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# region8news

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



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## Visiting lecturer leads Adaptive Filter workshop in Ghana

IEEE Ghana Section sponsored a workshop on Adaptive Filter Theory that took place on 9 December 2014 at Academic City, Sikkim Manipal University, Ghana.

The aim was to equip participants with the technical knowledge required for IT professions in the area of circuit and system design. The workshop considered accomplishments in this field of research and encouraged discussion of recent developments.

Professor Tokunbo Ogunfunmi of Santa Clara University, California, explained how adaptive filtering techniques are used in a wide range of applications, including echo cancellation, equalization, ...continued on page 2 ▶



The winning team with their robot

## Souped-up robots fight to the death

VIOLENCE? Yes... but not senseless. IEEE Egypt Section Mansoura Student Branch organised a Robots' Cemetery competition on 20 October 2014 in Mansoura. Eight teams participated on the day, including teams from Mansoura University and different schools.

The intention was to promote innovation by students, gain experience about electronics and robotics, and to develop teamwork skills. With an eye to international competition, Robots' Cemetery was accompanied by workshops on wireless communication, mechanical design and motor control.

To win this battle of the bots, each team's robot must destroy its foe or at least force it

to stop moving for 20 seconds. As a result, designs inevitably included a variety of combat and defensive weapons which helped them during the struggle.

The competition was judged by specialists in robotics and electronics. At the end of the day, the best three teams received prizes, presented by the Student Branch chairman.

A second, improved Robot's Cemetery is being planned for September this year, so keep track of developments.

**Noha Abo Al-khair**

Mansoura Student Branch public relations

**Muhammad Ali Moustafa**, past chair

<https://www.facebook.com/IEEE.ManSB>

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2015 offers us new opportunities within the global IEEE community. These may vary across the Regions but have one purpose to "foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity". Our Region 8 is the largest geographic region and the most diverse, with many kinds of people, languages and traditions.

Our diversity can lead to creativity, innovation and productive cooperation. IEEE volunteers work as a team and we aim to provide service to our members and to humanity as a whole.

What are some key challenges for us in the year ahead?

#### ● Getting closer to Industry

More than half of our members work in industry. What do they need from IEEE products and services that could better support them and stimulate their professional development?

To find out, we intend to have each

## We shall meet the challenge – message from R8 Director



section appoint active members to be Industry Ambassadors. We set up an Action for Industry committee whose tasks are challenging.

#### ● Students and Young Professionals

With IEEE activities, we need to find new ways to appeal to them. The first step was to set up teams in our students and young professionals committees.

The next is to help them with all possible tools, resources and support available. Special emphasis is to add value to continuing membership.

Regional SYP Congresses will aim to offer student members plenty of opportunities for interchange of ideas and social contact. Region 8 Student Congresses have been very successful and are now a model for many other IEEE regions which are planning similar events.

Our future events need careful planning: to find new ways to motivate our members, to create new competitions, to find smooth transition paths to retain IEEE members as young professionals. Chapters, Affinity groups and Sections will play a vital role here.

#### ● Section Vitality

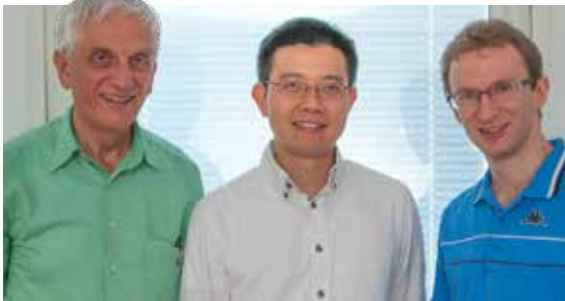
This is the cornerstone of all our activities. Active sections need to support their Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches. This has long been recognised, but last year had renewed focus and I would like to see this to continue strongly into 2015. To be successful in this, a large number of volunteers will need to be found and nurtured.

Effective and inspiring leadership should be a mixture of young and old, academic and industry people from various areas of each Section. Appointments should be filled with capable people. Chapter, Affinity Group and Branch chairpersons should be invited to Section executive committee meetings.

It can be hard to find the right volunteers but if we create the right mix of professionalism, technical knowledge and social atmosphere, we can achieve it.

**Costas Stasopoulos**

Region 8 Director 2015/16



Your editors: Zhijia Huang (centre) with Roland Saam (left) and Bojan Nikolich

## IEEE talent spotting: how can you contribute to Region 8?

WE hope your holidays gave you a good start for the new year. Many new volunteers will take up their positions in the Region 8 committees. Please welcome and support them and the officers in your Section.

If you can contribute some of your talent to local activities, you may find new friends and new ideas. In this issue our new Region 8 director, Costas Stasopoulos, tells you how.

The core objectives set out by Region 8 new Young Professionals (page 5) and the invitations from Student Activities team (page 6) are interesting reading. Please take to opportunity to learn about them.

