



Scan me with your smartphone to reach the R8N website.



Above (from left): Abbey Road's Peter Cobbin and Isabel Garvey, IEEE president Howard Michel, and Alan Dower Blumlein's grandson Alan and son Simon. Right: Lucky invitees from IEEE, the recording industry and the press clamour to enter the world-famous Abbey Road Studios.



Blumlein Milestone proves to be a hit



EMI Studios on Abbey Road in London was renamed after the success of The Beatles' album Abbey Road, recorded there in 1969.

EMI's Abbey Road Studios in north London, UK is famous for hosting a great many recording stars over the years: The Beatles, Pink Floyd, U2, Radiohead... and now also, thanks to a new IEEE Milestone, Alan Dower Blumlein and his invention of stereo recording.

On 1 April, 100 recording engineers, musical personalities, EMI executives and members of the press joined IEEE and the Blumlein family

in Studio Two, where The Beatles recorded most of their work, in a day-long celebration of stereo sound recording and reproduction inventions of the great engineer.

The day began with speeches and tributes leading up to the dedication of an IEEE Milestone plaque, unveiled by IEEE president Howard Michel and Abbey Road Studios managing director Isabel Garvey, followed (after lunch) by an after-

noon of technical lectures and a lively panel discussion and Q&A.

The Milestone commemorates Blumlein's invention of stereo recording in 1931, after which he patented microphones, record-cutting equipment, circuits and processes needed to record and reproduce realistic stereo sound for cinema. He ably demonstrated these a few years later at Abbey Road Studios itself – at the time, brand new and called simply EMI Studios – by recording the London Philharmonic Orchestra in stereo, conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham.

Those inventions are still relevant today. Two channels could

...continued on page 3 ▶

Cyprus is theatre for launch of Region 8 Committee initiatives



Region 8 Committee Meeting participants enjoy an evening visit to the ancient city of Courion.

Καλημέρα! Getting closer to industry, revitalising Sections and encouraging Student members and Young Professionals were the principal themes at the spring Region 8 Committee Meeting, held in Limosol, Cyprus at the end of March. Committee members, sub-committee representatives and Section heads came together under one roof, hosted by Cyprus Section, to debate issues, share reports, plan ahead and network with their IEEE counterparts across the Region.

Early arrivals on Friday 27 March were invited to participate in discussions on the three themes listed above throughout the day, alongside breakout meetings on diverse

topics from membership development and awards to conference co-ordination and strategic planning. The evening's formal welcome reception, dinner and awards ceremony followed a technical lecture by Tracy Spaight of Wargaming.net on the 'freemium' commercial model for multiplayer online gaming.

Saturday saw the opening of the main session, beginning with the Region 8 Director's address, during which Costas Stasopoulos explained more about the three initiatives on which Region 8 Committee will focus over the next couple of years. 'Action for In-

...continued on page 4 ▶

Proposed changes to IEEE Constitution need debating

THE Ballot for IEEE's Annual Election commencing in August 2015, in which IEEE members have the opportunity to vote for the IEEE president-elect and various other leaders (depending upon the IEEE Societies, etc to which they belong) was due to include the option to vote on a major set of changes to the IEEE Constitution. The option was a simple vote 'For' or 'Against' all of the proposed changes.

This plan has since been withdrawn by the Board of Directors, with some of the provisions of this amendment proving controversial, and strong objections being raised by experienced IEEE volunteers including a number of past IEEE

presidents, directors and other IEEE leaders. The marked-up version of the IEEE Constitution, with IEEE Board of Directors approved rationale and descriptions of the impact can be found at: www.ieee.org/about/corporate/election/proposed_constitution_revisions.pdf

Many matters currently under the control of the Constitution had been proposed to be transferred to bylaws, where they could in future be altered by a simple majority vote of the IEEE Board of Directors, requiring no support from the IEEE membership as a whole.

A web site developed to collect comments and endorsements

...continued on page 3 ▶

IN THIS ISSUE

IEEE contacts.....2

R8C Meeting gallery.....4



Section and Chapter news.....5

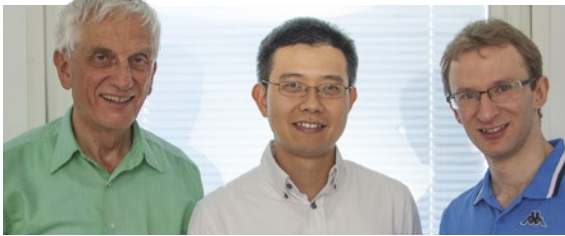


Cartoons.....6, 9, 11



Student news.....7-12





Your editors (from left): Roland Saam, Zhijia Huang and Bojan Nikolic.

Shouldn't this organisation remain volunteer-led?

EARLIER this year there was a plan to include on the 2015 Election Ballot a vote to alter the IEEE Constitution. Amendments which now require our approval (i.e. that of the voting members of IEEE) would be transferred to bylaws which can be altered by the Board of Directors.

That plan would have removed several protections that safeguard our volunteer-led technical society: the 10% participation requirement for Constitution amendments, the prohibition that the Board of Directors receives no salary, the requirement that Regional and Divisional Directors shall serve on the Board, and allowing staff to serve as voting members of the Board.

