



IEEE

Vol 16 No 3

December 2013

region8news

www.ieeer8.org

Published quarterly and distributed to more than 70,000 IEEE members across Region 8



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THE 101st IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting was hosted by IEEE Bosnia and Herzegovina section in the city of Sarajevo. More than 100 Region 8 members and IEEE staff gathered on 4–6 October for a busy agenda discussing and planning activities and developments.

Region 8 Director Martin Bastiaans and Aleksander Szabo, vice chair of Member Activities, reported an increase in membership, albeit slower than in recent years. Sections were asked to be active in recruiting new members and to encourage renewals.

Tony Davies, History Activities coordinator, reported on two new IEEE Milestone dedications: 12 June to celebrate the 1947 invention of holography in London (UK&RI Section), and 5 July to commemorate the 1895 Krka-Šibenik Hydro Power System in Croatia.

Next year we will see some big events in our Region. IEEE Sections Congress 2014 will be hosted in Amsterdam, Netherlands, at the Rai Convention Center from 22–24 August. This worldwide as-

100+ members convene in Sarajevo for R8 Committee



Far left: Region 8 director-elect candidate debate
Left: IEEE's just desserts

sembly of IEEE volunteers will be taking place outside North America for the first time.

There's also the Student Branch Congress 2014 planned in Krakow, Poland, from 7–10 August, organised by the local Student Branch.

Meanwhile, three important conferences will be organised by the region: MELECON 2014 in April in Beirut, Lebanon; ENERGYCON 2014 in May in Dubrovnik, Croatia; and HISTELCON 2014 in September in Israel.

IEEE GOLD Graduates of the Last

Decade was given the new name 'IEEE Young Professionals'. The YP criteria will be adjusted by adding an opt-in option, and it will be a form of membership.

Good news for you: there are to be new benefits for IEEE members. The most important is GoogleApps@IEEE, a suite of online products – mail, contacts, calendar and a collaboration toolset – made available at no cost. Please go ahead and try it out.

There are also improvements to IEEE member discount programs for Rosetta

...continued on page 2 ▶

IN THIS ISSUE

Region news..... 1–5



IEEE contacts..... 4

Section and

Chapter news..... 5–7



GOLD/YP news..... 8



Student news..... 9–12



The closing dinner was held in Munich's elegant Künstlerhaus

Germany experiences day of time travel for 50th birthday

ON 5 April 2013, IEEE Germany Section celebrated its 50th Anniversary where it all started, on 9 April 1963, at the Technical University Munich.

Our celebrations began in the afternoon with a colloquium introduced by Prof Kennel as a "time travel" series of talks.

The first, by Prof Helmut Schramm, 'Where we come from: Electrical Technology in Germany in the early 1960s', described how electric disciplines moved from

military applications to the present, with thanks to our predecessors who passionately built power engineering, communication and information technology as we know them today.

Our trip arrived at the present with Prof de Doncker's presentation, 'Power Electronic Substation – Edison's Missing Link to realise the EnergieWende'. The new energy trend set by Germany, now in the spotlight

...continued on page 2 ▶

Young Professionals refresh GOLD program with increased visibility

AFTER many years of operation, the Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) program is to be relaunched.

Primarily, the name will be changed to 'Young Professionals', designed to appeal to a broader audience and correspond to an increased visibility strategy.

Although the name is the most significant visible change, several Young Professionals will be re-organising the programme to make it better serve the community of young engineers.

The Young Professionals program requires changes at several levels: governance, branding, classification and communication. Therefore, the Region 8 GOLD/YP SC together with MGA GOLD/YP and staff members are working hard on making the transition of GOLD to YP smooth and successful.

The new program should result in improved member awareness and retention, and increased member engagement by making opportunities easier to find.

Although the process is planned to be finalised in the middle of 2014, the first transitions are already visible. For example, the Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress (SBC) is changing its name: it will be officially known for the forthcoming event in Krakow in 2014 as Region 8 Student and Young Professional Congress (SYP).

Certainly, many of us will shed a tear for Graduates of the Last Decade but it is time to move on, say goodbye to GOLD and say "Hello, Young Professionals, how are you doing?"

Rafal Sliz

Region 8 Young Professionals

Director reports on business from the Region 8 Committee

IN October this year, the Region 8 Committee met for the first time in its history in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in its capital Sarajevo.

The attendance of several high-level IEEE staff members made it possible for us to organise a number of activities of importance in addition to the meeting itself.

Region 8 treasurer Brian Harrington and myself, together with the France Section treasurer Christine Nora and incoming treasurer Humberto Henao, discussed with the IEEE chief financial officer Tom Siegert and MGA managing director Cecelia Jankowski about how the financial program NetSuite can be adapted such that it is workable for our Sections.

IEEE general counsel and chief compliance officer Eileen Lach, assisted by the international paralegal David Meza, held a long se-

ries of separate meetings with several Section delegates about Section-specific legal issues such as the proper registration in their home countries.

Region 8 Director-Elect Costas Stasopoulos, who also acts as the Regional Vitality Coordinator, used the opportunity to have separate discussions with Sections that had shown a reduced level of activity, which may even have led to problems in reporting and to not yet receiving their rebate for 2012.

These discussions gave us a good insight into the problems that these Sections face.



In several cases, the reporting problem could be solved and a missing rebate could be transferred.

Martin Bastiaans
Region 8 Director



Attendees found out how to gain and retain IEEE's 'primary resource' – its members

New Membership Development officers learn tools for the task

A WORKSHOP to train new Membership Development (MD) officers was held in the University of Westminster, London (UK&R1 Section), on 19 October.

New MD officers gathered together with experienced volunteers and members of the Region 8 MD Subcommittee to share knowledge, learn the tools and discuss ways of keeping

members happy with IEEE. The workshop included presentations on the global and regional status of IEEE membership, best practices in Sections, data analysis and communication tools, new benefits for 2014, and breakout sessions for devising initiatives for increasing member satisfaction.

Membership Development is a task in which

every volunteer should be involved where members are the primary resource for IEEE. To coordinate the efforts and keep in contact with IEEE staff, an MD officer should always be appointed in every Section.

The MD workshop will be repeated annually, with a next edition planned for in Middle East next Spring.

Antonio Luque

Targets: industry, visibility, education

BASED on the vision and mission of the IEEE Region 8 Committee and also analysis of its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, the strategic planning subcommittee has proposed the following challenges for the Region.

● **Go to industry!** This seeks to make IEEE a professional home for people in industry and therefore more attractive for industry professionals (focusing on local benefits) while also considering corporate membership models.

● **Increase IEEE's footprint!** This means to increase IEEE visibility (by technologists, public and media) and raise awareness about IEEE among non-government and government organisations active in technology.

● **Think education!** The challenge here is to promote pre-university and lifelong education and consider accreditation and certification. We should also improve soft skills education and consider merging professional and educational activities.

Marko Delimar



A new project was launched on 18 September called IEEE Academic. It aims to create an online resource where students can access, for free, educational material written in their language by professors in their own universities and schools.