### Publishing IEEE Region 8 News in new ways

To achieve our goal of bringing news to every member in Region 8, we need more people to act as

reporters, sending in short articles and photos about your activities, ideas and IEEE events. This year we will begin promoting Region 8 news items through new channels, to reach members who do not have printed *Spectrum* subscriptions. Please send in your stories, big or small. We would like to follow them up and encourage more collaboration between different groups within the Region.

### Young Professionals get set to engage

There is more in this issue from the YP Affinity Groups. The new YP committee is set to engage industry members, improve interaction and get more publicity for YP members' activities. Please check the Region 8 website ([www.ieeer8.org](http://www.ieeer8.org)) and say hello to your YP committee.

**Zhijia Huang**

## Visiting lecturer leads Adaptive Filter workshop in Ghana



► continued from page 1...

noise cancellation, and beam-forming. He also outlined the principles behind adaptive filters and provided a comprehensive introduction to adaptive filter theories.

IEEE Ghana Section vice-chair George Edfuful took the opportunity to speak about IEEE membership benefits for students.

Attendees were invited to join IEEE, as well as the IEEE Computer and Circuits & System Societies. Looking ahead, one of Ghana Section's goals is to establish a local chapter.

**Kamal K Hiran**

IEEE Ghana, Professional & Technical Activities  
Sikkim Manipal University

# IEEE region 8 news

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### Extra copies

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

### Submitting articles

We welcome news, articles and letters from any member of the IEEE. Please send these to the editor as plain text by email to [r8news@ieeer8.org](mailto:r8news@ieeer8.org), remembering to type 'Region 8 News' in your email subject line. If sending photos or graphics, please make sure they are high-resolution files. Read our full guide to writing and submitting articles at [www.ieeer8.org](http://www.ieeer8.org) -> R8News Newsletter -> Tips for contributors.

### Deadlines for upcoming issues

July 2015 issue.....deadline: 1 May 2014  
October 2015 issue.....deadline: 1 August 2015



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# Radio ham tunes in to lecture circuit in India

EVER since visiting India in September 2013, I could not wait to go again – and so I returned at the end of 2014. The visit began with a two day seminar on Amateur Radio Digital Information and Communication Technologies, at the Surdar Vallabhai National Institute of Technology in Surat, one of the most prestigious institutions in the state of Gujarat.

I was assisted by Huzefa Merchant, VU2HIT, a Mumbai ham radio amateur who knows all the regula-

tions and local practices. Thanks to Mrs Upena Dalal, a number of women students to participated.



tions and local practices. Thanks to Mrs Upena Dalal, a number of women students to participated.

Mohan Ram, VU2MYH, director of National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), and I conducted a tutorial session during the 11th International Conference on Wireless and Optical Communications Networks at KL University in Vijayawada, and supported by IEEE Hyderabad Section.

KLU is full of seasoned technologists, and has an excellent position for establishing an amateur radio relay station.

Back in Hyderabad, NIAR organised two more lectures, the first at

the Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Engineering and Technology, with the practical part led by Jose Jacob, VU2JOS.

The second session was held at the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at Vardhaman College. It was organised by N Venkatesh, vice-chair of IEEE ComSoc/SPS Hyderabad Joint Chapter, and Professor Zafar Ali Khan gave the introduction and Mohan Ram and I gave the talks.

My next stop was Chennai. Here, I lectured at SRM University as the guest of IEEE Madras Section.

The final part of my journey included three educational institutions in Gwalior city, including the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, one of the most remarkable of its kind.

From my observations, education in India is eager for original and modern ideas. I hope to give more amateur radio tutorials and workshop sessions in years to come. Plans include an international conference on amateur radio in education. Should you want to collaborate, please get in touch.

**Miroslav Skoric**  
 YT7MPB, Austria Section  
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# Swiss to explore space and electronics in new Chapter

A new Chapter, the Swiss Aerospace Electronic System AES-CH, was founded in June 2014 at the old control tower of Zurich Airport. The elected chair is Heinz Wipf and the vice-chair is L Quiriconi.

AES-CH technical and networking events have included two meetings in Switzerland related to aerospace and electronic systems. The Chapter also has links to industry and academia, hoping to

strengthen exchange across aerospace and space exploration fields.

An IEEE/Swiss Crows ([www.crows.ch](http://www.crows.ch)) joint lecture on New Generation Jammer Architecture for Shared Apertures was given by Dr Andrea De Martino and Dr Graziano Lubello of Elettronica SpA from Rome. This was followed by a get-together with wine and snacks sponsored by industry.

*Heinz Wipf*

## HISTELCON 2015

Tel Aviv, Israel • 16–21 August 2015

Historical symposium for the exchange of ideas on engineering and technology history within IEEE Region 8 from different technological fields

[www.ieeeeghn.org/wiki/index.php/Histelcon](http://www.ieeeeghn.org/wiki/index.php/Histelcon)



# Focusing on ICT dialogue and scientific co-operation in Jordan

ON 12–14 October 2014, the IEEE Joint Computer/Computational Intelligence Chapter Jordan Section sponsored an event entitled Promoting ICT Dialogue and Scientific Co-operation towards Horizon 2020.

