kaabunga
Kuwait Section MD and Acting Treasurer	Fadhel Abulhasan
Latvia Section Chair	Andrejs Romanovs
Lebanon Section Chair	Ghassan Shaban
Lithuania Section Chair	Dalius Navakauskas
Malta Section Chair	Paul Micallef
Nigeria Section Chair	Gloria Chukwudebe
Norway Section Board Member	Terje Gjengedal
Oman Section Events and Publicity Chair	Arnold Santos
Poland Section Chair	Maciej Ogorzalek
Portugal Section Chair	Rui Cruz



Republic of Macedonia Section Chair	Goce Arsov
Romania Section Vice Chair	Mircea Eremia
Russia (Northwest) Section Chair	Vladimir Kutuzov
Russia (Siberia) Section Chair	Alexandr Markhasin
Russia Section Vice Chair	Sergey Bankov
Saudi Arabia (East) Section Secretary	Jaafar Al Ibrahim
Serbia and Montenegro Section Chair	Natasa Neskovic
Slovenia Section Chair	Matej Zajc
South Africa Section Past Chair	Jacques van Wyk
Spain Section Chair	Pilar Molina Gaudó
Sweden Section Chair	Mikael Bergqvist
Switzerland Section Secretary	Andreas Koschak
Tunisia Section Vice Chair	Jaleddine Ben Hadj Slama
Turkey Section Representative	Gozde Bozdagi Akar
Ukraine Section Secretary	Ievgen Pichkalov
United Arab Emirates Section Chair	Maryam Althani
United Kingdom and Rep of Ireland	Nihal Sinnadurai
Western Saudi Arabia Section Chair	Hafidh AlSamarrai
Zambia Section Secretary	Ariel Henry Phiri
R8 Awards and Recognition Chair	Charles Turner
R8 Awards and Recognition SC Member	Jef Beerten
R8 Awards and Recognition SC Member	Victor Fouad Hanna
R8 Chapter Coordination Chair	Elya Joffe
R8 Chapter Coordination SC Member	Simay Akar
R8 Conference Coordination SC Member	Dirk Van Hertem
R8 Conference Coordination SC Member	Stefano Zanero
R8 Conference Coordination Chair	Jan Haase
R8 Educational Activities Chair -	Niovi Pavlidou
R8 Educational Activities SC Member -	Sohaib Qamar Sheikh
R8 Educational Activities SC Member -	Rui Costa
R8 Electronic Communications Coordinator	George Michael
R8 GOLD Chair	Rafal Sliz
R8 GOLD SC Member	Elena Pareja
R8 GOLD SC Member	Nele Reynders
R8 GOLD SC Member	Amir Zahoor
R8 History Coordinator	Anthony Davies
R8 Industry Relations Chair	Andreas Neumeier
R8 Industry Relations SC Member	Steve Nightingale
R8 Jubilee Book Coordinator	Kurt R. Richter
R8 Life Member Coordinator	Jacob Baal-Schem
R8 Membership Development Chair	Antonio Luque Estepa
R8 Membership Development SC Member	Andreas Koltes
R8 News Editor	Roland Saam
R8 Professional Activities Chair	Jan Verveckken
R8 Professional Activities SC Member	Urmet Jänes
R8 Strategic Planning SC Member	Christopher James
R8 Strategic Planning SC Member	Saurabh Sinha
R8 Strategic Planning SC Member	Jorge Soares
R8 Student Activities and N&A	Elias Nassar



R8 Student Awards and Contest	Piotr Graca
R8 Student Branch Coordinator	Efthymia Arvaniti
R8 Student Electronic Communications	David Dias
R8 Student Paper Contest Coordinator	Djordje Paunovic
R8 Student Representative	Christian Schmid
R8 Voluntary Contribution Fund	Daniel Pasquet
R8 Women in Engineering Coordinator	Joyce Mwangama
R8 Past Director	Jozef Modelski
R8 Past Director	Rolf Remshardt
R8 Past Director	Jean Rémy
R8 Past Director	C. Reginald Russell
R8 Past Director	Baldomir Zajc
R8 Past Committee Member	André Vander Vorst
IEEE Awards Board Chair	Lewis Terman
IEEE Board of Directors	Cor Claey
IEEE Director Geographic Activities	Cheryl Sinauskas
IEEE Educational Activities	Douglas Gorham
IEEE Europe Business Development	Karine Iffour
IEEE MGA Managing Director	Cecelia Jankowski
IEEE MGA Vice President	Ralph Ford
IEEE Past President	Gordon Day
IEEE President and CEO	Peter Staecker
IEEE President Elect Candidate	Tariq Durrani
IEEE President Elect Candidate	Howard Michel
IEEE Staff Executive	Matthew Loeb
IEEE Standards Association	Moirra Patterson
IEEE Standards Association BoG	Walter Weigel
IEEE R10 Director	Toshio Fukuda
IEEE R7 Director	Keith Brown
Clementina Saduwa Award recipient	Fatmaelzahraa Aboushadi
R8 CPMT Program Director	Toni Mattila
R8 Microwave Theory Society Coordinator	Jan Machac
R8 Power Electronics Society Liaison	Ralph Kennel
R8 Rep to Antennas and Propagation	Bertram Arbesser-Rastburg
IEEE Nanotechnology Council Italy	Carmelina Ruggeiro
IEEE Information Theory Society Spain	Pablo Martínez Olmos
Broadcast Technology AdCom Member	Pablo Angueira
Consumer Electronics Society Int Relations	Fernando Pescador
Control Systems Society Board of	Alessandro Giua
Council on SuperConductivity Liaison	Simonetta Turtu'
Education Society President	Manuel Castro
IM Society Vice President Technical and	Mihaela Albu
Industry Applications Society CMD	Peter Magyar
Intelligent Transportation Systems Society	Miguel Angel Sotelo
Professional Communication Society Ad	Andreas Karatsolis
Robotics & Automation Society AdCom	Laura Margheri
Solid State Circuits Society President	Rakesh Kumar
President AEIT	Eugenio Fontán Oñate
Professor of Information Systems at the IE	Alvaro Arenas