"We want to build a 'Wikipedia' for multimedia educational content, with contributions from IEEE Student Branches and universities all over the world," said Rui Costa, founder and coordinator of the project.

Building wiki of educational multimedia

Content from IEEE Academic initiatives from Portugal, Turkey, Greece, South Africa, Pakistan and USA are planned.

The beta version website posted its first material from IEEE Academic Portugal in October.

Feedback from you is needed to help improve the platform. Please visit online at <http://academic.ieee.org>. All new items will be announced via social media at [facebook.com/ieeeacademic](https://www.facebook.com/ieeeacademic) and twitter.com/ieeeacademic.

R8 Committee meeting in Sarajevo

▶ continued from page 1...

Stone, Clements Worldwide Life Insurance and Vacation Center. For Sections and Student Branches that organise recruitment events, there is a new 2014 membership recruitment package available.

Many other discussions and breakout sessions took place so please scan the reports and pres-

entations at www.ieeeR8.org.

Above all, everyone enjoyed the warm welcome hospitality and technical talks organised by Bosnia and Herzegovina Section and appreciated the organisational work by Section chair Dusanka Boskovic and the local Student Branch volunteers.

Zhijia Huang

Germany's time travel birthday

▶ continued from page 1...

worldwide, could rely on DC transmission and distribution, as Thomas Edison, a founder of General Electric, sponsor of the day, would have liked to see. The presentation offered a deep insight into technology, economics and politics, underlying Germany's assertive position in the new environment-aware era.

Then the space ship took off: a remote future is said to be science fiction's domain. But find an engineer who does not love to dream, and the fun is that dreams can really

come true. This is how Prof Hubert Zutt brought everyone to outer space with 'Star Trek: how visions become reality'.

He explained how late 1960s futuristic fictional equipment, such as the cell phone, is now part of everyone's experience. Yet there is still a lot to do for electrical engineers to reach *Star Trek's* advanced energy generation and storage – who knows what will be seen at the 100th anniversary?

A dinner closed the event in the elegant Künstlerhaus, where the first gathering of the Section had been held. IEEE Germany Section celebrated its anniversary on historical grounds with around 150 guests.

During the banquet, Prof Rohde delivered a keynote talk about the Section as it was in 1963.

The current Section chair, Dr Axel Richter, gave his greeting and the IEEE Region 8 director, Martin Bastiaans, gave his best wishes from the Region.

Our thanks go to Gerald Anleitner who helped create an unforgettable day.

Arne Redl



'Wise and friendly counsel' – Remshardt remembered

WITH the passing of Rolf Remshardt, IEEE lost one of its most highly valued volunteers.

His sudden death, only weeks after he was a special guest at the 50th Anniversary celebrations of Region 8 in Madrid, came as a terrible shock to his many friends across IEEE. For 30 years he was an outstanding example of selfless and ethical service to our Institute.

He was a major influence in policy-making: eight regional directors benefitted from his wise and friendly advice. His stewardship as treasurer of the Region's finances for 15 years enabled a huge expansion of its activities, underpinned by



As Region 8 director, Rolf Remshardt laid the foundations for the Region's rapid expansion into Eastern Europe and the Middle East

the substantial reserves he built up by careful investment and budget controls.

Rolf Remshardt earned a Diplom-Ingenieur degree and a PhD in electrical engineering from the Technical University in Stuttgart, Germany. He began his career at IBM in 1967, working as a development engineer, designing integrated circuits and semiconductor chips. Rolf joined IEEE as a Senior Member

in 1983, and was elected Region 8 treasurer. Rolf quickly demonstrated his skill in managing the complexities of dealing with many different currencies and exchange controls, in an era before credit cards became universal.

He was elected Region 8 director (1999–2000) at a time during which there was a rapid expansion in IEEE activity in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Under his wise counsel, the problems of IEEE membership in the 'low-income' countries were dealt with very effectively. This laid the foundations for the success of the enlarged Region 8 as it reached its 50th year.

Rolf also served on many IEEE boards and committees, including the IEEE Foundation as a director and vice-president for projects. He was honoured by IEEE through the Larry K Wilson Transnational Award (2002) and the RAB Achievement Award (2006).

We mourn the loss of one of IEEE's finest volunteers, and share the grief of his wife Renate and son Marc. We will all miss Rolf, as a friend and colleague, and as a happy companion.

Kurt R Richter

Region 8 director 1991–1992

Charles W Turner

Region 8 director 1993–1994



From 37 original submissions, just five authors were left to battle it out at the Oral Finals in Zagreb

Galway academic recognised for outstanding achievement

GERARD Hurley, a professor of electrical engineering at the National University of Ireland, Galway, received the IEEE Power Electronics society's RD Middlebrook Outstanding Technical Achievement Award at a ceremony in Denver, Colorado, USA.

Professor Hurley received the 2013 award to acknowledge his pioneering contributions to high frequency magnetic design, modelling of magnetic components and analysis of planar magnetic devices for power electronic applications. His work was essential to the development of electrical power supplies for smartphones.

He graduated from University College, Cork, in 1974 and from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976, and was awarded the DEng degree by the National



Prof Hurley (right) with IEEE president Dr Peter Staeker at the Award Ceremony in Denver

University of Ireland in 2011. His work is acknowledged worldwide, and he published *Transformers and Inductors for Power Electronics, Theory, Design and Applications*. He is a Fellow of Engineers Ireland and a Fellow of the IEEE.

This award is dedicated to the memory of Dr R David Middlebrook, one of the founders of modern power electronics analysis and design.

Gerard Hurley

Student Paper Contest finals take place at EUROCON 2013

THE Region 8 Student Paper Contest, running for more than 45 years, is the traditional and probably the oldest IEEE student activity in the Region. The SPC is designed for student members and graduates who have yet to start on their PhD.

Some 37 student papers were accepted and graded, with contestants coming from 22 Sections and 34 different Student Branches.

The first phase finished in March, with the selection of the best five papers for Oral Finals. They were from ISCTE University Institute of Lisbon (Portugal), Isfahan University of Technology (Iran), KU Leuven (Benelux), Technische Universiteit Eindhoven (Benelux) and Technical University of Munich (Germany).

The second phase, the Oral Finals, were held in Zagreb, Croatia, on 1 July, during EUROCON 2013.

The Jury awarded three prizes from the IEEE Life Member Fund: first prize to Maarten Van de Put from KU Leuven (Benelux Section), second prize to Saeed Karimimehr

from Isfahan University of Technology (Iran Section) and third prize to Diego Marmosler from Technical University of Munich (Germany Section). The KU Leuven Student Branch also won the IEEE Region 8 Dick Poortvliet Award.

All of the finalists' papers were included in the EUROCON 2013 Proceedings.

George Paunovic

SPC coordinator

Helping SBs and conferences: Technical Activities update

THIS year, we've been really active in promoting and supporting technical activities within Region 8.

The Chapter Coordination Subcommittee was increased to include a new position to oversee Student Branch chapters. Workshops and a webinar were organised to promote the awareness of these and, at the Region 8 Committee meeting in Sarajevo, it was decided to award a 'Best Student Branch Chapter of the Year', starting in 2014.