More than 120 experts from Europe and the Region participated in the event, which was held at Princess Sumaya University of Technology with European projects MED-Dialogue, MOSAIC, EU-JordanNET II and SRTD II.

The aim was to bring together European and Mediterranean researchers to create new proposals for the Horizon 2020 ICT.

The focus was on these ICT topics:

- Advanced computing
- Future Internet
- Content technologies and information management
- Robotics



- Micro- and nano-electronic technologies, Photonics
- ICT cross-cutting activities
- Health, demographic change and well-being
- Secure, clean and efficient energy
- Smart, green and integrated transport
- Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials
- Europe in a changing world – innovative, inclusive and reflective societies
- Secure societies – protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens

*Edward Jaser*



Attendees were treated to four keynote lectures in Beirut, Lebanon

# Renewable energy event returns

THE second International Conference on Renewable Energies for Developing Countries (REDEC 2014) was held at the Order of Engineers and Architects of Beirut, Lebanon, on 26–27 November 2014.

The event was co-sponsored by IEEE Lebanon Section, the Lebanese Association for Energy Management and Environment and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society.

More than 120 participated, including undergraduate and graduate students from several local universities. There were 42 oral technical presentations during two days.

The conference was opened by Professor

Imad Mougharbel. The four keynote speakers were: Dr Richard Cantin from École Nationale des Travaux Publics de l'État, France; Prof Nesreen Ghaddar from the American University of Beirut; Anne-Marie Giroux from the Research Institute of Hydro-Quebec, Canada; and M Simon Abourida from OPAL-RT Technologies, Canada. Their topics surveyed the use and exploitation of renewable energy.

A superb gala dinner was organised by the local committee in Coral Beach Hotel on the Mediterranean coast of Beirut.

REDEC 2014 thanks the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society for their technical sponsorship and assistance.

*Dr Hadi Y Kanaan*



Daniel Pasquet at the podium, with Jan Macháč (centre) and Ramesh Gupta

Photo: Alexandr Sadovnikov, Russia Saratov/Penza Chapter

## Microwave groups gather for European flagship event

REGION 8 can boast 51 Microwave Theory and Technique MTT-S Chapters, including six MTT Student Branch Chapters. They meet every year for the European Microwave Week, the most important microwave event in Europe.

These meetings help inform volunteers how to run their chapters. Chapter officers from kindred societies – AP, ED and EMC – were also invited.

Some 52 participants attended, representing 22 chapters from Region 8 and other IEEE Regions. The Antennas and Propagation Society

was represented by its president Tapan Sarkar.

European Microwave Week combines three events: EuMConference, EuMIC Conference and EuRadar Conference.

MTT-S President Robert Weigel presented plaques to the winners of the IEEE MTT-S 2014 Outstanding Chapter Award: Croatia, East Ukraine, North Jersey, Southeast Michigan and Russia Saratov/Penza.

**Daniel Pasquet**

MTT-S AdCom, MGA chair

**Jan Macháč**

R8 MTT-S Chapter coordinator

## Latest biennial GCC conference is historic first in Sultanate of Oman



Members of the Conference and Exhibition steering and organising committee from Oman and other GCC states

OMAN'S capital Muscat was the venue for the 8th biennial IEEE GCC Conference and Exhibition, hosted at Sultan Qaboos University on 1–4 February 2015.

Organised by Oman Section together with Oman Society of Engineers, this technical event is considered to be the most prominent gathering of electrical, electronics and computer engineering professionals in the GCC region. The conference has previously taken

place in other GCC states: KSA, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain.

It aims to convene practitioners and students from various industries, academic and research institutions. The event's key objective is to discuss engineering developments together with tutorials, workshops and industrial exhibitions on the theme: Towards Sustainable Smart Solutions.

**Arnold N Santos**

Secretary, Oman Section

## Sarajevo students get practical experience with beENG project

MEMBERS of University of Sarajevo Student Branch decided to help themselves to gain practical engineering experience through a project called 'beENG', running for seven days during October 2014.

The aim was to give every student an opportunity to spend one day in a company that works in electrical engineering.

With the co-operation of University of Sarajevo, IEEE Student Branches of three Societies – PES, IAS and ComSoc – and with the Bosnia & Herzegovina Young Professionals Affinity Group, sponsorship was achieved through the STEP (Student Transition and Elevation Partnership) program.

Because students were not just participants but organisers, the first step for us was a phone call to companies that are in area of our interest. After explaining what the project was about, we followed up with an official e-mail to every company and waited for their answers. This turned out even more successful than we had expected, with 11 public and private companies from three different cities in Bosnia & Herzegovina agreeing to participate.