Benelux Section Former	Bruce Barrow
France Section Treasurer	Christine Nora
France Section Vice President	Amara Amara
Germany Section MD Officer	Arne Ellerbrock
Germany Section PA Officer	Eva Lang
Germany Section Proxy IR officer	Anne-Katrin Marten
Gulf Accreditation Chair	Bakr Hassan
Romania Section Treasurer	Lucian Toma
Russia (Northwest) Section Vice Chair	Sergey Shaposhnikov
Slovenia Section GOLD Affinity Group	Emil Plesnik
Spain Section Chapter of ITSoc Vice Chair	Tobias Koch
Spain Section Head of Strategy	Carlos E. Jimenez
Spain Section SAC	Juan Jesus Rodriguez Yubero
Spain Section Treasurer	Jesus Fraile-Ardanuy
Spain Section Vice Chair	Emilio Corchado
Spain Section	Oscar Martinez
Spain Section	David Mora
United Arab Emirates Section Honorary	Eesa Bastaki

## Saturday

### 101. Call to order

The Region 8 Director, **Martin Bastiaans**, opened the 100th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting by welcoming everyone and then asked the R8 Secretary, **Ali El-Mousa** if there was a quorum and the Secretary replied in the affirmative.

### 103. Welcome

**Pilar Molina**, Spain Section Chair, welcomed everybody to Madrid, Spain and the IEEE Region 8 meeting. She then gave some logistical and travel information about Madrid and the upcoming social events.

### 104. Introduction of new officers

The R8 Secretary, **Ali El-Mousa** asked the Section representatives to introduce themselves and identify their position.

### 105. Introductory remarks

The Region 8 Director, **Martin Bastiaans**, drew the attention of everyone to two leaflets that were distributed earlier; one contained the list of all Section Chairs together with their photos, while the other was an R8 organizational chart with a list of all the members of the R8 Committee including the appointed members and their roles in the Committee. The Director asked everyone to make use of these leaflets to help them get to know everyone.



## 106. Approval of the agenda

The R8 Director presented the agenda with few small changes as follows: the IEEE Executive Director was not able to attend the meeting so his address was cancelled. The IEEE Awards discussion item was amended to include a short presentation by the R8 Awards Coordinator Charles Turner. The presentation Social Innovation Programs, the presenter was replaced by Matt Loeb as the original presenter Tara Wisniewski could not attend the meeting. The agenda **was approved unanimously as shown below**.

### AGENDA

**Saturday, 20 April 2013**

Time	#	Type	Item	Presenter
8:30	101	Procedural	Call to order	Bastiaans
8:35	102	Procedural	Roll call	El-Mousa
8:40	103	Procedural	Welcome	Molina
8:45	104	Procedural	Introduction of new officers	El-Mousa
8:55	105	Procedural	Introductory remarks	Bastiaans/El-Mousa
9:00	106	Action	Approval of the agenda	Bastiaans
9:05	107	Action	Approval of the consent agenda	Bastiaans
9:10	108	Discussion	Director's address	Bastiaans
9:25	109	Discussion	Executive Director's address	Prendergast
9:40	110	Discussion	Secretary's report	El-Mousa
9:50	111	Discussion	Treasurer's report	Harrington
10:05	112	Discussion	Strategic direction	Delimar
10:30	113	Discussion	Nominations & Appointments Activities	Delimar
10:45			Break	
11:15	201	Discussion	Member Activities report	Szabo
12:00	202	Discussion	Preparations for Sections Congress 2014	Skodras/Sinha
12:10	203	Discussion	MGA Vice President's address	Ford
12:40	204	Discussion	MGA Director's address	Jankowski
13:10	205	Info	Instructions about the afternoon event	Bastiaans/El-Mousa
13:15	206	Procedural	Recess	Bastiaans
13:15			Group photo	
13:30			Lunch	
14:30			Lunch ends	

**Sunday, 21 April 2013**

Time	#	Type	Item	Presenter
8:30	301	Procedural	Call to order and roll call	Bastiaans/El-Mousa
8:35	302	Discussion	President's address	Staecker
8:50	303	Discussion	President-Elect candidates debate	Zanero/Durrani/Michel
9:35	304	Discussion	Student Activities report	Herrero
10:20	305	Discussion	Section development and vitality	Stasopoulos
10:30			Break	
11:00	401	Discussion	Technical Activities report	Debono
11:45	402	Discussion	IEEE-X Academic	Costa
12:00	403	Discussion	IEEE Awards	Terman
12:25	404	Discussion	Social Innovation Programs	Wisniewski



<b>12:35</b>	405	Discussion	General discussion / New business	Bastiaans
<b>13:20</b>	406	Info	Next meeting	El-Mousa/Boskovic
<b>13:25</b>	407	Action	Adjournment	Bastiaans
<b>13:30</b>			Lunch	
<b>14:30</b>			Lunch ends	

