

South Africa Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

- Initiatives that work well: The section is now able to register events to carry Continuous Professional Development points (CPD). This process was unavailable for some time.
- Representatives from the IEEE-SA visited South Africa in late November 2014. Discussions with Power Energy providers were arranged. Also, there were presentations to businesses from the IT sector. They met with members of academia, industry and government.
- Future trips and webinars are planned.
- Improvements:
 - Aiming to start job and consultant networks to assist our members and provide more value.
 - Build list of contacts in industry.

Students and Young Professionals

- Initiatives that work well: STEP events and the Distinguished Lecturers Programme. The University of Witwatersrand hosted a highly successful, well marketed STEP event.
- Improvements:
 - Distinguished lecturers whose presentations are less specialized and accessible to a wider audience.
 - The section needs foster a stronger connection to its student members and YP and provide more support to the volunteers.

Section Vitality

- Initiative that work well: Support of local conferences.
- Having active OUs.
- Improvements:
 - Increase activity and engagement with members.
 - Increase the visibility of events.
 - There was a marked increase in e-membership fees and this is likely to cause a decline in membership. Reducing the fees or a gradual increase would assist in mitigating the problem.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The section organized a joint distinguished volunteer award with the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE). The first award is to be handed out on the 26 March.
- Elon Musk was selected to receive 2015 IEEE Honorary Membership.
- TISP has been developing and distributing kits for schools to support the electricity component of the curriculum.
- The Western Cape Education Department is now rolling this out further with their own funding.
- Nominated Mark Shuttleworth for Computer Entrepreneur Award.
- Managed World Design Capital Software Design program - focused on some key areas such as Education.