Matters of governance could then be decided by a simple majority vote by a much smaller IEEE Board of Directors, even at very short notice and without support from the IEEE membership as a whole. You can see the IEEE Constitution indicating all proposed revisions here: www.ieee.org/about/corporate/election/proposed_constitution_revisions.pdf

Fortunately your Board of Directors decided at their June meeting to withdraw this item from 2015

ballot. However, it is an important subject which we feel our readers should learn more about. We believe that the implications of any changes to the IEEE Constitution should be published, explained and debated by all of us. Otherwise it becomes too easy for a few clever persons to take control of IEEE. The real worldwide volunteer-led society of learned people we have today could quickly become just another publishing house or commercial conference outfit.

For more details, see the story beginning on page 1 of this issue. Please also take some trouble to search "constitution" on the IEEE website. Discuss the issues, listen to the arguments and form your opinion. Check out this blog where high-level IEEE volunteers express their opinions: <http://bit.ly/Save-IEEE-Constitution>

It is the policy of IEEE to facilitate open discussion, including opposing views, of issues and initiatives to appear on the ballot (Constitutional amendment and referendum). This applies to those proposals suggested by the IEEE Board of Directors as well as those of other members of IEEE.

Zhijia Huang, Roland Saam

IEEE SIGHT wants to help fund your humanitarian projects

THE IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee is inviting applications for project funding support. SIGHT groups' major goal is to create opportunities for members to devote time and talents to humanitarian work consistent with IEEE's Constitution to "bring the benefits of technology to the entire world."

The committee will support a wide range of projects depending on the problems that project is trying to address. The level of funding support has been between (US)

\$500 and \$20,000. A projects guideline has been made available which describes the scope and nature of the projects.

For full details, including help on submitting a SIGHT project, see the website at: http://www.ieee.org/special_interest_group_on_humanitarian_technology.html

Holly Schneider Brown
Staff Lead and Program Manager,
IEEE SIGHT
h.s.brown@ieee.org

IEEE region8news

Vol 18 No 2
September 2015

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.ieee.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.

News & articles

r8news@ieee.org
Student News email
r8news@ieee.org

IEEE Region 8 website

www.ieee.org
Editors
Zhijia Huang
zhijia.huang@ieee.org
Roland J Saam
r.saam@ieee.org
Bojan Nikolic
bnikolic@ieee.org

Editorial production

Alistair Dabbs
a.dabbs@ieee.org
Printing & mailing
Theresa Smith
tsmith@ieee.org

Delivery problems

Please notify all problems regarding membership, publications delivery and change of address directly to IEEE member services. See website www.ieee.org and email member-services@ieee.org.

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@ieee.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.ieee.org -> **R8News Newsletter** -> **Tips for contributors**.

Deadlines for upcoming issues

December 2015 issue.....deadline: 1 October 2015
March 2016 issue.....deadline: 1 January 2016



REGION 8 OPERATING COMMITTEE OFFICERS 2015

Operating Committee (OpCom)

Director
Costas Stasopoulos (Cyprus)
costas@ieee.org
Director-Elect
Margaretha Eriksson (Sweden)
margaretha.eriksson@ieee.org
Past-Director
Martin Bastiaans (Benelux)
m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org
Secretary
Christian Schmid (Austria)
c.schmid@ieee.org
Treasurer
Brian Harrington (UK & Ireland)
b.harrington@ieee.org
Vice-Chair, Member Activities
Dusanka Boskovic (Bosnia & Herzegovina)
dusanka.boskovic@ieee.org
Vice-Chair, Student Activities
Mona Ghassemian (UK & Ireland)
mona.ghassemian@ieee.org
Vice-Chair, Technical Activities
Igor Kuzle (Croatia)
i.kuzle@ieee.org

Appointed Members

Awards & Recognition
Marko Delimar (Croatia)
m.delimar@ieee.org
Chapters
Nazih Khaddaj Mallat (United Arab Emirates)
Conferences
Adel Alimi (Tunisia)
adel.alimi@ieee.org
Educational Activities
Manuel Castro (Spain)
Action for Industry
Nihal Sinnadurai (UK & Ireland)
Membership Development
Adeel Sultan (United Arab Emirates)

Ad-hoc Members

Electronic Communications
George Michael (Cyprus)
xeirwn@ieee.org
Assistant Secretary, Social Media and Web pages
Younna El-Bitar (Lebanon)
History Activities
Tony Davies (UK & Ireland)
tonydavies@ieee.org
Corresponding members:
Antonio Perez Yuste (Spain),
Antonio Savini (Italy)

Professional Activities
Ana Katalinić Mucalo (Croatia)
Region 8 News
Zhijia Huang (UK & Ireland)
zhijia.huang@ieee.org
Roland Saam (UK & Ireland)
r.saam@ieee.org
Standards Coordinator
David Law (UK & Ireland)
david_law@ieee.org
Student Representative
Efthymia Arvaniti (Greece)
earvaniti@ieee.org
Young Professionals
Flavia Dinca (UK & Ireland)
f.m.d@ieee.org