### 107. Approval of the consent agenda

The consent agenda was presented by Martin Bastiaans and it was adopted unanimously as shown below.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

x	Type	#	Item	Author
x	Action	100	Approval of the Minutes of the 99th Region 8 Committee meeting in Tallinn, 6-7 October 2012	Costas Stasopoulos
x	Report	101	Awards & Recognition	Charles Turner
x	Report	102	Chapter Coordination	Elya Joffe
x	Report	103	Conference Coordination	Jan Haase
x	Report	104	Educational Activities	Niovi Pavlidou
x	Report	105	Electronic Communications	George Michael
x	Report	106	GOLD	Rafal Sliz
x	Report	107	History Activities	Tony Davies
x	Report	108	Industry Relations	Andreas Neumeier
x	Report	109	Jubilee Book	Kurt Richter
x	Report	110	Life Members	Jacob Baal-Schem
x	Report	111	Membership Development	Antonio Luque Estepa
x	Report	112	Professional Activities	Jan Verveckken
x	Report	113	Region 8 News	Roland Saam / Zhijia Huang
x	Report	114	Sections Congress	Athanassios Skodras / Saurabh Sinha
x	Report	115	Standards	David Law
x	Report	116	Voluntary Contribution Fund	Daniel Pasquet
x	Report	117	Women in Engineering	Joyce Mwangama
x	Report	201	Austria	Peter Roessler
x	Report	202	Bahrain	Wafeeq Ajoor
x	Report	203	Belarus	Valentin Baranov
x	Report	204	Benelux	Luc Vandendorpe
x	Report	205	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Dusanka Boskovic
x	Report	206	Bulgaria	Rossitza Goleva
x	Report	207	Croatia	Mislav Grgic
x	Report	208	Cyprus	Panayiotis Symeou
x	Report	209	Czechoslovakia	Peter Farkas
	Report	210	Denmark	Ole Lauridsen / Peer Martin



				Larsen
x	Report	211	Egypt	Ahmed Darwish
x	Report	212	Estonia	Kalle Tammemae
x	Report	213	Finland	Pasi Kallio
x	Report	214	France	Pierre Borne
x	Report	215	Germany	Axel Richter
x	Report	216	Ghana	Rajan John / George Eduful
x	Report	217	Greece	Athanassios Skodras
x	Report	218	Hungary	Peter Kadar
	Report	219	Iceland	Saemundur Thorsteinsson / Thomas Runarsson
x	Report	220	Iran	Mahmud Fotuhi-Firuzabad / Farzaneh Abdollahi
x	Report	221	Iraq	Sattar Bader Sadkhan - not attending
x	Report	222	Israel	Simon Litsyn / Jacob Baal-Schem
x	Report	223	Italy	Dario Petri
x	Report	224	Jordan	Isam Zabalawi
x	Report	225	Kenya	Vincent Kaabunga
x	Report	226	Kuwait	Abdul Rahman Al-Ghunaim / Fadhel Abulhasan
x	Report	227	Latvia	Andrejs Romanovs
x	Report	228	Lebanon	Ghassan Sha'Ban
x	Report	229	Lithuania	Dalius Navakas
x	Report	230	Malta	Paul Micallef
	Report	231	Morocco	Mohamed Essaaidi - not attending
x	Report	232	Nigeria	Gloria Chukwudebe
	Report	233	Norway	Erik Olsen / Terje Gjengedal
x	Report	234	Oman	Ahmed Al-Naamany / Arnold Santos
x	Report	235	Poland	Maciej Ogorzalek
x	Report	236	Portugal	Rui Santos Cruz
	Report	237	Qatar	Yacob Mulla Saleh - not attending
x	Report	238	Republic of Macedonia	Goce Arsov
x	Report	239	Romania	Radu Dobrescu / Mircea Eremia
x	Report	240	Russia	Yuri Gulyaev / Sergey Bankov
x	Report	241	Russia (Northwest)	Vladimir Kutuzov
x	Report	242	Russia (Siberia)	Alexandr Markhasin
x	Report	243	Saudi Arabia (East)	Muhammad Al-Dhamen / Jaafar Al Ibrahim



x	Report	244	Saudi Arabia (West)	Hafidh Al-Samarrai
x	Report	245	Serbia and Montenegro	Natasa Neskovic
x	Report	246	Slovenia	Matej Zajc
x	Report	247	South Africa	Riana Geschke / Jacques Van Wyk
x	Report	248	Spain	Pilar Molina Gaudó
x	Report	249	Sweden	Mikael Bergqvist
x	Report	250	Switzerland	Andreas Doering / Andreas Koschak
x	Report	251	Tunisia	Abdelfettah Belghith / Jaleleddine Ben Hadj Slama
	Report	252	Turkey	/ Gözde Bozdagi Akar
x	Report	253	Ukraine	Valerii Zhuikov / Evgen Pichkalyov
	Report	254	United Arab Emirates	Maryam Al Thani
x	Report	255	United Kingdom and Rep of Ireland	Nihal Sinnadurai
x	Report	256	Zambia	Kabwe Bellington / Ariel Phiri

The reports and presentations that follow can be found at:

<http://www.ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2013-april-madrid/>

#### 108. Director's address

**Martin Bastiaans**, Region 8 Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He presented a view of R8 past through listing all the Past Directors of R8. He informed everyone that 10 Past Directors are attending this meeting as others could not make it. He then went on to give a brief presentation of each and highlighted their main contributions to R8. He then announced the list of distinguished guests attending the meeting including but not limited to other IEEE Region Directors, MGA and IEEE staff and current and Past President of IEEE. He pointed out that 21 (past) Board of Directors members and 53 out of 56 R8 Section delegates are attending this meeting. He then went quickly through some logistical issues concerning the social events. Martin then started his report to the meeting by informing everyone that full length versions of OpCom and Section reports are available on the Madrid web page on the R8 server and invited everyone to read them to learn from the experiences of others. He then presented some statistics about R8 and showed that membership is stable. He then presented a list of the focus points under his directorship for the Region. Martin stressed that Region vitality is of the greatest importance and informed the committee that the R8 Director-Elect Costas Stasopoulos has been appointed as R8 Vitality Coordinator.