Those taking part included JP Elektroprivreda, BiHRegulatorna agencija za komunikacije, Elektroprivreda HZ-HB, Deling, Elektro test, Simeco systems, Siemens BiH,

ISKRAEMECO, Electra and Excellent d.o.o.

It's important to say that this was an unique opportunity for members of IAS Student Branch to co-operate with some of the largest electrical engineering companies in Bosnia & Herzegovina. During all seven days of this project, each student spent a day in one of the listed companies. In each, we were welcomed by kind and professional staff who never got tired of answering our questions.

Media partners were TV Alfa, Radio Antena and portals *sigma.ba* and *source.ba*.

A panel discussion was held at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering on the last day of the beENG project. Representatives of all companies that participated in our project and also students were invited to join.

The goal was to discuss how projects such as this could become a tradition and with the common aim of helping students get more experience. Company representatives were asked which skills students are expected to have. Another positive thing is that we had an opportunity to directly ask our older and more experienced colleagues for advice that would help us get jobs.

We want Project beENG to become an annual activity, letting students work for seven or more days in electrical engineering companies.

**Vahid Helać** and **Nađa Hodžić**

University of Sarajevo Student Branch IAS Chapter

## Localization and navigation are focus for ICL-GNSS in Finland

THE fourth International Conference on Localization and Global Navigation Satellite Systems was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 24–26 June 2014, organised jointly by Tampere University of Technology and the Finnish Geodetic Institute ([www.fgi.fi](http://www.fgi.fi)). It was technically co-sponsored by the IEEE and IEEE Communications Society.

The event brought together 45 professionals from the field of positioning and navigation for three days. Keynote speakers included: Lauri Wiroola from HERE, Finland; Marco Lisi from ESA, Netherlands; Valerie Renaudin from IFSTTAR, France; and Vidal Ashkenazi, Nottingham Scientific, UK.

Two awards were presented at the event. The best paper award was given to Enik Shytermeja, ENAC, France, for the multi-technology positioning professionals special ses-

Dr Ashkenazi talks satellites



sion. The best presentation award went to Nyein Aye Maung Maung, Ritsumeikan University, Japan.

The social events were well received by attendees. These included a reception at FGI, with the house band playing; a banquet on the old fortress island, Suomenlinna; a sightseeing tour of Helsinki city; and a barbeque dinner in the courtyard of the brewery restaurant, Bryggeri.

For 2015, ICL-GNSS will be taking place in Gothenburg, Sweden. Visit [www.icl-gnss.org](http://www.icl-gnss.org) for more information.

**Jari Nurmi**

Tampere University of Technology, Finland



### AFRICON 2015

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia • 14–16 September 2015

IEEE Region 8 flagship conference of the African continent, providing a platform for academics and industry professionals from all over the world to share ideas and present their latest research

<http://africon2015.org>

## Inspirational speakers: 'We can have it all'

AN event hosted by South Africa Section Women in Engineering in August 2014 revealed how the role of women in promoting education and technology is often overlooked.

Professor Hanekom from the University of Pretoria explained that practising engineering does not rule out a social life: "We can have it all – family, a career and even partake in sports."

Miss Wilson, head of the Cloud Line of Business at Jasco Enterprise, was inspirational, recounting her own history of resourcefulness at Telkom, then Jasco.

Miss Adam, an electrical engineer in the Measurement and Control Division at Mintek, encouraged us to make engineering a lifestyle and combine it with charity. She presented her project: the Solar Powered Raspberry Pi LAN for learners in rural communities.

**Uduak Ekpenyong**

WIE South Africa Section chair  
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[ieee.org.za/women-engineering](http://ieee.org.za/women-engineering)



## Activity plan results from YPs' first ever meeting in Hungary

HUNGARY Section and the Young Professionals Affinity Group organised an IEEE Day on 7 October 2014 on the premises of Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME).

The opening words were presented by Péter Kádár, the chair of Hungary Section. Then Professor Árpád Csurgay, an IEEE Life Fellow, held a highly interesting presentation about the mission of a Young Professional in Hungary.

This event was the first meeting of Young Professionals in Hungary.



*Ideas were ballooning at BME last year*



*Egypt Section chair with the YP Volunteers in green*

## Egyptian Engineering Day attracts 13,000 visitors

'SOLUTIONS Among Us' was the slogan for the 13th Egyptian Engineering Day, organised by Egypt Section Young Professionals.

EED 2014 was an exhibition of 230 engineering and computer science graduation projects from all Egyptian universities. Some 13,000 visitors came to see the projects and consider how they might be applied.

Young Professionals Egypt selected projects that could have a direct effect on industry with potential to solve real problems in the Region. YP worked jointly with government and industry sectors to make sure the projects were on track.

More than 35 technical sessions examined a variety of up-to-date trends in many scientific and engineering subjects.