Life Members
Charles Turner (UK & Ireland)
c.turner@ieee.org
Women in Engineering
Simay Akar (Turkey)
Section Vitality Coordinator
Aleksandar Szabo (Croatia)
a.szabo@ieee.org
Assistant Treasurer and Voluntary Contribution Fund
Adam Jastrzebski (UK & Ireland)



The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
3 Park Avenue, 17th Floor
New York 10016, USA

IEEE prohibits discrimination in its activities.
For more information, visit www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/whatis/policies/p9-26.html

Proposed changes to IEEE Constitution need debating before it's too late

► continued from page 1...

from those opposed to the amendment can be found at: <http://bit.ly/Save-IEEE-Constitution> or <https://ieeeconstitutionamendment.wordpress.com/>

The IEEE Institute is also maintaining a web site for commentary and possible official response at: <http://theinstitute.ieee.org/briefings/business/proposed-amendment-to-the-ieee-constitution>

Some relevant facts about the proposed IEEE Constitutional Amendment:

1. It eliminates Constitutional requirements to have both Regional (MGA) and Technical (TAB) Directors (Article VI Sections 2 and 3).

"This change would move the approval of future changes to the IEEE Board of Directors, as opposed to the members" (according to the IEEE Board approved change description).

This clearly means that any changes in the composition (membership) of the Board of Directors would have been given to the Board itself to decide. It would also mean that in future there could be no representation at all from some IEEE Regions.

2. It eliminates the 20-day notice period for changes to the bylaws, and transfers authority to change the Board structure to the Bylaws (Article II section 2, and Article IX Section 1).

"This change would allow for modifications in the future to provide some other process by which Directors may be selected without the members approval" (according to the IEEE Board approved change description).

3. It eliminates minimal member control over

changes to the Constitution (Article XIV Section 2).

Currently at least 10% of all members entitled to vote must participate in the ballot for a change in Constitution to take place, in addition to the two-thirds majority for any change, with remains a requirement.

4. It eliminates prohibitions against remuneration of Directors, and against IEEE acting as a trade union (Article X Section 4, and Article I Section 2).

5. This proposal was put forward without a plan for changes either in concept or proposed Bylaw changes. This makes it impossible to determine if any of the proposed changes are actually needed to accomplish the Board's re-organizational objectives.

All IEEE members are encouraged to review the proposed changes, and the discussions emerging on the various web sites, so that they can develop a well-informed position on the proposals. They are also encouraged to contribute to debate about the proposals, so that when the voting does take place, the electorate is as well informed as possible about the advantages and disadvantages and any possible risks to the future of IEEE.

At its June meeting, the 2015 Board of Directors voted to delay the decision timetable to allow for more discussion of the issue among the members and the committees of IEEE, and so remove it from the 2015 IEEE Annual Election Ballot. We should use this opportunity to debate the issue fully.

Jim Isaak and Tony Davies



From left: Tony Davies from the IEEE UK&I Life Members Activity Group, IEEE past-president Roberto deMarca, current president Howard Michel and IEEE Region 8 News editor Roland Saam.

Blumlein Milestone proves to be a hit at Abbey Road

► continued from page 1...

be recorded in a single groove on a gramophone disc by using a 45-degree cutting angle. The method was backward-compatible with the single-channel equipment already in use. Defects such as low-frequency turntable rumble and high-frequency distortion were distributed equally over both channels.

Visitors to Studio Two that day were also treated to a display of historic original microphones, electronics and stereo-cutting tools from the EMI Archive Trust,

together with some classic sound recordings and historic videos.

The IEEE Milestone ceremony was planned and designed by the IEEE UK & Ireland Life Members Activity Group over the past two years with the help of the Blumlein family. UK&I LMAG acknowledge the support and enthusiasm from Universal Music and Abbey Road Studios who staffed Studio Two with the friendly assistance of their employees who helped make this a very memorable occasion.

Tony Davies
UK & Ireland LMAG

IN Region 8 there are more than 1,000 Life Members over the age of 65 and whose combined total of age and years of IEEE membership equals or exceeds 100. Currently, 11 Sections (Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and UK & Ireland) have formed Life Member Affinity Groups (LMAGs).

One of the goals in Region 8 this year is to set up new LMAGs in Sections where there are at least 10 Life Members. An Affinity Group provides a focus for Life Members to become involved in organised activities and to maintain contact with other IEEE members. There is a wealth of expertise and experience among older members that should be tapped for the benefit of the whole Section.

Most Life Members are retired from full-time employment, but they can remain in touch with new developments in technology through meetings and other

Life Member Activities sets goals for the year

events. The history of technology is also a popular activity for Life members, notably through the IEEE Milestone Program and history conferences. The documentation and recognition of the significant advances in technology that have been achieved over the past 100 years or more is part of our responsibility to the profession and to society in general.

Other Life Member activities include mentoring of students and Student Branches, providing career guidance and supporting projects in schools. Social activities, such as lunches associated with technical events, help to build a community of older engineers.

Another important benefit of an LMAG is that retired members, and those approaching retirement,

are also eligible to join in its activities, even if they do not satisfy the criterion to become Life Members.