#### 110. Secretary's report

**Ali El-Mousa** Region 8 Secretary, briefly reviewed the 99<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting that took place in Tallinn which included a discussion with IEEE Legal Counsel regarding the legal status of Sections and the issues facing them. He pointed out to the committee some of the concerns for the Secretary which included updating Section web pages, reporting new officers via vTools, sending the Section reports to the



Secretary on time and supporting the different AGs in the Sections. He then reiterated the importance of adhering to the meeting schedule as it was tight and he ended by thanking everyone for their support.

### **111. Treasurer's report**

**Brian Harrington**, Region 8 Treasurer, started by drawing everyone's attention to his full printed report which was distributed earlier. He then pointed out the process for reimbursement for the expenses incurred to attend the meeting in Madrid. He informed the Committee of the necessity of providing scanned copies of receipts and noted that reimbursement is only done electronically. However, he assured everyone that all financial details are not kept with him but with the Royal Bank of Scotland and that it is safe. He then gave the Present Financial Position of the Region. The financial results for the year 2012 paint an overall positive picture for R8 as the only negative indicator was currency exchange; as Region 8 trades USD currency to buy local currency to finance its operations it is sensitive to exchange rate fluctuations. He also noted that R8 cash, which he considers a very important indicator, is in a very good shape at the end of 2012 as opposed to the position in 2011. Brian then presented and proceeded to discuss the twelve year R8 net worth vs. its investment fund which is managed by IEEE. He made several comments about the trends and concluded that R8 investment and cash flow is now in a good position despite earlier setback factors in some previous years. He then presented a historical view of R8 budget trend covering twelve years and commented that sometimes the budget was comparatively high and that was due to expenses of attending the IEEE sections congress. He noted that the next one in 2014 is to be held in Amsterdam and that he expects therefore a reasonable budget for that year as the travel expenses will be normal. Next, he presented exchange rate trends between the US dollar and the Euro and noted that the continuous fluctuations cause losses and that was not preventable. Then he presented the distribution of the 2012 R8 budget and made some general remarks concerning it. Finally, he made comments about the issue relating to the use of NetSuite for financial reporting and criticized its method of introduction and design as it is not user friendly and lacks many features. He also criticized the lack of consultation from IEEE with R8 prior to the introduction of this new software.. He concluded that the performance of the Region 8 finances is steady under uncertain market conditions and stressed that the finances largely depends on membership.

**Action Item:** Brian to write and submit a professional and management report concerning the issues surrounding NetSuite to IEEE MGA.

### **112. Strategic direction**

**Marko Delimar**, Past R8 Director, started by introducing the R8 Strategic Planning ~~SubCommittee~~[Subcommittee](#) which he chairs. He then reviewed the results of the SWOT analysis of R8 and made comments about them. He listed both the identified strength and weakness points. He proceeded to list the perceived threats facing R8. Next, he listed the three topmost challenges that have been identified in the past three years which were: activities in Africa, cooperation with European agencies, and conferences. He elaborated on the success in tackling these challenges. He then listed and briefly discussed the newly identified four priorities by the IEEE. **Saurabh**



**Sinha**, member of the SPSC, then discussed the creation of the list of relevant items to be addressed by the IEEE Region 8 SPSC and asked the Committee to contribute to it using several means. He explained that the [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#) will prioritize the list and then start taking the relevant steps to help achieve the objectives. He then also listed other sources that the [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#) is using to identify priority items such as past workshops results. He then proceeded to list the results of brainstorming sessions done by SPSC which fell under the following general themes: governance, membership and member activities, conferences, external relations, Sections, and other topics. He then reiterated the request of the SPSC for input from the R8 Committee.

Action item: SPSC to provide recommendations to the R8 Committee regarding the themes that they identified during their brainstorming sessions. The R8 Committee will be asked to prioritize the items identified.

### **113. Nominations & Appointments Activities**

**Marko Delimar**, Chair of the R8 Nominations and Appointments [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#), first introduced the members of the [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#). He then presented some details regarding the process of the 2013 IEEE annual election. Then he presented and discussed the 2014 IEEE election process which also includes the election of the R8 Director-Elect. He went on to elaborate on the workload and duties assigned to the positions of Region Director-Elect, Region Director and Region Past Director. He also discussed the election of the R8 three Vice Chairs. He pointed out to the Committee where additional information can be obtained about these issues. Next, he presented the call for nomination for the different positions and identified the deadlines and requirements. He ended by inviting all to submit nominations for suitable candidates to fill the position and stressed the importance of having fresh blood.