Egypt's prime minister was the keynote speaker at the Opening Ceremony in Cairo on 10 September 2014. Region 8 director-elect (now director) Costas Stasopoulos talked about IEEE's regional achievements,

and Dr Habib Kamoun presented a session about the EPICS program.

All the EED Projects were judged by panels of qualified academic and industry judges. More than 30 awards were handed to winners, and many startups were reported.

Sponsors from leading companies in Egypt exhibited technology and offered new tools for engineers and graduates.

The EED Facebook page exceeded 100,000 'likers' who engaged with EED News. You can read a complete report at [www.facebook.com/EgyptianEngineeringDay](http://www.facebook.com/EgyptianEngineeringDay)

Egypt Section's 300+ YP volunteers clearly demonstrated that during the year, they are working intensively for the IEEE goal: 'Advancing Engineering for Humanity'.

**Khaled Mokhtar**

Egypt Section YP vice-chair

## Young Professionals kick off new projects

WITH the beginning of 2015, the new Region 8 Young Professionals committee is set to bring YP members a better and more rewarding membership experience.

We have identified three core objectives:

- to engage with industry members
- to improve work jointly with the R8 committees and affinity groups, with student members
- to improve YP members visibility and activities.

In order to do this, the YP committee will evaluate the worth of the Company Branch program (which brings industry members together) and the Event Exchange program (a platform for Affinity Group members to exchange event ideas).

We'll begin by launching the Region 8 *YP Industry Newsletter*, containing stories about industry, the job environment, business practices and job-hunting tips and tricks. This should help us understand the entrepreneurship scene in our Region for those interested in starting a company. It could also be a platform for startup companies to reach out to IEEE members.

Another objective is to improve the perception of young IEEE professionals through cross-section congresses and by large-scale industry conferences and publicity for winners of IEEE annual awards.

We are planning a year full of exciting projects to give Young Professional members help with their careers and better IEEE benefits.

**Region 8 Young Professionals Subcommittee**



## Norway takes initial STEP on IEEE Day after setting up Affinity Group



*Evaluations revealed that many were unaware of the programs and tools for YPs*

NORWAY Section established its Young Professionals Affinity Group in June 2014. Its first goal was to create awareness. To do that, a STEP event titled 'Opportunities for Young Professionals in IEEE' took place on 7 October in Trondheim at NTNU, the main university for higher education in engineering and technology in Norway.

The event tried to answer the following questions:

- Who is considered a YP in IEEE?
- What is this YP Affinity Group about?
- Why should I be active in IEEE as a YP?
- How do I get involved?

Mixing short informative presentations with group activities, it was possible to show the 31 participants (17 IEEE members and 14 non-members) the opportunities in IEEE to help them to evaluate their career goals,

polish their professional image and create the building blocks of a lifelong and diverse professional network.

The event also celebrated IEEE Day with a teamwork activity challenging participants to take pictures that best represent the day's theme: 'Leveraging Technology for a Better Tomorrow'. All groups were very creative, and it was a hard job to select winners.

The event was very successful, with evaluations revealing that most were unaware of IEEE's YP programs and tools such as ResumeLab, MentorCentre, E-learning tools and community and humanitarian activities. Several became new members and others volunteered to contribute to the AG activities and to promote IEEE in their own networks.

**Erick Alves**

YP AG Norway Section

## A warm welcome from the new Student Activities committee

STEERING the IEEE R8 SAC wagon in 2015 are Mona Ghassemian, chairman (UK&Ireland); Pablo Herrero (Germany) past chair; and Efthymia Arvaniti (Germany), the voice for all Region 8 student members and our student representative.

Heind El-Rawy (Egypt) is the Electronic Communication co-ordinator and will take care of our online presence. Lebogang Madise (South Africa) is the link between all Student Branches and is our SB coordinator. Dinko Jakovljevic (Croatia) is our Awards & Contests coordinator, Youmna El Bitar (Lebanon) is working on new project ideas as Project coordinator and Carlos Lopez Barrio (Spain) will handle the Student Paper Contest. Ruba Aburub (Jordan) and Ahmet Taygun Namli (Turkey) are Corresponding Members to our SAC team.

At this point, we would like to thank the previous committee – Pablo, Christian, Piotr, Djordje and Elias – for their years of service and for being by our side for a smooth transition.

Every odd year, cross-sectional Student Branch congresses take place across Region 8. We will be merging our forces with the Young Professionals to create more interesting events. 2013 was awesome, but we promise 2015 will be even more impressive!

Another surprise: there is to be a new IEEE West European Student and Young Professional congress (WESYP), planned for late May.

Here are the congresses planned for 2015: Ilberian SYP (April), CEuSYP – Central European SYP (early May), the new WESYP (May), MESYP – Middle-East SYP (August) and Hellenic SYP (late 2015). Also, Sectional congresses being planned this year – in Turkey, UK, Egypt and others.

We look forward to meeting you there. Check out for a congress near you!