The IEEE Life Member Committee meets twice per year to bring together the leading volunteers in Life Member activities in all 10 Regions. This year, Kurt Richter (Austria) and Roland Saam (UK & Ireland) are members of this committee which over the past decade has organised several technical tours for Life Members to countries including Japan, Canada and the UK.

This year, the tour, organised by Charles Turner, visited France, Switzerland and Germany. With the help of IEEE Life Fellows Victor Fouad Hanna, Hugo Weiss and Peter Russer, the 36-strong tour group visited Milestone sites in Paris (Discovery of Radio-Conduc-

tion), Geneva (CERN Instrumentation) and Neuchâtel (Quartz Watch manufacture), as well as other sites of scientific interest.

Later this year, the Israel Section LMAG, led by Jacob Baal-Schem, will organise HISTELCON 2015, the fifth in this series of the history of technology meetings.

All Life Members are invited to contact their Section LMAG, to support their activities and to enjoy the benefits offered, or, if none exists, to help form a new LMAG by contacting the Section Chair.

Charles Turner
Region 8 Life Member
Co-ordinator

MELECON 2016
Limassol, Cyprus • 18–20 April 2016
18th Mediterranean
Electrotechnical Conference
Intelligent & Efficient Technologies
& Services for the Citizen
www.melecon2016.org



Delegates Assemble! R8C Meeting participants pose for the traditional group shot between sessions

Cyprus is theatre for launch of R8C initiatives

► continued from page 1...

dustry' seeks to rebalance IEEE's strengths in academia with those of engineering in the workplace. 'Section Vitality' sets out to revive and re-energise more Sections, Branches and Affinity Groups within the Region. 'Students and Young Professionals' aims to give more support to SYP volunteers and encourage them to organise further regional congresses.

The meeting also heard reports from Member Activities, Technical Activities and Member & Geographic Activities teams, as well as an update on the roll-out of Collaboratec, IEEE's online professional networking and collaboration platform. A special address was delivered by Nicos Kouyialis, Cyprus's Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment.

The afternoon was then turned over to 'interactive sessions', comprising 10 intimate and informal round-table breakout discussions covering a variety of topics, from Region 8 subcommittee-related themes such as Student Activities and Chapter Coordination to new initiatives such as Action for Industry and Activities in Africa. One of the sessions featured the 2016 IEEE President-Elect candidates, Karen Bartleson and Fred Mintzer, who also answered a series of flash questions the following day in front of the full meeting.

Sunday morning's agenda included Operating Committee reports from the top table, followed by some lively discussion in the room on the subject of Section development. It was noted that while IEEE's two-year limit on volunteers holding the same elected position in their Section is good for democracy, it can be counter-productive

to force out those with the most expertise and dedication before their successors can get up and running. One suggestion was for each Section to appoint a vice-chair and assistants to the secretary and treasurer, who could shadow those roles and then maintain continuity by subsequently standing for election themselves.

The meeting also heard from IEEE Past President Roberto de Marca on building technical communities and making IEEE "the home for entrepreneurs" to regain the organisation's relevance to the young generation of tech startups. Other reports included a fascinating insight into the diversity and accelerating pace of economic growth in

Interactive sessions gave everyone a chance to have their say, face-to-face, on a range of topics.



Back to work in the main meeting room.

the African continent and IEEE's opportunities therein, outlined by Vincent Kaabunga. Marco Delimar updated the meeting on the progress in setting up a substantial IEEE office presence in Europe, with a shortlist of recommended locations due to the IEEE board by the end of the year.

Rounding up the two-day event was a presentation on the next Region 8 Committee Meeting, to be held on 10-11 October in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Costas Stasopoulos closed the meeting by encouraging Section chairs to work with the Region's committees. Feedback was positive for the interactive sessions held in Limmasol, he noted, so these may well return in Ljubljana.

Alistair Dabbs

Greetings from Cyprus...





Oman hosts GCC success

THE four-day IEEE GCC Conference and Exhibition organized by Oman Section and hosted by Sultan Qaboos University successfully concluded on 4 February. More than 300 participants attended the conference with 150+ authors from over 30 countries.

It was the first time that Oman has hosted such an international conference with a record number of papers received for review and approved for presentation on the theme 'Towards Smart Sustainable Solutions'. A conference mobile app was also developed to fa-

cilitate the activities, ranging from pre-conference tutorials, keynote speeches and industry presentations to exhibitions and a student poster competition.

In addition to the technical activities, a grand gala dinner was held at the SQU open grounds to allow participants to socialize and interact among others. After the closing ceremonies, the participants were treated to a guided tour of Rustaq, a culture-enriched Wilayat of Oman.

Arnold Santos

Secretary, Oman Section

Talking antennas in Sth Africa

IEEE South Africa Joint AP/MTT/EMC Chapter recently hosted IEEE AP-S Distinguished Lecturer and director of European School of Antennas (ESoA), Professor Stefano Maci. He gave several exciting talks at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, University of Pretoria, University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University.

The lectures covered the latest developments in metasurface antennas and beam generation. In support of IEEE goals of promoting collaborations, Ntombi Mchuba of the Department of Science and Technology and Albert Lysko, the Chapter's past-chair, gave sev-

eral introductory talks about COST Actions and ESASTAP, highlighting opportunities for scientists, engineers and graduate students to participate in international collaborations.