The Conference Coordination Subcommittee published a handbook to help conference organisers. It also conducted

some webinars to increase volunteers' awareness about the systems and procedures for organising a conference.

We've seen a growth in the number of conferences requesting support of the Region, and an increase of satisfaction with the service. In 2013, there were more than 450 IEEE sponsored conferences in Region 8.

The Educational Activities Subcommittee was very active in organising workshops and increasing consciousness of the teacher in-service programme and EPICS-in-IEEE. Webinars are held on current technologies to support the lifelong

learning experience of members. A new IEEE Academic project has just been launched which will provide a web-based platform of online education materials for students in different languages.

The Industry Relations Subcommittee has been working to strengthen the ties between industry and IEEE Region 8. This was done by promoting membership in industry and attracting support for activities.

I would like to thank all the volunteers involved in the Technical Activities subcommittees for their great work.

Carl James Debono

Region 8 vice-chair for Technical Activities



Your editors: Zhijia Huang and Roland Saam

Region's 50th year also brought major changes

THE year 2013 has come to an end with many IEEE events and changes throughout the year.

We celebrated the 50th anniversary of Region 8 at the spring committee meeting in Madrid. Every member at that time received the special Jubilee book issue of *IEEE Region 8 News*.

In the autumn, we learned about planning for the events to be hosted by the Region in 2014. The IEEE Sections Congress is to be held in Amsterdam, the first time it is taking place outside of North America. Look out for more information on Region 8 conferences MELECON, ENERGYCON and HISTELCON during the course of 2014.

A big change this year has been the rebranding of 'GOLD' (Graduates of the Last Decade) to 'Young Professionals', and its establishment as another class of membership. Read about it in this issue's article by Rafal Sliz, our regional chair-

man of the Young Professionals. Learn more about this new type of membership and the benefits that come with it.

In future, IEEE Region 8 'Student Branches and GOLD Congress' will be rebranded 'Student and Young Professional Congress'. The SYP 2014 will be held in Krakow, Poland. Every member can support or participate in this congress where we all learn a lot. It's specially designed for students and young professionals, who are the future of IEEE.

There's also a new membership benefit – GoogleApp@IEEE – which brings you Google's full suite of mail, calendar and collaboration tools at no cost to you. Just log in to your IEEE account to find out more.

Make sure that you renew and keep your membership, and we wish you enjoyable holidays and a very happy new year!

Zhijia Huang
Editor

Signal processing for RF event is developing into open forum

THE third IEEE Forum on Signal Processing for Radio Frequency Systems was held on 18 June at the Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria. More than 30 attendees heard 11 presentations covering many aspects of the merging fields of signal processing, RF systems, and circuit design.

The keynote, 'A Systematic Approach for Designing Beamsteering Algorithms for the Uplink of UMTS by Evolutionary Optimization Techniques', was given by Simon Schröter from Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany. The programme covered many topics, from SP in RF, in modeling of analogue electronics, and SP in filter design.

The student presentation contest was won by Andreas Pedroß

from Graz University of Technology, who gave an excellent talk on 'Modeling and Identification of Non-ideal Ultra-Wideband Multiplication Devices'.

This event intends to be an open forum for early stage research results and future trends.

The event was offered free of charge thanks to financial support from our sponsors, IEEE Austria Joint COM/MTT chapter, Austrian Center of Competence in Mechatronics (ACCM), Telecommunications Research Center Vienna (FTW) and x.test GmbH.

The forum was chaired by Andreas Springer from Johannes Kepler University and Christian Vogel from FTW.

Andreas Springer and
Christian Vogel

IEEE region 8 news

Vol 16 No 3
December 2013

Region 8 News is published quarterly by the Region 8 Committee of the IEEE, and distributed free with IEEE Spectrum to more than 73,000 IEEE members. Read past issues online at www.ieeer8.org -> **R8News Newsletter**. Opinions expressed in *IEEE Region 8 News* are the authors' own and do not necessarily represent the policies of their employers or IEEE Board or Region 8 Committee.

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Deadlines for upcoming issues

March 2014 issue*deadline: 1 January 2014*
June 2014 issue.....*deadline: 1 April 2014*
September 2014 issue.....*deadline: 1 July 2014*
December 2014 issue.....*deadline: 1 October 2014*



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Left: the unveiling of the plaque draws a considerable crowd. Inset: one of the huge components of the system, still preserved.

Krka-Sibenik electric power system in Croatia gets IEEE Milestone recognition

ON 5 May, Croatia Section dedicated a IEEE Milestone for Krka-Sibenik at the site of the hydro power plant Krka, with the citation: "On 28th August 1895 electricity generated at this location was transmitted through 11.5 kilometers long overhead transmission line to the city of Sibenik, where six power transformers 3000/110 V supplied 340 street lamps. This early system of power generation, transmission and distribution was one of the first



complete multiphase alternating current systems in the world and it remained in operation until World War I."

The year 1895 was significant

for the first exploitation of water resources to generate electricity in Croatia, which brought public electric lighting to the streets of Sibenik. The architects were Sibenik's mayor Ante Supuk, his son Marko, and Sibenik's city surveyor, Vjekoslav Meichsner.

Croatia is very proud to have the first Milestone of this kind in this part of Europe.

The ceremony was opened by IEEE Croatia Section past chair, Igor Kuzle, followed by an introduction by current chair, Mislav Grgic. IEEE president Peter Staecker unveiled the plaque, assisted by Martin Bastiaans, IEEE R8 director, and Marko Delimar. Dražen Supuk, a great-grandson of Ante Supuk, gave an interesting talk about the people who initially conceived this idea and accomplished it.

ENERGYCON 2014

Dubrovnik, Croatia • 13–16 May 2014

IEEE EnergyCon is dedicated to experts carrying out research focused to energy and power systems. It has already become one of the premier IEEE forums for the application of electronics, instrumentation, information and communication technology to the electricity industry.

www.energycon2014.org

Region 8 supports schools and colleges

THE Pre-University Works committee has been working to promote IEEE's Pre-University programmes in Region 8. During two years, we have been quite successful in adding an education track (workshops on the Teacher In-Service Program), Engineering Projects In Community Service (EPICS-in-IEEE), and social innovation, etc. to every Student Branch and GOLD Congress held since June 2012 – seven congresses in all.

We have also been encouraging local events and activities in different parts of the region. In September 2013, we participated in the UK&RI Section Student Branch and GOLD Congress, and organised a TISP workshop, with 24 participants from 12 universities.

In October, PUW supported an Open Fest TISP in Greece with the help of the Mayor of Lamia, and the Greek Ministry of Education. We also helped the TISP workshops in Uganda and Kenya.

In collaboration with Region 8 PUW, the



IEEE Educational Activities Board's Pre-University Education Coordinating Committee (PECC) is organising a TISP Middle East, with some 100 participants participating from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Tunisia and UAE for this event in January 2014.

If you intend to organise a TISP or an EPICS-in-IEEE project then please email us at r8puw@ieee.org. More information is available at www.ieee.org/education_careers/education/preuniversity.