We want your participation in these congresses: in your activities and in your events. Please remember that we are here for you. If you need anything or have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch with us via our Facebook page or at [r8sac@ieee.org](mailto:r8sac@ieee.org). Also, please share your ideas with us, and send us pictures of the great events and congresses that you organise. To ensure smooth communication between us and your Student Branch, please remember to report your new branch officers using IEEE vTools.

Finally, we would like to congratulate you – yes! You are all amazing persons, and each of you has a tremendous role in our big IEEE Region 8 student family, our future leaders. You make all the difference! We look forward to seeing you, participating in and organising events. See you out there!

Your 2015 SAC,  
**Mona, Pablo, Femia, Lebogang,  
Dinko, Heind, Carlos, Youmna,  
Ruba and Ahmet**



University of Sarajevo Student Branch PES Chapter

## Women cook up electrical storm

THE Chapter launched a project to highlight the problems faced by women in electrical engineering, especially the power and energy field. Our goal was to arrange for them an embedded system and micro-controllers workshop entitled: 'What's cooking ladies?'

Just before this, however, we decided to organise a small seminar led by women engineers who work in the economy sector in our state. The seminar was held on 3 November 2014 at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and attracted women students from all engineering faculties of the university, including civil, mechanical and traffic. The main topic of discussions were the equality of women engineers during their first employment, in advancement to management positions, in professional decision-making, and so on.

Other promotional activities undertaken before the workshop included promotional posters in the area of university campus, sharing promotional flyers with students, and a promotional campaign on social networks.

'What's cooking ladies?' was led by Darijo Raca, teaching assistant at Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Sarajevo, held on 6–9 November 2014.

The first two days focused on the theoretical basis and simple exercises with microcontrollers, with a traffic lights full embedded system on the third day. 20 women members, from our Chapter and guests from other IEEE Student Branch Chapters, took part. Certificates of participation were awarded.

After the electronic workshop, participants cooked and prepared food for themselves as social activity. Additional food and groceries were taken to a humanitarian facility.

*Narodna Kuhinja*

### Warsaw University of Technology, Poland

## Warsaw SB ensures a happy new year

THE Student Branch at Warsaw University of Technology organised a New Year's Eve meeting at the end of 2014 for Poland Section. It was an opportunity to discuss important events of the year, such as the IEEE Milestone honouring the achievement of three mathematicians who cracked the Enigma code.

As well as students, the meeting was attended by Józef Modelski, director of IEEE Division 4, and Ryszard Jachowicz, Poland Section chair.

We encourage all Student Chapters in Region 8 to get together with Student Branches at WUT. Contact us at [ieee.wut.sb@gmail.com](mailto:ieee.wut.sb@gmail.com).

*Konrad Markowski*



From the left, sitting: Ryszard Romaniuk, Józef Modelski, Ryszard Jachowicz, Mariusz Malinowski and the dean of the Faculty of the Electronics and Information Technology, WUT, Zbigniew Gajdo

IN less than two months between August and October 2014, 45 new student members joined Western Saudi Arabia Section. In addition, 12 teams registered for the forthcoming IEEEExtreme competition.

From August 2014, Eman Alashwali, the Student Activities chair for Western Saudi Section and the counselor of King Abdulaziz University Ladies Branch, dedicated herself to raise awareness of IEEE to the students. She says: "I have two major goals: first, to activate the available Student Branches to be a

## Raising IEEE awareness inspires Saudi students to participate

place for sharing knowledge and fun by conducting engineering-related activities; second, to inform students about IEEE and inspire more volunteers to join and contribute.

"I have successfully built effective communications with the universities, Branch counselors and students. Lots of emails and social media posts have

been exchanged to publicise the upcoming IEEE events and to encourage them to participate."

During September, Eman conducted six meetings and presentations with academic staff and potential student volunteers. She met students and academics from three major universities in the Region. On 26 September, she delivered

an IEEE Overview presentation to two colleges: the faculty of Engineering and the faculty of Computing at KAU. A total of about 190 students attended. Our thanks go to the staff and volunteers of both colleges that hosted the events.

She adds: "The campaign has successfully informed Saudi students about IEEE, the competitions, congresses, etc. We have a lot of smart and active students. I expect more involvement from them in IEEE activities in the coming months."

*Eman Alashwali*

## University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

### IEEE Fellow gives talk on power quality monitoring

IEEE Bosnia and Herzegovina Section Power Energy Society Student Branch, UNSA, hosted IEEE Fellow Jovica Milanović, currently working at the University of Manchester, UK. This event in Sarajevo was highly successful because it gathered students, teachers and guests from important companies and several towns.

Professor Milanović received his Dipl Ing and MSc degrees from the University of Belgrade, his PhD from the University of Newcastle, Australia, and his Doctor of Science from the University of Manchester, all in Electrical Engineering. He spoke about the University of Manchester and power quality monitoring (current industrial practice and future trends).