### **202. Preparations for Sections Congress 2014**

**Thanos Skodras**, Greece Section chair and SC 2014 R8 coordinator, introduced himself and the second SC 2014 R8 coordinator Saurabh Sinha. He informed the Committee that Sections Congress will be held in Amsterdam in August 2014. He presented the general objectives of holding Sections Congress. He presented the criteria for participation in the Congress. He then presented the theme of the coming Congress which is “Inspiring our Leaders of Tomorrow”. He then presented the specific objectives and goals of 2014 Sections Congress. He then presented the five recommendations that were adopted by the previous Sections Congress which was held in 2011. **Saurabh Sinha** then verbally presented an outline for a process that they are recommending for the Committee so that they can reach proposed recommendations for the next Sections Congress. The process will be developed and implemented during the next R8 Committee meeting in Sarajevo.

### **201. Member Activities report**

**Aleksandar Szabo**, R8 Vice Chair Member Activities, started by giving a short introduction to the scope and subcommittees of MA. He then stressed the importance of the cooperation between Section officers and the coordinators of the R8 MA



subcommittees. He then listed all the different activities that MA is involved in. He then presented a graph representing the R8 Membership from month to month and year to year with a discussion of the significance of the numbers. **Antonio Luque**, R8 MD [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#) Chair, then introduced the members of the R8 MD [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#). He then listed the different current goals of the MD [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#) and highlighted and elaborated on the most prioritized items. He then presented a list of the activities accomplished thus far during 2013. Next he presented some figures and statistics about the current status of membership in R8 and commented on them. **Rafal Sliz**, R8 GOLD [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#) Chair, next presented the R8 GOLD team. He then presented and discussed the status and spread of R8 GOLD AGs. He then listed and discussed the actions undertaken by the GOLD [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#). Finally, he discussed some of the issues and difficulties facing the R8 GOLD work. **Joyce Mwangama**, R8 WIE Coordinator, presented figures defining the status of WIE in R8. She then presented a list of the WIE events that took place in R8. She also talked about upcoming planned events involving WIE including awards. She highlighted her willingness to cooperate with other subcommittees in R8. She also called for the support of the Section chairs for reviving dormant WIE AGs. **Jan Verveckken**, R8 PA [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#) Chair, then presented the R8 PA team, he then informed the Committee that currently there are no planned activities in R8 and asked for the support of the Sections to help start some, he then went on to list the future actions to be undertaken by the R8 PA [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#). He then described the best practices that they perceive will help enhance PA in R8 which were mainly expectations from Sections, he then highlighted the points of concern, and he then ended with discussing the PA [SubCommittee'sSubcommittee's](#) intention of expanding their services. **Jacob Baal-Schem**, R8 Life Members Coordinator, started his presentation by explaining how one becomes a Life Member of the IEEE, he emphasized the importance of using the expertise of LM in R8. He then listed the current existing LM AGs. He pointed out that they expect another two very soon. He then listed the Sections where there are LM AGs under formation. Next, he listed the plans for 2013. At the end, he listed a plan to have a LM day at Sections Congress in 2014. **Tony Davies**, R8 History Activities Coordinator, initially discussed in his presentation the nature of the history he is involved in; one was history of technology while the other was IEEE history. He elaborated on the details of each. He then talked about a recent project which is the oral history of Past Directors of R8. He then briefly went through a list of his activities. **Roland Saam**, R8 News Editor, started his presentation by asking everyone whether they have received a copy of the Golden Jubilee Issue of the R8 newsletter. He then proceeded to discuss how the content of the newsletter is gathered from the members of R8. He then asked everyone to submit articles and elaborated on the general requirements and procedures. Then he announced that Zhijia Huang will be taking over as Editor-in-Chief but that he will still be helping him and working as a team. **George Michael**, R8 Electronic Communications Coordinator, started his presentation by describing his job in service of R8. He then elaborated on the importance of having and regularly updating a Section website as statistics have shown increased traffic from members. He ended by presenting some info about the R8 website and other useful informational sites.

### 203. MGA Vice President's address



**Ralph Ford**, IEEE MGA Vice President, started by explaining what MGA is. He then proceeded to present some statistics about IEEE membership and Geo Units. He then presented specific statistics about R8. He next presented the hierarchical relationship between MGA and the other geo units. Then he presented a list of challenges and opportunities that MGA faces. He then informed the committee that surveys show that 60% of the members are satisfied with their membership although internationally this number should be closer to 80%. He then went on to present and discuss a chart showing the results of a survey concerning satisfaction of members according to the products and services that are provided by IEEE. This showed that the top three areas for improvement were networking opportunities, continuing education, and career resources. He also concluded that the data from the survey points to the need to reduce and simplify product offerings. He then proceeded to discuss issues to do with increasing the IEEE membership base & geographic reach. Next he talked about implementing new experimental approaches for volunteer commitment & engagement. He then went on to discuss issues to do with revitalizing geo units and also presented a new pilot program called Volunteer Onboarding which links volunteers that are potential leaders from different geo units together. He continued to discuss the online member networking project which is geared to provide specific network opportunities for members. Next he briefly touched on career resources and admitted that outside the USA they are not yet fully available. He then discussed briefly Smart Tech Metro Area Workshops whose goal is to bring members up-to-date on key technologies. These are currently available in the US but plans are being considered to roll it out to other regions. Then he listed some issues that are being done to enhance member experience including Google Apps, volunteer extranet. Finally, he ended with a message to the Committee members urging them to provide leadership and operational management and identified the three keys for success which are engaged members, volunteer leadership, and IEEE support. He then started discussing NetSuite by giving a brief overview about its background, why it was designed, and the need for reporting. He revealed that the push for creating NetSuite was as a result of recommendations of financial auditors who wanted more timely information from Sections. He then stated that the selection of NetSuite was done following a process which involved MGA and volunteers. He then said that the decision was done to request all Geo Units to use it in 2012 for the reasons of clarity, responsiveness to audit requirements and protection of IEEE assets. He then went on to list some of the negative aspects that were identified. Then he listed some of the changes that were made to try to overcome the negative issues. He then mentioned that 85% of Sections have submitted their financial reports using NetSuite this year. He then expressed the need to continue to get feedback about the tool and that there will be more training material available.