Sohaib Qamar Sheikh

Pre-University Activities Coordinator

Every Student Branch and GOLD Congress since June 2012 has featured an EPICS programme

Cyprus network brings entrepreneurs together

CYPRUS Section believes it has established the first IEEE Entrepreneurs Network in Region 8.

It was established in January 2013 with monthly meetings in Cyprus designed to bring people together who share interests related to starting a business. Events include talks and workshops for business planning, financing, leadership skills training.

A TechMatch program is structured to give participants some continuing support for their development ideas through direct communications and mentoring.

Further information is available from Anastasia Georgouli, Chair of the IEEE Cyprus Entrepreneurs Network. <http://ieee.org.cy/category/communities/other-communities/en/>

Guest lecture paves way for collaborative mm-wave research



Dr Stander (centre) with his hosts at Mangosuthu University of Technology

THE Mangosuthu University of Technology was pleased to host Dr Tinus Stander, SMIEEE, on 27 May at its campus in Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Dr Stander gave a lecture 'On-chip microwave passives for mm-wave: perspectives on size and quality', his research at the Carl and Emily Fuchs Institute for Microelectronics, University of Pretoria. The talk was well received and linked to activities of Dr Pius Owolawi, MIEEE at the Department of Electrical Engineering, Mangosuthu University of Technology.

The event was co-hosted by the APS/MTTS/EMCS chapter of the IEEE South Africa Section, and attracted 12 attendees from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, Mangosuthu, and the Tshwane Universities of Technology.

With an ever-increasing demand with wideband data transmission, mm-wave bands have been earmarked for medium range terrestrial communication such as LTE backbone links to rural areas. Mass penetration in the mobile market requires designers to look for simple-to-use packaged mm-wave front-ends, not only on-chip but also on-package and in-package. The lecture gave a brief look at current development on some of the passive components required for them.

Tinus Stander, Secretary
IEEE MTTs/APS/EMCS Chapter, South Africa Section
tinus.stander@ieee.org

MELECON 2014

Beirut, Lebanon • 13–16 April 2014

High quality peer-reviewed research from all over the world covering diverse topics in electrical, communications, biomedical and computer engineering.

melecon2014.org

Hard work wins recognition at Iran Section annual meeting

IRAN Section held its annual meeting on 15 May along with the 21st Iranian Conference on Electrical Engineering (ICEE'13) at Ferdowsi University, Mashhad, Iran.

Prof M Fotouhi, chairman of IEEE Iran Section, told us the plans of the Section for the next two years, including membership development, founding new chapters, and so on. Dr F Abdollahi, secretary of the IEEE Iran Section, reported on her attendance at the 100th IEEE Region 8 meeting in Madrid, at which Iran Section received the 2012 Outstanding Section Award.

At this meeting, Prof SK Yadavar Nikravesh and Prof AM Ranjbar received the IEEE Iran Section Distinguished Senior Researcher and Instructor awards and Dr Kh Mehrani was given the Young Researcher award.

Dr M Ashourian, the counselor of Majlesi Azad University, was honoured to receive the Outstanding Student Branch Counselor award and the IEEE Student Branch of University of Tehran won the Student Branch award.

In addition, the Student Branches of Ferdowsi University and Shiraz University of Technology were recognised for their extensive activities.

Finally, the BSc, MSc and PhD Thesis awards were given to A Sandoogh-saz (University of Tehran), P Dehghanian (Sharif University of Technology) and M Abdollahi (University of Tehran). Also, M Omid-Yeganeh (Sharif University of Technology) was honoured to receive the Iran Section's Woman in Engineering award.



Conference in Tunisia focuses on advanced logistics and transport

ICALT 2013, the 2nd International Conference on Advanced Logistics and Transport, was held at El Mouradi Hotel Soussse El Kantaoui, Tunisia, from 29–31 May. The conference was technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society and the IEEE Sfax subsection.

The technical program included nine plenary talks, 95 papers, a doctoral consortium, two tutorials on RFID and supply chain networks, and a workshop on smart cities.

The speakers included:

- Christoph Stiller, president of IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society, KIT (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology), Germany
- Vincenzo Piuri, University of Milan, Italy
- Klaus Schilling, IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, University of Würzburg, Germany

An IEEE booth was organised by the IEEE Sfax Subsection to encourage participants to join IEEE and to promote membership in the IEEE In-



telligent Transportation Systems Society, forming a ITSS Tunisia chapter.

Awards were given for best paper, best student paper and best doctoral project.

The next conference is planned for 1–3 May 2014, in Tunis, Tunisia. For more information, go online to www.icalt.org.

Adel M Alimi and Habib M Kammoun
<http://sites.ieee.org/tunisia-sfax>



The conference general chairs with speakers during the opening session

Awarding prizes for the best papers



500+ delegates attend conference in Khartoum

THE IEEE-Sudan Subsection hosted the International Conference on Computing, Electrical and Electronic Engineering on 26–28 August at Corinthia Hotel in Khartoum with more than 500 delegates.

The conference was technically co-sponsored by IEEE Region 8, the University of Khartoum, Sudan University of Science and Technology and Eljazera University and also supported by the Ministry of Science and Communications and the National Telecommunications Corporation. It attracted papers from 28 countries with a total of 341 submitted and 138 accepted papers.

The opening ceremony was attended by the minister of Science and Communications, Dr Eisa Bashari, the state minister of Communications, the Chancellors of

many Sudanese Universities or their representatives, deans of faculties of engineering and computer science of many universities, and representatives of the industry.

The success of the conference was a great success thanks in no small measure to its 90 volunteers. A number of Sudanese universities and research institutes have already shown interest in organising conferences and requested the Sudan Section to be co-sponsor.

Sharief F Babiker

IEEE-Sudan Subsection chair and chairman of ICCEEE University of Khartoum



Volunteers ensured the success of the event.

Contest encourages creativity in optimisation techniques



From left: Mourad Fakhfakh, Zouhair Kouki (second prize winner), Prof Taicir Loukil (member of the contest jury) and Miss Mouna Kotti (co-author of the winning paper).

THE 4th ENG-OPTIM contest – Engineering Applications of Optimization Techniques – took place on 30 April during the 5th International Conference on Modeling, Simulation and Applied Optimization at Hammamet-Tunisia.

Four papers reached the final, and Pedro Pereira *et al* from FCT-UNL, Caparica, Portugal, won the first prize for his work: 'Metaheuris-

tic Algorithms Comparison for the LC – Voltage Controlled Oscillators Optimal Design'. We offer our sincere congratulations.