*Arneta Kozar*  
PES Student Branch, UNSA



## Bordeaux Electrical Engineering Branch, France

### Week-long event raises BEE-SB profile

TO increase its national and international visibility, in October 2014, Bordeaux EE Student Branch members held a week of conferences at their campus at the Intégration du Matériau au Système Laboratory and at the ENSEIRB-MATMECA engineering school of Bordeaux. During the event, students had the opportunity to discover the BEE Branch activities, and many joined IEEE.

The organisation committee proposed 11 lectures on different topics related to the research activities of the IMS Laboratory. The aim was to gather all PhD students around this event. The proposed topics concerned Bioelectronics, Radio Frequency, Air & Space and Innovation in industry. The week was also an opportunity to hold several social events around scientific discussions such as cocktails, lunches and dinners.

Seminars were offered by overseas researchers, including Dr Jean-Michel Redoute, associate professor at MONASH University, Australia, who spoke on 'Circuit Design for Biomedical Application'. An MTT-S Distinguished Lecturer, Dr Earl Mc Cune lectured on 'Silicon Valley Culture – radical innovation by not adhering to widespread conventional practice' and 'Embrace Circuit Nonlinearity to get Transmitter Linearity and Energy Efficiency'. Students met him throughout the week to discuss their research topics.

BEE Branch hosted the MTT-S France Chapter Annual Congress, including 2014 activities and a technical project on an RF transceiver designed by students. And award for the best IMS2014 MTT France Section presentation was given to Frédéric Parment.

*Jeremie Prades and Anthony Ghiotto*  
contact@ieee-bordeaux.org



## National Engineering School of Sfax (ENIS), Tunisia

### 260 attend second Tunisian SB Congress

TUNISIA Section and the Student Branch of the National Engineering School of Sfax (ENIS) had the honour of hosting the 2nd IEEE Tunisian Student Branch Congress on 22–23 December 2014 in Sousse, Tunisia (<http://tsbc.ieee-enis.org>).

TSBC 2014 was the biggest engineering event in Tunisia. It brought hundreds of IEEE members from 15 Student Branches across Tunisia.

During two days, 260 attend-

ees came to hear high-quality talks presented by eight distinguished speakers. The program featured professional and technical activities led by international experts.

An IEEE booth was ready to present the IEEE student transition and elevation benefits and to congratulate recent IEEE graduate members. Three Student Branches – ENET'Com, ESTI and INSAT – were selected as the best in Tunisia based

on the success of their activities during 2014.

The National Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology Student Branch will host TSBC 2015.

We trust all speakers and members who participated in this year's congress had an amazing time and we would like to thank our IEEE partners.

*Habib M Kammoun*  
TSBC 2014 general chair

## Saudi students among worldwide top 100 in IEEEExtreme programming competition

IEEE competitions are one of the most attractive aspects of membership for students. They assess their talent and involve them in engineering-related activities organized by experts on a scale that isn't found elsewhere.

A lot of effort was put into publicising the latest IEEEExtreme competition, with surprising results: 12 teams came from Student Branches from Western Saudi Section alone, with 18 from other Sec-



tions, including nine from King Abdulaziz University Ladies Branch. This shows wonderful enthusiasm.

Happily, a team from King Abdullah University of Science and

Technology (KAUST), represented by Emaad Manzoor and Maruan Al-Shedivat, hit the top 100 winners by ranking 94th worldwide. The second team in the Western Saudi Section level was represented by Hajar Muhammed and Maram Al-Safri, and the third by Asmaa Balamash and Roaa Alnazawi.

We received positive feedback and the students intend to take part again in coming years.

*Eman Alashwali*

## CCE-IEEE Student Branch, Oman

### Industrial visit for part-time students

IN September 2014, CCE-IEEE Student Branch in Oman organised its first industrial visit. It was held in the evening for electrical power engineering part-time students, who got an overview of the power industry at Waleed Associates, Oman.

This company works as a certified channel partner of Siemens on technical areas such as power automation, variable frequency drives, instrumentation and programmable logic controllers.

The visit was organised by Dr Dharmasa, IEEE Branch counselor and membership development officer, Oman Section.

Avinash Pawar, technical manager, explained safety, design and trading processes and also the role of a turnkey engineer in the power industry. He covered topics such as commissioning, trouble shooting, annual maintenance contract, supervisor of power automation and switchgear operation. PLC expert Ayaman Rashid then spoke about the impor-



tance of minimising miniature industrial computers.

Students visited departments including regenerative loading of machines, speed control using VFD and the factory acceptance testing area. During the visit, testing and speed control of AC motors was open for interactive Q&A session. Part-time students were interested in learning about those innovative products and services, which could make a difference to customers.

The CCE-IEEE Chapter plans to organise further study trips like this for the CCE student community.

University of Thessaly, Greece

# IEEE Day in Lamia

UNIVERSITY of Thessaly Student Branch celebrated IEEE Day on 30 September 2014. We welcomed the freshmen students and informed them about IEEE in Region 8, the Greece Section, UTH (Lamia) Student Branch, our past activities and our future plans.