#### **204. MGA Director's address**

MGA Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities, **Cecelia Jankowski**, presented the main MGA activities and services provided by MGA. She then listed the names and addresses of the key staff workers in MGA for reference. She then discussed how MGA is going about trying to provide best-in-class member experience using the products and services of IEEE to members on their own experience. She gave some member satisfaction statistics and said that the IEEE gets around 90000 new members every year but also indicated that IEEE loses around 85000 members a year who are mostly first-year members. She stressed that MGA is



focusing its efforts and presented Member Experience Improvement Roadmaps. She then listed some member experience improvements in action examples, which included a searchable memberships & subscription catalog, automatic membership/subscription renewal. She then presented and discussed a career experience roadmap and other activities being done to improve member experience.

## **Recess**

## **Day 2**

### **301. Call to order**

The Region 8 Director, **Martin Bastiaans**, restarted the meeting by welcoming everyone again and then asked the R8 Secretary, **Ali El-Mousa**, if there was a quorum and the Secretary replied in the affirmative.

### **302. President's address**

**Peter Staecker**, IEEE President, started his presentation by reviewing the history of the IEEE, and then he presented some statistics related to the growth trends of IEEE membership. This showed that IEEE is growing steadily. He elaborated on the reasons behind this growth and stressed the importance of embracing and nurturing the volunteers. He then discussed points related to keeping IEEE relevant and the key steps needed to realize them. He presented the results of a recent visit to some Sections in Africa. He ended by asking for the thoughts of the committee.

### **303. President-Elect candidates' debate**

**Stefano Zanero**, the host of the President-Elect Candidates' Debate, presented the two candidates, **Howard Michel** and **Tariq Durani**. After a brief introductory speech they answered in turn questions that were put forward by the R8 Committee members.

### **304. Student Activities report**

**Pablo Herrero**, R8 Vice Chair Student Activities, started by introducing all the members of his team and gave the driving goals of his committee. He listed the major activities that took and are going to take place in R8 this year and stressed their importance. Then he invited **Christian Schmid** (Student Rep) who talked about the issue of student revitalization as an answer to enhance intake of people into engineering. He emphasized the importance of Student Branches and activities there. Then he discussed the problems of inactive Student Branches. He went on to discuss the success story of Italy Section student revitalization. Then he talked about the steps to revitalize Student Branches. He then handed over to **Efthymia "Femia" Arvaniti** (SB Coordination) who discussed the need for Sections to help in the revitalization process. She outlined the steps that are to be taken with the help of the Sections for this. She stressed the necessity of sending student delegates. She then asked for feedback from the committee. **Piotr Graca** (Awards & Contests) then talked about the importance of awards as motivation, and then listed the different awards available. He also discussed the competitions that students can take part in. He then showed that now there is a tool from the IEEE that makes it easy to submit for the awards. **George**



**Paunovic** (Student Paper Contest Coordinator) talked about the student paper contest and discussed its rules, deadlines and reviewed some statistics regarding it. **David Dias** (E-Comms), discussed issues related to Electronic Communications for students and he listed the activities and tools that can be used to enhance communications with students. Finally, **Pablo** discussed issues related to the next Student Branch Congress which will take place in 2014 and elaborated on the processes used to identify the host.

### **305. Section development and vitality**

**Costas Stasopoulos**, IEEE R8 Director-Elect and R8 Vitality Coordinator, listed the roles of the Vitality Coordinator, and then he explained what Section vitality is. He noted that Section vitality provides focus on a positive member experience at the local level. He specified the points that define this at the Section level. He then presented and analyzed statistics related to membership in R8 Sections. He then reminded the Committee of the rules governing length of terms for Section officers. Also, he listed the MGA rules for elections of officers. He then presented the executive summary and conclusions of an MGA satisfaction survey concentrating on the viewpoints expressed by higher grade members and students.

### **405a. New business**

**Martin Bastiaans**, R8 Director, listed the awards that were given during the previous evening and asked that they be inserted as part of the minutes.

TO: IEEE Region 8 Committee – 20-21 April 2013  
FROM: Region 8 Director  
SUBJECT: Awards

During the gala dinner on Saturday 20 April 2013, the following Region 8 awards have been presented/announced:

- **2012 Region 8 Chapter of the Year Award**

Robotics and Automation Society Chapter, Egypt Section: for outstanding performance in technical and educational activities and particularly for the Chapter's humanitarian service by increasing public awareness through an outdoor robotic competition on demining Egypt: "Minesweepers: Towards a Landmine-free Egypt" – presented to Ahmed Darwish, Section Chair

- **2012 Region 8 Outstanding Section Award**

Iran Section - presented to Farzaneh Abdollahi, Section Secretary

- **2013 Region 8 Clementina Saduwa Award**

Fatma-El Zahraa Abou-Chadi, Egypt Section: for her engineering and career achievements and noteworthy support for women in the profession