Learn more about our activities at the Council on Electronic Design Automation (CEDA) Tunisia Chapter by visiting <http://sites.ieee.org/tunisia/chapters/>

Mourad Fakhfakh
IEEE Tunisia CEDA Chapter chair



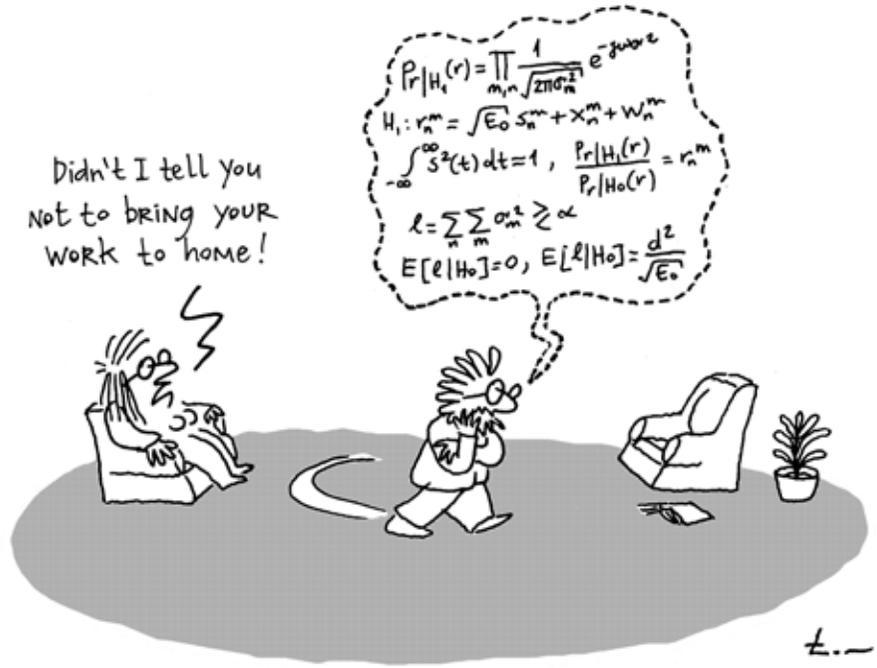
Industry trip by IEEE IAS Tunisia Chapter

ON 30 May 2013, the IEEE IAS Tunisia chapter organised an industry visit (during the ICALT'2013 conference) to LEONI Wiring Systems company located in Sousse, Tunisia. A group of six IAS members and ten invited researchers enjoyed the visit.

LEONI is a global supplier of wires, optical fibres, cables, cable systems and related development services for applications in automotive and other industries.

Several technical presentations about cable harnesses for the automotive industry were given in the conference area. The product value chain was shown in an impressive technical tour.

Habib M Kammoun, IEEE IAS Tunisia Chapter chair
<http://sites.ieee.org/tunisia-ias/>



IAS/PELS/IES Joint Chapter investigates Wittenstein business and future vision

THE IEEE Germany Section Joint IEEE IAS/PELS/IES Chapter gathered for its first meeting at the headquarters of Wittenstein Ag on 4-5 April.

Thursday evening's reception at the hotel Bundschuh was followed by a short hike to see a wolf pack within the nearby deer park.

On Friday we were welcomed by Dr Forati, chairman of the Joint Chapter, and Dr Thomas Kalker, CEO of Wittenstein Electronics, who gave an overview of the group's businesses. Their products are employed wherever systems and parts have to be driven and controlled with utmost precision. Today they offer intelligent mechatronic drive systems and servos, focussed on their miniaturisation integration network intelligence strategy.

Dr Ingolf Gröning spoke about electrical drives for sustainable mobility. Sustainability means sustainable production as well as efficient operation, for example by maximum

power density, custom designed for cycle efficiency. He gave an example of a fully electric racing bike with a complete custom motor integrated into a standard bike, capable of running a complete race.

Dr Frank Michel closed the technical session with an overview of Wittenstein's vision - 'Industry 4.0' - in which not only energy is processed by machines, but also process-related information is gathered into 'an internet of things'. In his example, the additional services are created out of the process data by collecting them in a cloud-based service.

Some brief IEEE business followed with Dr Omid Forati presenting the newly elected Chapter officers. The meeting concluded with a tour around the Wittenstein production facilities, as usual being one of the highlights.

Dr Andreas Wagener
 Germany Section
 Joint IAS/PELS/IES Chapter

IEEE Joint IAS/
 PELS / IES
 German Chapter
 at Wittenstein
 Headquarter in
 Igersheim



General chair Thanos Skodras (centre) with Program Committee chairs Lysimachos Kondi (left) and Christoforos Nikou

Strong tech line-up and fun social programme ensure event success

THE 18th International Conference on Digital Signal Processing, the oldest conference in DSP technically co-sponsored by IEEE and EURASIP, was held on 1-3 July on the picturesque island of Santorini, Greece.

DSP2013 addressed the theory and application of everything needed to manipulate signals by means of digital devices or techniques.

The conference achieved 'multi-dimensional success' by combining a good technical programme with professional networking and a fun social programme. Zero 'no-shows' out of the 183 papers were recorded!

Three plenary talks were highlights: Touradj Ebrahimi (EPFL, Switzerland), Vincent Poor (Princeton University, USA) and Fred Harris (San Diego State University, USA). Conference proceedings can be accessed online via IEEE Xplore Digital Library.

For more information, go to the website at <http://dsp2013.dspconferences.org/>
Professor Athanassios Skodras, chair DSP 2013
 Greece Section chair



GOLD programme strives for even better visibility

THE Region 8 GOLD Subcommittee strives for excellence in the activities of young professionals.

At the beginning of the year, the Region 8 GOLD Subcommittee decided to improve the visibility of the GOLD programme among students and young professionals. New promotional materials were prepared and several student events were presented with the benefits of the GOLD Program.

Students who were at the Student Branch Congresses had the chance to listen, talk and exchange knowledge with our subcommittee members or GOLD representatives. During the year, the GOLD program was presented at the Iberian, Central Europe, Middle East and UK&RI SBCs. The new Hellenic Student Branch

and GOLD Congress will also include a GOLD Track, and your representative will be there. Students are the future of IEEE, and we happily become the young professionals!

Together with local organisers, we prepared a GOLD session during EUROCON held in Zagreb in July. The Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Young Professional Congress will be held in Krakow in the summer of 2014 and the GOLD team together with SAC and local teams are preparing the event of the decade!

In July, two GOLD Teams from our Region were recognised for their exceptional efforts. Tunisia was awarded the MGA IEEE GOLD Hall of Fame Award, and Finland the Region 8 Outstanding GOLD Affinity Group Award.

A new initiative from our subcommittee,



'Meet the IEEE Celebrity', will present interviews with exceptional volunteers from our Region and worldwide. For more details check our Facebook page or website: gold.ieeer8.org.

Amir Zahoor, GOLD Subcommittee

All Student Branch Congresses include a strong GOLD track.

EUROCON provides opportunity for GOLD sessions on entrepreneurship

REGION 8 Graduates of The Last Decade and Young Professional Activities committees joined to provide a special session track designed for IEEE GOLD members attending the EUROCON 2013 conference in Zagreb, Croatia.

With the local support of Croatian GOLD volunteers, five lectures and a workshop were given during the first conference day.

Tomislav Pokrajcic, Croatia GOLD chair, presented activities of Region 8 GOLD groups and told how Croatia GOLD won the Region 8 Outstanding Affinity Group Award in 2011.