The visit also included discussions around establishing a new course on antennas for radio astronomy, supported by South African and European expertise in building Square Kilometre Array (SKA) in South Africa and availability of excellent lecturers from South Africa, and ESoA. It was decided that the Stellenbosch University will be hosting the course in the end of 2016, around the time of the SKA conference.

Albert Lysko

Vice-chair, South Africa Section

Prof Stefano Maci keeps his audience entertained.



Uganda Subsection to focus on community projects to kickstart economic growth

THE IEEE Uganda Subsection was formed in 2013. Over the last two years, the Section has worked closely with IEEE Kenya Section. As engineers we had to realize that we have big roles to play in our community development: to get people involved and take part in standards development for engineering products.

We have more than 40 active members and meet at the beginning of each year to set activity strategies. We are actively engaging them in the Teacher In-Service Program (TISP) and Engineering Projects in Community Service program (EPICS). Some of our student members have participated in the Mobile Application Development Contests (MadC). A large portion of our effort is in raising IEEE awareness in universities, government bodies, schools and industry.

The IEEE culture in Uganda is thriving. From our observations, a vast proportion of the professional community is aware of the IEEE and our Subsection has been able to help them learn more about its benefits and how working with the IEEE can be beneficial.

We have yet to form Student Branches. The effort for now is to recruit more students in major academic institutions and help them establish their own Branches. This is amongst our top priorities.



IEEE Members at the TISP Training, Nairobi 2014

Goals of IEEE EPICS

In 2012, the government of Uganda developed a new framework for science, technology and innovation development, empowering various stakeholder organizations to take active roles in implementing the STI development plan.

In line with this, we have engaged university and high school students from Makerere, Kyambogo University and Entebbe Secondary School to work with Humanitarian Innovation Technical Institute and IEEE Uganda Subsection members to develop a web-based solution for Science, Technology and Innovation Management. This will be used to collaboratively generate, identify and select innovative community projects for further development as a way of uplifting the population from absolute poverty. We have also scheduled

entrepreneurship training for scientists and engineers in Uganda in which members will be trained in the processes of innovation and inventions.

The EPICS projects will help to strengthen Uganda's invention, innovation and entrepreneurship base by enhancing research activities in science and technology, improving awareness of community inventions and innovations, providing an environment for intellectual property protection, leading to the achievement of financial stability through arrangement of partnership with investors and donors, and creating employment opportunities and promoting industrial development.

Ezabo Baron

Interview by Sarang Shaikh (senior assistant editor, GOLDRush), edited by Eddie Custovic (editor-in-chief, GOLDRush)

News in brief

Seminar on optical fibres and applications

SAUDI ARABIA: On 27 May, a seminar was held at Yanbu Technical Institute in collaboration with the Royal Commission Colleges & Institutes and the Saudi Council of Engineers, bringing academia and industry together. The presentation on optical fibres and their applications was delivered by Nouredin M Ibrahim, the IEEE officer for Industrial Relations in West Saudi Arabia.

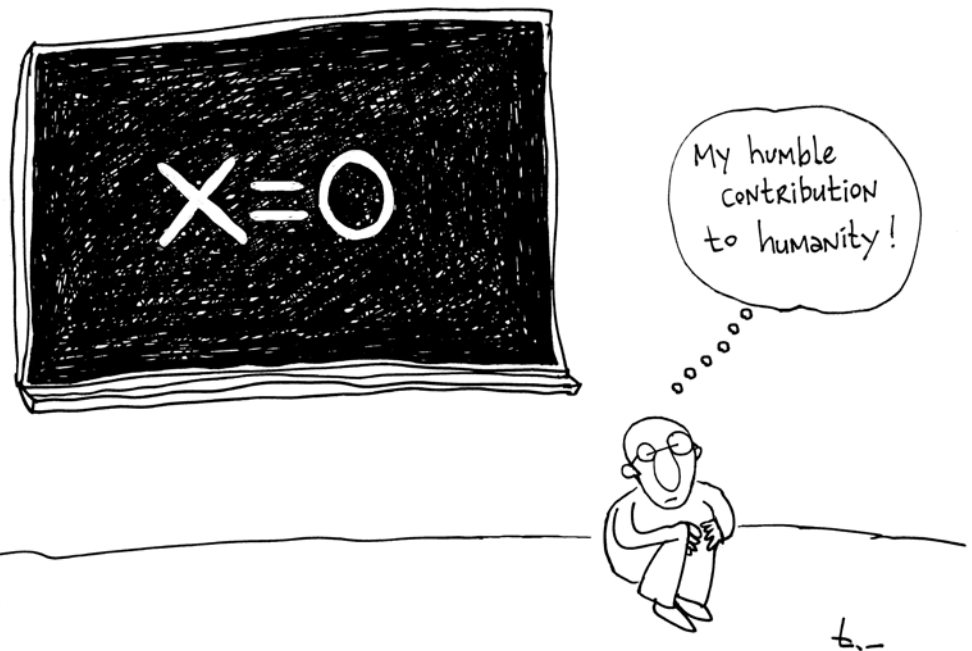
Nouredin M. Ibrahim

Industrial Relations in West Saudi Arabia

Terahertz technology technical talk

UAE: Al Ain University of Science and Technology (AAU), in conjunction with IEEE UAE MTT-S Chapter and IEEE AAU Student Branch, organized a technical talk on 24 Nov 2014. The seminar was opened by Nazih Khaddaj Mallat and the talk was delivered by NVSN Sarma from National Institute of Technology, India. He presented an overview of the terahertz technology, challenges for future generation instruments and detectors at these frequencies, commercial and medical applications, short-range communication, and weapons detection.