- **2013 Region 8 Volunteer Award**

Samir Shaheen, Egypt Section – to be presented at an occasion to be chosen by the recipient

The following certificates of appreciation have been presented:



- **SBC 2012 organizers**, Spain Section: for organizing the IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress in Madrid, 25-29 July 2012
- **South Africa Section**, chaired by Jacques Van Wyk: for exemplary service in hosting the IEEE Region 8 Nominations & Appointments Subcommittee meeting, Cape Town, 19-22 August 2012
- **Estonia Section**, chaired by Urmet Jänes: for exemplary service in hosting the 99th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting, Tallinn, 6-7 October 2012
- **United Arab Emirates Section**, chaired by Maryam Ali Al Thani: for exemplary service in hosting the IEEE Region 8 Operating Committee meeting, Dubai, 25-27 January 2013
- **Józef Modelski**: for exemplary service as Region 8 Vice-Chair - Technical Activities 2005-2006, Director-Elect 2008, Director 2009-2010, and Past Director 2011-2012
- **Elias Nassar**: for exemplary service as IEEE Region 8 Vice-Chair - Student Activities 2011-2012
- **Saurabh Sinha**: for exemplary service as IEEE Region 8 Vice-Chair - Technical Activities 2011-2012
- **Bruce B. Barrow**: for seminal contributions to the formation of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8

TO: Region 8 Committee  
 FROM: Rafal Sliz, Region 8 GOLD Subcommittee  
 SUBJECT: Establishing Region 8 GOLD Exceptional Volunteer Award

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To recognize a volunteer within Region 8 for his/her dedication towards the mission of IEEE GOLD. A recognition will be given to the devoted GOLD member that presents the most successful maintenance of [ongoing-on-going](#) efforts, leadership skills, and remarkable development and implementation of new ideas and programs in the previous year. These activities shall have an important impact on the Section and on Region 8.

#### IMPLEMENTATION:

The winner will receive a plaque providing the citation for the award granted by the Region 8 GOLD Committee. The winner will be announced in November each year. The award will be sent to the winner or delivered personally at an IEEE Region 8 event.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

##### Eligibility & Conditions

1. The volunteer must not have received another IEEE award in the same year.
2. The candidate's AG must not have been awarded with the Region 8 GOLD Outstanding Affinity Group Award in the same year.
3. The volunteer must be a GOLD member of an active GOLD Affinity Group.
4. Members of Region 8 GOLD Committee are not eligible to be nominated.
5. Self nominations are not allowed.

##### Nominations

Proposals for nominations of candidate members for this award shall be made by the Section and supported by a letter of endorsement from the Section Chair, another



member of the Executive Committee or the GOLD AG Chair. The nomination must include a brief summary of the yearly candidate activities, accomplished projects, the success of those activities and the engagement level achieved among IEEE members. The call for nominations will be announced in cooperation with the N&A Committee. The award selection committee will consist of the R8 GOLD Committee, the R8 Membership Activities Vice-Chair and the R8 Director.

#### Financial implications

Plaque printing and preparations estimated to 150€.

#### Current status

Presently only GOLD Affinity Groups are recognized with Region 8 Outstanding GOLD Affinity Group Award. However, a regional award for an individual exceptional GOLD member does not yet exist.

#### Pros

This award will recognize the efforts of the selected candidate and will encourage continuous active volunteering. It will promote and raise awareness of the Region 8 GOLD Committee among young professionals. Moreover, it will help to advertise remarkable efforts at Section and Regional level.

#### Cons

Minor financial expenditure (plaque printing), but this will be compensated by all the benefits stated above.

The proposed motion states:

“The Region 8 Committee approves the establishment of the Region 8 GOLD Exceptional Volunteer Award. The award is a certificate (plaque). The award will be sent to the winner or delivered personally at an IEEE Region 8 event.”

**The motion was adopted.**

A motion was intended to be put forward by UK&RI Section Chair Nihal Sinnadurai regarding asking IEEE to de-register Sections that are not obliged to register for VAT in their countries as this will add a lot of extra unnecessary effort on volunteers. However, after discussions it was agreed to suspend putting this motion forward for the time being, provided that IEEE staff represented by the MGA Director Cecelia Jankowski take a quick initiative to enter into discussions to quickly resolve the issue and that the R8 Director takes action to put the problems associated with this to the relevant entities in IEEE to find a quick resolution to it.

**Action item: MGA Director Cecelia Jankowski to take a quick initiative to enter into discussions to quickly resolve the issue of VAT and to inform all Sections of their status regarding this issue.**

**Action item: R8 Director takes action to put the problems associated with the issue and consequences of requiring all Sections to register for VAT to the relevant entities in IEEE to find a quick satisfactory resolution to it and to report back to the Committee.**



Another motion was intended to be put forward by the UK&RI Section Chair which requests IEEE to reduce the number of staff and to efficiently manage the rest. It was agreed to suspend this motion pending further discussion to be undertaken by the R8 Director with staff.

#### **401. Technical Activities report**

**Carl Debono**, R8 Vice Chair Technical Activities, started by introducing his team. Then **Elya Yoffe**, Chapter Coordination [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#) Chair, introduced his team, then with the help of **Simay Akar**, member of the subcommittee, presented a list of the major activities that took place in the past including new Chapter formation, then talked about the Student Branch Chapter meetings. Then he talked about Chapter of the Year Award and its recipient. Next they introduced the Facebook page that was newly created in support of Chapter coordination. After that, he presented the current activities which included a Chapter Coordination [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#) Meeting in Madrid. Then he talked about future plans which included setting up a Chapters e-mail Newsletter, and help organize Society/Division Chapter Coordination Meetings. Simay talked about a proposal for the Best Student Branch Chapter of the Year Award and Future Student Branch Chapter Congress Meetings, Section SB Chapter Ambassadors Ad-Hoc Team. Then Elya listed the best practices that are used. In the end he listed the points of concern.