A coffee and cake session followed. This was a great opportunity for conversation and exchange of opinions between old and new IEEE members.

It allowed those interested in IEEE to learn more about the organisation, its activities, how to register and how to join in Branch activities.

There were 200 participants at the event.

*Moutsouri Irene*

UTH (Lamia) Student Branch chair



Electrical and computer engineering department, CCE IEEE SB, Oman

# Workshop focuses on technical report writing

ON 14–15 October 2014, a workshop at Caledonian College focused on topics including technical report writing, plagiarism and renewable energy in Oman. It was organised by Dr Dharmasa Abdulrahman Jaradat, Student Chapter chair.

The participants, staff and students from various branches of engineering programs had the opportunity to learn many useful tips and tools presented by IEEE student members and staff.

The program included talks by Dr Ravinder Kumar and Gani Basheer Ahmed, supplemented by an online quiz using mobile phones on the topic 'Plagiarism'.

On the second day, a talk on 'Cost Effective Plan of Green Power in Oman' was delivered by Alyasa Ahmed Al Rashdi.

Geetha Achuthan, Rahma Yahya Said Wadhahi, Fathimath Zuha Maksood and Sarah Obaid Sheikh brought the focus onto CCE-Harvard referencing style.

*Dharmasa Pawar*

Oman Section  
CCE Branch counsellor



QI-IEEE-SB students attending the QMIC field trip

Qatar University

# Students get moving on mobility innovations

● Field Trip to QMIC

In September 2014, QU-IEEE-SB arranged a field trip for its members to Qatar Mobility Innovations Centre.

QMIC is the region's first centre for mobility technologies in smart applications. Students learned about hardware, embedded systems and chip design, as well as how data collected by various sensors is communicated, processed and stored.

● Qatar University IEEE Student Branch Orientation Day

In order to attract new students, QU-IEEE-SB organised orientation days at the beginning of the academic year. This event, held on 24–25 September 2014, aimed to encourage students to be a part of the world's largest technical soci-

ety. Students were also briefed on forthcoming Student Branch events which include workshops, technical presentations and field trips. The orientation day attracted about 40 new members for IEEE.

● Students and Young Professionals Congress 2014

In August 2014, two students from QU-IEEE-SB attended the SYP congress in Krakow, Poland. The students gained much from the diverse environment of the congress, networking and exchanging ideas and experiences with IEEE members.

Students could attend field trips to Nokia and Motorola. Another important feature of the congress was to exchange expertise about best practices needed to successfully run an IEEE student branch.



Osmangazi University Student Branch, Turkey

# Enterprising event for careers attracts 600

FOR the sixth time, the annual '2 Gunde Sirket'i Alem' event was organised by Osmangazi University Student Branch. On 12–13 April 2014, about 600 students attended and more than 100 came from other IEEE Student Branches.

The purpose was to gather all industrial areas together under one roof in order to help shape the career plans of the students. These areas included telecommunication, energy, automotive and production.

Companies' representatives presented their latest technological advancements and also their career opportunities with the students.

*Mere Ate*

Osmangazi University Student Branch

University of Ibadan, Nigeria

# Smart future for Ibadan students

THE University of Ibadan Student Branch held its 2014 edition of the SPAC program on the theme 'Smart Systems for a Sustainable Future' on 5 November 2014.

After Branch counselor Dr AR Zubair welcomed the guests, Debo Onifade highlighted skills needed for a successful engineering career. Gbenga Okunlaya then spoke on 'Future Focus for Current Generation', describing how to make and operate smart technology.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to the guest speakers by the IEEE UI Chapter chair, Chizitere Ezennia. The event ended with informal interactions with guests from invited schools around South West Nigeria.

*Chizitere Ezennia*

cezennia@gmail.com

# News in brief

## Droidforce – make an app for Android



PORTUGAL: The Computer Society at the Instituto Superior Técnico Student Branch began an ambitious and motivating project: DroidForce!

The Objective is simple: develop in teams an app for the Android OS and with these apps participate in events and competitions. Each team will work on a specific project. It is an ambitious contest – we want to participate in IEEEEMadC.

*André Pires, Gonçalo Vicente*  
IEEE IST CS

[ieeelist.org/droidForce](http://ieeelist.org/droidForce)

## Celebrating IEEE Day in Cairo



EGYPT: Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport in Cairo Student Branch gathered to share their technical ideas with an event that discussed the history of IRE and AIEE.

*Ahmed Abd El Raouf*

Mentor, IEEE AAST Cairo SB

## IEEEExtreme 8 contest in Jordan



The Joint Computer/Computational Intelligence Chapter – Jordan Section with support from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) organised the competition site for the IEEEExtreme 8 programming contest for Jordanian students.

JUST hosted 48 teams from seven universities in Jordan with the attendance of more than 140 as participants and volunteers.

*Edward Jaser*