Nazih Khaddaj Mallat



Serbia, Russia and Greece join forces for CE Workshop

THE growing economy in south-eastern Europe has created a magnificent force of young IT professionals, eager to share their knowledge and research. However, often they cannot visit big CE conferences. So the IEEE Chapters of Serbia, Russia and Greece got together to bring the world to the region with a plan to hold annual CE workshops that will be organized in different places.

The first International IEEE CE Workshop was held on 11 March in Novi Sad, Serbia (www.ce-novisad.org).

The workshop was co-sponsored

and hosted by RT-RK Institute for Computer Based Systems, a Serbian research institute and development company that offers CE practical solutions. RT-RK is known to support young professionals through stipends and job opportunities, and by supporting events focused on young engineers entering the industry.

The workshop succeeded in its mission: 25 papers authored by young researchers were presented during a single workshop day. The opening speech was given by Professor Nikola



Yuri Shelepin

Teslic (Serbia). Two keynote speakers, Professor Vladan Zdravkovic (UK) and Professor Yuri Shelepin (Russia) gave

well-appreciated lectures on GUI design and multidisciplinary foundations of CE.

In addition, the workshop theme 'Rise of Digital – from "turning digital" to applications, services, and next generation TV' was rounded off with an interesting round table discussion about digitalization.

The next workshop will be held in Russia, so mark your calendars for spring 2016.

Dr Gordana Velikic

Gordana.Velikic@rt-rk.com



Circuits and Systems in Spain win Best Chapter

THE Spain Chapter of the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society has won Spain Section's Best Chapter Award for 2014. It was chaired by Teresa Serrano-Gotarredona from the Institute of Microelectronics of Seville, IMSE-CNM-CSIC.

The awards ceremony took place in Madrid during last year's celebration of IEEE Day. Jose M de la Rosa, Chapter secretary, received the award from Spain Section Chair, Emilio Corchado-Rodríguez, and the communications activities coordinator, Jesús Fraile.

Business innovation is key to tech seminar

A NIGERIA Section meeting/technical seminar was held on 14 March at Federal University of Technology Owerri, Imo State Nigeria with 150 participants.

The meeting commenced with an opening speech from the Nigeria Section Chair Gloria Chukwudebe. It was followed by five technical papers: 'Creating and nurturing innovation an entrepreneurial Culture' by PC Okpareke, 'Discovering your business niche' by Tunde Salihu, 'Google resources for improved productivity' by Dr N Chukwuekwu, 'Intel Galileo' by Obinna and Team, and 'Creating an Innovative IEEE' by Dr Collins Agu.

The seminar was concluded with an Affinity Group meeting and Section administrative meeting.

Abdulleatef Aliyu

YP chair, Nigeria Section





King's College London, United Kingdom

UK&I Student Branch chairs get together for discussions at KCL

KING'S College London Student Branch hosted the UK & Ireland Student Branch Chair Meeting on 14 March. This was seen as a great opportunity to improve co-operation and exchange experiences between Student Branches in United Kingdom and Ireland.

Mona Ghassemian was invited as the SAC chair to present opportunities for IEEE Student Members as well as student activities across Region 8. Veronika Nesheva, University of Edinburgh Student Branch chair, spoke about Technology and Management Society, while the KCL Robotics and Telecommunication group introduced its research to more than 30 people who attended this meeting, including faculty members and graduate students.

The event included round-table discussions as well as a workshop on 'How to Run a Successful Student Branch', presented by the

representatives of probably the best organized Student Branch in the UK, the University of Southampton SB.

Additionally, guests had the opportunity to participate in a tour of the Strand Campus of King's College, guided by Peng Qi, chair, and Ali Shafti, vice-chair of the host Student Branch.

This meeting helped to raise awareness of the Student Branch among KCL students, increasing the number of Student Members and interest in the Branch website and Facebook page. We are planning to improve collaborations within and outside of KCL, taking students to different IEEE contests and events. The Robotics society and IEEE SB will together hold a 'Google event' in KCL with 300 people already signed up to attend.

Yunke Wei

Publicity officer, KCL Student Branch

Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman

IEEE benefits explained at conference

ON 1-4 February, the 8th IEEE-GCC International Conference and Exhibition was held at Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat Oman. Nearly 300 scientists, engineers, academicians and students from various parts of the world participated.

The significance of joining an international professional organization such as IEEE was highlighted in speeches by Dr Dharmasa (MD officer, IEEE Oman), Saleh Salim Khamis Al Orimi (IEEE Professional Member), Abdula Rehman (CCE-IEEE Student Branch chair) and Student Members Falah Al Hinai and Alyasa Al Rashdi.