**Jan Haase**, Conference Coordination [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#) (CoCSC) Chair, presented his team. He then listed the flagship conferences of R8. Next he showed and briefly discussed a chart related to R8 co-sponsored conferences. He then talked about the Technical Co-Sponsoring fee. He then talked about the conferences MOUs with IEEE, issues regarding papers going into Xplore and announced the R8 Conference Organizer's Handbook. Finally, he asked for bids for the next available R8 flagship conferences. **Niovi Pavlidou**, Educational Activities Subcommittee (EASC) Chair, first introduced her team and then listed and highlighted the different activities that they are involved in. **Andreas Neumeier**, Industry Relations [SubCommitteeSubcommittee](#) (IRSC) Chair, introduced his team and then listed and discussed different activities that they are involved in. **Walter Weigel** from the IEEE Standards Association BoG stood in for David Law, the R8 Standards Coordinator, as he could not attend the meeting. He listed and discussed the different activities related to standards in R8.

#### **402. IEEE-X Academic**

**Rui Costa**, R8 Educational Activities SC Member, presented the project which is about online education. He then presented and reviewed current online content educational providers noting their shortcomings. He then put forward the idea of IEEE X Academic. The idea is to create a student-driven and locally-based online educational resource developed in cooperation with teachers and universities with the help of IEEE Student Branches. He went on to elaborate on the vision behind the idea and provided statistics about it and its current success. He then presented a comparison of X Academic with other well-known content providers and then the spread of the project worldwide. He then explained what the requirements are for starting such a project locally. He then compared the traditional teaching method with the proposed one. He went on to describe the benefits that the IEEE will gain from such a project. He ended by requesting the support of sections to expand the project.



### 403. IEEE Awards

**Lew Terman**, IEEE Awards Board Chair, started by discussing the reasons why awards are important, then he went on to describe the objectives of the IEEE awards program. Next he discussed the IEEE awards hierarchy and then informed the audience that their support is vital for the success of the awards program and what they can be doing to help. He then briefly discussed issues related to IEEE Fellow nominations. **Charles Turner**, R8 Awards & Recognition SubCommittee SubCommittee Chair, introduced his committee and mentioned the awards that were given from R8 this year. He talked about the Region 8 Volunteer Award, he mentioned there were 5 nominations for the award and the committee decided to award it to Dr Samir Shaheen of the Egypt Section. Then he talked about the Region 8 Outstanding Section Award and noted that two nominations were received and that the winner was the Iran Section. And then mentioned the MGA awards and encouraged sections to submit nominations to them. He discussed the importance of having a Section award coordinator in Sections and recommended that each Section has a volunteer-of-year award and mentioned statistics for R8 elevations into the Fellows category for this year. Finally he talked about points related to how to reward volunteers in Sections.

### 405b. General discussion

**Nihal Sinnadurai** talked about the use of NetSuite and recommended that it be suspended for two years and that a review be done on it to make it user friendly and less demanding. **Tony Davies** made a remark on NetSuite in the shape of a question as to whether the introduction of NetSuite was a result of a perceived impression from IEEE to the existence of fraud in some sections or whether there was actually fraud detected. He noted that there was the fear that as a result of its introduction fraud might actually increase. **Marko Delimar** made a remark that he believed that the intentions behind the introduction of NetSuite was to help Sections and not fraud however the results were not what was expected. **Ralph Ford** remarked that the reason for the introduction of NetSuite was not fraud but the need for timely reporting of finances. He also said that valuable feedback was received from attending the R8 meeting and it is going to be taken into consideration and presented to the IEEE Finance Committee to try to find the suitable level of reporting in NetSuite. **Ghassan Shaban** talked about the issue of registration in the Lebanon section and noted that an IEEE lawyer was assigned for this, however, the Section was in the dark. Later after the Section got to know about the issue, they sent the lawyer their paperwork and documents regarding the issue and her feedback was she wished she knew about these papers before as now she will need to go back and redo everything based on this new info. She also said that she will get back to the Section but it never happened. **Marko Delimar** said that the issue of registration is time consuming and there are problems. He noted that **Costas** is going to be the contact officer between the Sections and the IEEE lawyers for this issue. He said that during his term as Director this issue was also present and he reiterated that there have been issues with communications and transparency. He said that he views the issue of VAT as different from that of registration and called for doing things right. **Ghassan** reiterated that the issue was



one way communications from the Section while not getting any feedback or info from the IEEE. **Costas** said that he talked with the IEEE Legal Counsel and he said that he would like to see first 2-3 Sections registered instead of all as this makes the process slow. He said that the process is complicated as IEEE has assigned different people to different countries. He said he will contact the Legal Counsel again to push her for more results to motivate other Sections.

#### **406. Next meeting**

The next Region 8 Committee meeting will be held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 5-6 October 2013. **Dusanka Boskovic** gave a small presentation on Sarajevo and invited everybody to attend the meeting.

#### **407. Adjournment**

The Region 8 Director entertained a motion to end the Region 8 Committee meeting.

**The motion was adopted.**

**Adjourn**