Damir Sabol, co-founder of Zagreb Entrepreneurship Incubator, gave an overview of what it takes to build a successful startup company.

Jan Verveckken, Region 8 Professional Activities chair, presented data that showed entrepreneurship opportunities for young

engineers in Croatia in relation to other EU countries.

An introduction to the Global Competitiveness Index was given by Marko Lackovic of the Croatian Competitiveness Council, with a focus on ICT categories. Croatia was ranked in the top third of countries by the latest World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report.

Prof Zeljka Car of the University of Zagreb talked about the necessity for active corporate social responsibility in the ICT domain with an emphasis on accessible user interfaces.

The programme was closed with a 'Body Language' workshop by Kurt Richter in which participants learned the importance of understanding non-verbal communication in a business environment.

For more information, see www.ieee.hr/ieesection/gold



Portuguese GOLD AG chair Miguel Marques speaks up.

What do you know about GOLD/YP?

BEING a member of an IEEE Student Branch has given students amazing experiences, friends, networking and a lot of skills that have complemented their degree. But, what happens after graduation?



Elena explains the benefits.

Did you know that there is a 'Graduate of the Last Decade/Young Professionals' IEEE community you can belong to after graduation? GOLD/YP is a community of

young and vibrant professionals looking for opportunities and challenges to fulfil their hunger for success.

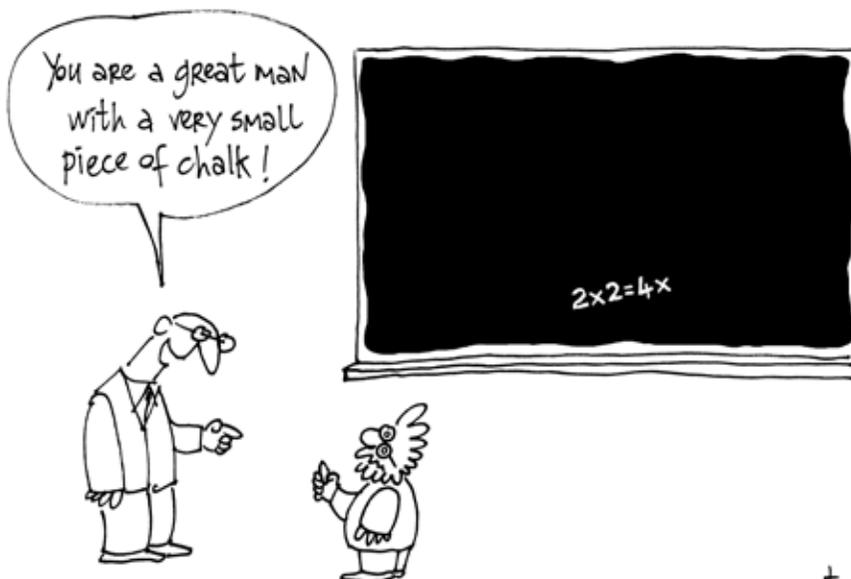
By taking part in a GOLD/YP Affinity Group you will be able to get involved in plenty of both technical and non-technical activities that will launch your successful professional career. The R8 GOLD/YP session at the SBCs will show you what the community is, and all the benefits of getting involved in our activities.

On 13-15 March the Iberian Student Branch Congress 2013 took place in Porto, Portugal, with great success. Congratulations to the organising team.

Elena, member of the GOLD Committee, had the pleasure of attending the ISBC, enjoying the event and all the activities. She also gave a lecture about GOLD in collaboration with the Portuguese GOLD Affinity Group Chair, Miguel Marques.

This session is framed in a new initiative that the GOLD/YP Committee started with the aim of promoting the GOLD/YP community among student members. Want to learn more?

Elena Pareja Monturiol





Develop a mobile app and win big prizes

SIX criteria will be judged: UI Design, User Experience, Usefulness, Availability, Number of supported platforms and Open source support.

Participants must send us their applications (in proper format), screenshots and a short video of application in which they will show how app is working. Applications that pass the idea stage will go to development. All applications that pass the judging threshold will be uploaded on online market account for every mobile platform and will be available to download for free.

All information about madC is available online at www.ieeer8.org – just look under Students activities -> Awards and Contest -> IEEEmadC.

You can also follow us on our official Facebook page at www.facebook.com/IEEEmadC.

After the competition, every participant will receive a t-shirt and the best three teams will receive attractive prizes (smartphones, tablets, etc).

The IEEE Foundation General Fund has given big support for IEEEmadC and IEEE Student Branch Osijek won the 2013 Student Enterprise Award for it.

We invite all students to learn how to develop useful mobile applications, submit them to IEEEmadC and win great prizes. And don't forget to have fun while doing it!

Josip Balen

Arab Academy for Science and Technology, Alexandria, Egypt

Student Branch shows its qualities in leadership

IEEE Egypt Section, Alexandria, Arab Academy for Science and Technology Student Branch wrote some more pages in its success story with its sixth annual event, 'Leading Your Career, Leading Your Society 2013'.

From 8–10 February, the programme covered 30 hours of technical workshops and soft skills sessions in three days. Our target audience included graduates, students and schools.

For the first time, a short movie was shown in the Planetarium, with the theme 'Be Unique... Change The World'.

Our main sponsor, ITIDA, gave us technical and financial support.

Sparks Centre, Compute Square and *Hashtag* magazine gave us academic and media support.

This year we welcomed representatives from Egypt Section, including Alexandria Student Branch, Helwan Student Branch and Misr University for Science & Technology Student Branch. We succeeded in securing female speakers and attendees thanks to the involvement of IEEE Women in Engineering.

Daily feedback forms on organisation and programme content were highly positive with excellent ratings for registration, help desk, hosting, transportation, organisation, event agenda and venue.

New branding for SAC, new name for SBC... 2014 looks set to be even better

DEAR IEEE Student Friends!

A great year is now coming to an end with a better one to come. 2013 was a year full of excellent student activities and events, cross-sectional and sectional congresses as it is usual in odd years. So many nice memories from ISBC, MESBC, CEUSBC, HSBC and of course, all the Sectional Congresses like UK&RI, Egypt etc.



IEEE Region 8 SAC has a new jewel

Check out our new SAC Logo, above. This design is now the brand of our Student Activities in our Region. At this point, we would like to thank David Dias for his contribution this year, and to wish him good luck in his new adventures.

Student and Young Professional Congress 2014

Yes, you read correctly: our Regional Congress has been renamed from SBC to SYP! This year's event will be held in the beautiful city of Krakow, Poland, from 6–10 August 2014.

It will be a great opportunity for students to meet, learn about IEEE and its programmes, exchange ideas with other fellow students and professionals around Region 8 and have a memorable experience. Prepare your traditional delicacies, your nice outfits, energy and your best smile because SYP 2014 is going to Krakow!

More details will be announced at the official website at www.sbckrakow.pl.

You can always visit us at our webpage www.ieeer8.org/category/student-activities and Facebook page www.facebook.com/ieeer8sac, or send us your news and awesome activities at r8sac@ieeer.org and we can share with the world your experience.