Various professional and academic benefits of being a member



of IEEE were outlined to the active members. These include opportunities to stay in touch with fast-growing technology through *IEEE Spectrum* magazine, Online IEEE TV, free downloadable transaction abstracts as well as possibilities to find a job via the IEEE website. There were also discussed benefits of participating in IEEE conferences and presenting papers at peer-reviewed international conferences and in journals.

Raising awareness of our Region's awards

THIS year, Region 8's SAC team has successfully launched an online campaign called 'Who Dares Wins' for raising awareness about awards and contests in our Region. As a result of this hard work, 33 submissions were received for the Exemplary Student Branch Award, which is a new record.

We also received 10 submissions for the Larry K Wilson Regional Student Activities Award and 21 submissions for the Region 8 Website Contest. We have supported IEEEadC contest through our Facebook page and official website.

Our team, along with the Region 8 Young Professionals, has also recently released the IEEE R8 SYP Congress 2016 Call for Proposals.

We have been quite busy this year throughout the whole of Region 8. Efthymia Arvaniti, the Region student representative, participated in the 25th anniversary of the IEEE IST Student Branch in March in Lisbon, as well as at the 1st WESYP Congress in Eindhoven in May.

Mona, our vice-chair of Student Activities, attended the ninth Student Branch Chair Meeting, which took place in London on 14 March, hosted by the King's College London Student Branch.

R8SAC team was also present at the 104th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting which was held in Limassol, Cyprus on 28-29 March.

Our team members Dinko and Ahmet attended IEEE CEuSYP Congress 2015 in Zagreb from 8-10 May.

We look forward to receiving your interesting news, hearing about your activities and listening to your ideas. See you in Congress out there! :D

Your R8 SAC Team,

Mona, Pablo, Femia, Lebogang, Youmna, Heind, Carlos, Dinko, Ruba and Ahmet



University of Jordan

250 Jordanian students look to the skies at Infiniteee



UNDER the patronage of Ikhlef al-Tarawneh, the dean of University of Jordan, the university's Student Branch and its WIE Affinity Group in co-operation with the Jordanian Astronomical Society organized an event titled 'Infinitee'. This five-hour event, held on 14 February in Saeed al-Mufti Auditorium at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Jordan was attended by 250 students who gathered from various Jordanian universities.

The event was focused on spreading knowledge about space and astronomy while exploring some space mysteries and myths.

Topics covered included astronomy myths, space photography, Mars trip challenges, Mars robots, and women in space. Some entertainment sessions such as interactive games, standup comedy and musical segments were also part of this event.

To reflect a unified theme, the male student volunteers wore suits with green ties and the female student volunteers wore green scarves. The event was very well received and the participants commended the organization as well as the excellent speakers who presented a useful and enjoyable program.

Bulgaria YP launch event at TechSys



THE IEEE Young Professionals Affinity Group in Bulgaria celebrated its launch on 28–30 May during the international conference TechSys at Technical University Sofia, branch Plovdiv. All participants at the conference had the opportunity to meet members of YP AG at the information desk and talk about the advantages and benefits of IEEE membership.

During the opening ceremony, Yancho Todorov, the Affinity Group's elected chair, presented the aims and values of IEEE, specifically those of the Bulgaria YP AG. He also introduced the founding members of the group.

On the second day, two papers on machine learning were presented by AG members. We also actively took part in discussions and exchanged experience with other presenters. Later, the AG held its first organizational meeting as members from around the country and across variety of interests discussed future plans. It was decided that the next official event of the group would be in Gabrovo, later in the year.

There were two special events exclusively for the members of the Young Professionals during the programme of the conference. Sevil Ahmed, from Milara Centre for Robotics and Automation at the Technical University Plovdiv, gave a presentation on industrial robots. The group also had a meeting with Dimo Zafirov at the Laboratory for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at TU-Plovdiv. Professor Zafirov had the pleasure to announce the new developments in the field of aircraft and drones.

Gergana Lazarova
Secretary, Bulgaria YP



IEEE
youngprofessionals



Lebanon Section

Pre-uni students build a Robot Arm

IEEE Pre-university Work Members in Lebanon who were coached in the Dubai Teacher in Service Program workshop have organized four TISP workshops in Beirut and Tripoli. The workshops were given to eighth graders (14-year-olds) during their technology classes and the chosen topic was 'Robot Arm'.

Lecturers first gave some historical background of the robot arm, its application and structure.

When the students were told that they would be implementing this complex structure using only simple material such as cardboard and wires, they thought it would be impossible. However, as soon as they had brainstormed, shared their ideas within a group, and eventually tested them in practice, smiles appeared on their faces.

Most of the groups managed to complete the task successfully

with a high degree of creativity.

The lectures concluded with a discussion about weak and strong points of designed solutions, possible space for improvement, and mathematical and scientific theories applied.

Students and teachers alike were satisfied with the positive impact that TISP had on them, eager to continue with these activities.

Petra Chidiac



ENIS, Sfax, Tunisia

TISP success produces hunger for more

A Teacher in Service Program workshop has been held jointly with the second Tunisian Student Branch Congress, organized by ENIS Student Branch. The workshop has attracted many engineering students, professionals, teachers and even children.