Keep up the excellent work and thank you for being part of the IEEE Family. See you at the next event.

Your Region 8 Student Activities Committee,
Pablo, Christian, Piotr, Efthymia, Elias and Djordje
r8sac@ieeer.org

University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan

Technology day is great for catching up

UNDER the patronage of Dr Kleif Al-Tarawneh, president of the University of Jordan, the IEEE JU Student Branch organised an event entitled 'Technology Catch-Up' with the

co-operation of the student initiative TechnoEcho. It was a two-day event at the Faculty of Engineering, gathering more than 300 University students from all over Jordan.

The first part introduced the latest technologies and tools that the world is currently focusing on and which have the highest rate in development: smart phone development tools, markets and their changes day after day, web development, robotics, electronics and social media.

The second part was about soft skills and managerial skills which encouraged each student to start

his own project. It included sessions such as: how to know things, how to be an active millionaire, how to prepare yourself for interviews, and how to think creatively.

All of these together with interactive sessions and contests with a big technology expo. This event was one of the biggest events in technology field in Jordan and attendees received certificates for the training they received.

Mosab Alawad

JU Student Branch vice chairman

Ahmad Ayyad

JU Student Branch chairman

Participants at the Technology Catch-up event





Arab Academy for Science and Technology, Cairo, Egypt

AAST students experience that light-bulb moment once again

ALMOST 130 years have passed since spring 1884 when a group of engineers, inventors and scientists got together to form a professional body for electrical engineering.

From Thomas Edison came the electric light bulb, from Nikola Tesla the innovations of electric power including wireless energy transmission.

IEEE AAST Cairo Student Branch decided to commemorate this anniversary by a very special photo which represents Thomas Edison holding a light bulb while Nikola Tesla writes IEEE using Wireless Electricity.

Ahmed Abd El Raouf
Mentor, IEEE AAST Cairo Student Branch

University of Central Greece, Lamia

Budding online developers head off to web boot camp



IEEE Greek Section, University of Central Greece Computer Chapter and Student Branch organised its first IEEE Computer Society Web BootCamp for web design, held in Lamia on 21–24 May.

Through some intense lectures, exercises and tutorials on HTML, CSS, MySQL, PHP, JavaScript and WordPress, the BootCamp's 15 participants acquired all the necessary knowledge in order to develop a simple but most demanding website.

The participants were invited to build a website around a topic of interest, which they prepared

and presented on the last day of BootCamp.

We would like to thank our trainers Alexander Kustov, head of Image and Communication at the IEEE ISCTE-IUL SB, and Rui Costa, co-ordinator of the IEEE-X Academic Project, for their knowledge and their passion. Also thanks to David Dias, IEEE Computer Society Region 8 Membership Development Coordinator, because nothing would have happened without his special contribution.

Ioannis Mousmoutis
Chair of IEEE CS UCG Student Chapter

American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Technical and professional sessions enrich Middle East SBC at AUB

THE IEEE AUB Student Branch in Lebanon had the honour of hosting the third IEEE Middle East Student Branch Congress between 28 May and 1 June on the American University of Beirut's AUB campus.

Participants from Cyprus, Egypt, France, Jordan, Palestine, Poland, Sudan, Turkey and Tunisia came to be part of this conference.

The opening ceremony was addressed first by AUB's Provost Dr Ahmad Dallal, followed by Dr Makram Suidan, dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at AUB, and Dr Ghassan Shaban, IEEE Lebanon chair.

The congress held several technical, professional and IEEE workshops and lectures. In addition, participants enjoyed many

activities including a welcome barbecue and sightseeing tours of Beirut and the Jeita grotto.

At the gala dinner, the name of the rally paper, FM TV competition and the traditional Delegation of Aspiration competition were announced. Winner of the DOA was An-Najah Student Branch, Palestine, which will host the next ME-SBC in 2015.

Region 8 was represented by Simay Akar, the Region's Student Chapter co-ordinator, Muhammad Mustafa of TISP Global and Maciej Borowka from the EPICS Global Team.

Yahia Sinno was the ME-SBC committee chair.

Ghassan Shaban
Chair, Lebanon Section

Congress participants at the gala dinner



University of Manchester, United Kingdom

Mini-colloquium marks ten years of Student Branch in Manchester

THE University of Manchester IEEE Student Branch marked its tenth anniversary on 12 June with a one day mini-colloquium in partnership with the newly formed University of Manchester Electron Devices Society (EDS) Student Branch Chapter.

The colloquium consisted of a mixture of oral and poster presentations centred on the theme 'Engineering beyond the lecture room'. It gave an opportunity for the 45 participants to learn from distinguished speakers who are actively involved in applied research.

There were technical talks from researchers at UK universities, a talk on R&D process from industry, and a talk on intellectual property rights for researchers in academia. Poster sessions included research, innovative project ideas and educational, to interest both post-graduate and undergraduate students.

Further details can be found at <http://ewh.ieee.org/sb/uk/manchester/>.

Emerson Sinulingga, Student Branch Chair
Bevan Patel, Student Branch News and Media Officer

Following the theme 'Engineering beyond the lecture room', attendees were treated to talks on R&D and intellectual property.



Al Ain University of Science and Technology, UAE Satellite designer Yahsat is focus of AAU field trip

THE IEEE AAU Student Branch organised a field trip to Al Yah Satellite Communications Company (Yahsat) which designs satellites for the government and commercial sectors in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and South West Asia.

Abdelrahman Al Ashli and members of the technical team welcomed the students with a profile of their services, such as BSS, the frequencies (C, Ku, Ka bands) and the steps followed when launching a satellite.

Our trip supervisor, Dr Nazih Khaddaj Mallat of the College of Engineering and Information Technology and counselor of our Student Branch, highlighted the college strength in the practical side of the learning process. The visit was a good opportunity to discuss future cooperation between Yahsat and AAU. Dr Mallat invited the Yahsat technical team to AAU

and give a talk about their work.

In May, the Student Branch attended the 4th Engineering Students Renewable Energy Competition, held at United Arab Emirates University. Fifty four teams represented by 183 students from 11 universities from the UAE and abroad took part in the competition which was opened by Prof Reyadh AlMehaideb, Dean of the College of Engineering at UAEU, with Dr Mallat.

Dr Mallat mentioned that ES-REC is becoming the focal point for students across the UAE. Their projects focused on the variety of renewable energy: solar, wind, fuel cells and hydrogen. The world is looking for 'clean' alternatives. Research is essential to find them. The AAU College of Engineering and Information Technology is a leading contributor through its significant research programs.



Members of the Student Branch are taken on a tour of Yahsat.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Power Electronics Society student members promote IEEE at conference

IEEE Bosnia and Herzegovina Section helped organize the 11th BH CIGRE Conference held during 15-19 September.

Power Electronics Society student members promoted IEEE to other conference participants, giving brochures and information.

This co-operation was intended to introduce current and future activities of the IEEE Section and also to hear about the interests of different stakeholders in electricity sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Since the conference was held in Neum, a pleasant small town on the Bosnia and Herzegovina seaside, it was also an opportunity for some relaxation for our members.

Elvisa Becirovic

Bosnia and Herzegovina IEEE PES Chapter chair



Other attendees could take advantage of the IEEE stand manned by PES volunteers to learn more about the organisation



University of Valencia, Spain

Spain SBC participants attend workshops (and tuck into paella)

THE National Student Branch Congress is an annual event that gathers representatives from all IEEE Student Branches in Spain for three days. It is arranged by a different Student Branch each year.

Between 21 and 23 March, this year's Spanish SBC was held at the University of Valencia's ETSE-UV Superior Technical School of Engineering.

More than 40 students, most of them representing their universities, together with the IEEE Spain Section, participated in this event. The Opening Event was conducted by Spain Section chairman Pilar Molina, Student Activities chair Juan Jesús Rodríguez, Rector's delegate Daniel González and the director of ETSE-UV Vicente Cerverón.

The aim of N-SBC was to meet different Student Branches, to speak about their

achievements and problems so that we could learn from them. Round-table discussions and workshops were organised on topics related to new technologies and to IEEE organisation.

We also enjoyed visits to the European Space Agency, Val-Space installations, and to the High Power Space Materials Lab at ETSE-UV (www.val-space.com) and the City of Arts and Sciences (www.cac.es) in Valencia.

At the conference dinner, we had a great time eating delicious paella, a typical Valencian rice dish.

The Student Branch of the University of Oviedo was chosen to organise next year's National SBC and Loreto Horcajada was elected as our new student rep.

Adrián Suárez Zapata

Chair, University of Valencia Student Branch
asuarez@ieee.org



National Engineering School of Sfax (ENIS), Tunisia

Robots and training sessions for Hardware Freedom Day

IEEE Tunisia Section Student Branch at the National Engineering School of Sfax, celebrated Hardware Freedom Day on 11 May.

ENIS Student Branch collaborated with Robotics and Automation Society and Industry Application Society chapters. The day aims to promote benefits of Open Hardware by increasing awareness of projects and communities worldwide and of local Open Hardware initiatives.

More than 60 students came

to the event. The programme featured an exhibit of robots built by students, and included training sessions with Arduino cards, programming and an introduction to PIC microcontroller programming.

Everyone obtained a good insight into the amazing world of open hardware, which was also reflected in their positive feedback.

For details and photos, please visit www.ieee-enis.org.

Randa Hammami

Chair, ENIS Student Branch

Bath University, United Kingdom

UK&RI SBC looks at volunteering, standards and world of academia

IEEE Student Branch of Bath University organised the 3rd IEEE UK&RI Section Student Branch Congress from 6–8 September.

More than 80 participants came from UK&RI section, 14 Student Branches and 20 universities in UK and Ireland. A welcome from the Vice Chancellor informed us that Bath was formerly the centre of ship design in the UK, and now the university is in the forefront of electrical machines, power engineering and ground-penetrating radar.

Ali El-Mousa, Region 8 secretary, brought two issues to our attention: the value of interconnection with elder mentors to give students their experience and advice and the value of volunteering – an invitation to discover things about yourself that you didn't know.

Adrian Stephens gave an informed lecture about standards development and the difference between process/specification development and *de facto* standards, such as USB. Politics, economics and technology are all involved. He said a standard is complete when all are equally unhappy with the outcome.

Rui Costa from Region 8's Educational Activities committee presented the IEEE-X Academic project, a useful educational resource. IEEE Academic is an international

project, with college students and professors creating free educational materials together. It gathers multimedia content created by several local initiatives into an online educational resource focused on students' needs at their universities and colleges, in their own languages. It began at the Student Branch in Lisbon, Portugal, and a workshop at the SBC marked the beginning of the work towards developing the IEEE-X Academic in UK&RI Section. Visit academic.ieee.org for more information.

A presentation by Prof James Davenport gave a clear description of the differences in career titles for academics – the progression from 'lecturer' to 'professor' with the 'old' and 'new' styles in the UK, and the North American and European systems. In many systems, only professors are 'real people'.

It was an excellent SBC, well organised, informative and enjoyable.

Rui Costa



Blekinge College of Technology, Karlskrona, Sweden

Thesis poster competition draws in plenty of entries

IEEE Sweden Section, BTH Student Branch organised its 2nd IEEE Thesis Poster Competition on 3 June with a promising number of participants at Blekinge Institute of Technology.

Graduating students from the electrical, mechanical, software engineering and computer science departments presented their thesis and research works in the form of posters. A qualified jury of experts judged the quality. Cash prizes for the winners, certificates for all the participants, and surprise gifts were offered.

There were many opportunities for interaction with representatives

from some of the large companies. Also seminars on career development were offered from both perspectives of academia and industry.

BTH Student Branch also organised events such as a Matlab workshop in April, at which more than 75 students learned the basic concepts and functions of one of the most widely used modelling tools. In addition, an IEEE Officers/Volunteers Training Workshop and IEEE Motivational Workshop were held which gave us an overview of IEEE's structure and advice on how to turn a Student Branch into a well-oiled machine.

Caledonian College of Engineering, Seeb, Oman

Workshop explores safety issues in power distribution

IEEE Oman Section, Caledonian College of Engineering Student Chapter organised a workshop on 'Distribution and Electrical Safety Regulations in Oman' for electrical power students on 16 March.

Abdul Rehman welcomed the guest speakers: Abdul Hameed Farag Guname of the Majan Electricity Company, Prof Vallavaraj of ADUGS, Mansoor Ali of CCE and Dr Dharmasa, the CCE-IEEE Branch Counselor.

Dr Dharmasa reported on vari-

ous activities organised by the CCE Student Chapter.

Some 40 students attended in two sessions. Abdul Hameed covered the role of the Majan Electricity Company, the power network and its control, connections, billing and payment in Sultanate of Oman. In the afternoon session, the speakers covered topics on electrical safety, standards and Regulations in Oman.

Pawar Dharmasa
CCE-IEEE Branch Counsellor
Sultanate of Oman



Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria

JKU Linz Student Branch invites fellow SBs on Ars Electronica Center visit

On 20 June, Johannes Kepler University Student Branch held an event for which 21 guests from Student Branches at Ljubljana, Graz, Klagenfurt and our twin, Passau, had been invited to Linz to visit the AEC, Ars Electronica Center.

We all met at the AEC for a guided tour. The exhibition themes change each year to keep up-to-date. One was called 'Out Of Control – What the web knows about you'. It attempts to sum up which data is collected and stored about us in a global scale.

At the end we watched the 'Deep Space' presentation in their unusual cinema. This

has a huge 16x9-metre screen, where the floor is used to extend the screen, and everything in stereoscopic 3D. We travelled through our solar system and watched the milky way from outside – virtual, of course.

Back to the KHG student dormitory near the Johannes Kepler University, we integrated our traditional 'stammtisch' with the KHG summer party and had a great BBQ grill. This gave us the opportunity to plan some future activities with our neighboring Student Branches and build stronger connections in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

www.ieee.jku.at