The participants had been divided into small groups of three who tried to solve the problems given to them with simple, everyday materials within a limited time. The teams then presented their work in front of judges. Region 8 Pre-university work co-ordinator, Sohaib Qamar Sheikh, mentored all the teams, and we received excellent ideas, notably from the children.

As attendees, were very happy and pleased with these exciting hands-on engineering experience. Organizers are determined to hold more workshops on different topics across Tunisia.

Bilel Dekhili



10th PROJISTOR contest is most successful to date



With 16 finalists and more than 300 visitors who were inquiring,



IST Student Branch celebrates its 25th anniversary with STEP event



Vice-chair of Technical Activities



University of Thessaly, Lamia, Greece

SB brings TISP back to Lamia Central Square

ON 9 May, the University of Thessaly (Lamia) Student Branch organized an open Teacher in-Service Program 2.0 Festival on the Central Square of Lamia for the second year in a row. The Festival attracted more than 500 local educators and students at different levels: elementary, high school and university students.

The participants were divided into small groups according to their age and were asked to solve given problems using simple materials that are used in everyday life so that they can better un-

derstand the basic concepts of algorithms and programming.

The elementary school students were asked to construct a bridge of specific dimensions. The secondary school students were challenged to do the Tall Tower Challenge, requiring them to build a tower, tall and stable enough to keep balanced with a ping-pong ball at the top. The high-school students had to create a robot arm and use it for lifting a plastic cup into the air and return it back to the ground. Furthermore, students interest-

ed in Computer Science had the chance to learn about the Arduino programming language and to do the Arduino Blink Challenge.

Overall, the excitement of the participants was palpable as each one of them discovered what it feels like to be an engineer. The local media advertised the event and many schools and teachers have contacted us to participate in the Teacher in-Service Program.

Christina Zerva

Secretary, UTH (Lamia) Student Branch



Caledonian College of Engineering, Oman

Student wins GCC prize of US\$500 for 'smart' poster

QAIS Mohamed Said Al-Shibli, IEEE Student Member, a budding scientist and a level 4 electrical power



engineering student of Caledonian College of Engineering, secured the 3rd position in the International Level Student Poster Competition organized by joint efforts of the IEEE sections of Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (GCC).

The Student Poster Competition was part of 8th IEEE-GCC International Conference & Exhibition held during 1-4 Feb 2015 at Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman. The success of initial conferences launched the conference as a regional forum for Electrical & Electronics Engineering. This in turn has attracted worldwide industrial and academic presenters as well as student participations.



The student competition was held under the campaign of "Towards Smart Sustainable Solutions". Mr Qais's poster entitled "Smart Electrical Power Measurement Meter Web Integration Using Ethernet Communication" was selected as the third best, what is a unique honor for the student and the Institution. Beside the prize money of US\$500, he received congratulations from CCE management and also Dr Dharmasa, IEEE MD Officer Oman Section, who observed that "this student's achievement shows his rich ability in recent technologies".

Awards like this increase confidence levels of students and act as a catalyst for the future. These kinds of events encourage students to identify their skills and find engineering solutions for industrial problems.



University of Thessaly, Lamia, Greece

Seminar focuses on open source platform

ON 28 March, University of Thessaly (Lamia) Student Branch organized a seminar about Arduino technology in order to celebrate the International Arduino Day and to raise awareness on the applications of the Arduino platform.

More than 80 participants interested in finding out more about this technology attended the seminar and among them were students from University of Thessaly as well as students from other universities in Greece.

After IEEE and UTH (Lamia) Student Branch presentations and discussion about the Branch's future activities, the distinguished invited speakers talked about basic architectures and unlimited applications of the Arduino platform. More specifically, the talks covered the following topics: Basic Steps of Arduino, Use of Arduino sketch from Android and iPhone devices via Wi-Fi, Presentation of the Ardupilot Hexacopter project, Locking/Unlocking an Electronic Lock using Arduino, and Remote Control of Air-Condition via Infrared.

Overall, the participants were very interested in the possibilities the Arduino platform can offer and the idea of a future Arduino project competition was suggested.

Christina Zerva

Secretary, UTH (Lamia) Student Branch

Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg, Germany

Engineering students visit Siemens CT and Sivantos

AN excursion to Erlangen to visit Sivantos and a corporate technology (CT) centre of Siemens was organized by the Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg Student Branch on 11-12 May.

Mr Kircher from Siemens CT organized a broad program on the first day. A brief overview over research and development at Siemens was followed by presentations focusing on compact and energy efficient motors, smart grids as well as multi level converters for high voltage applications.

Fifteen students and post-graduates had the opportunity to discuss in more detail these topics with Siemens engineers while having a taste of the local beer at Erlanger Berg, a local area with a high density of beer gardens.

The following day, Sivantos opened its development laboratories for the Student Branch. As one of the leaders in highly developed hearing aid technology, Sivantos organized a detailed program led by Dr Fischer, focusing on digital signal processing and signal quality optimization to the development and design of low-power circuits of hearing aid devices.

On a tour through the laboratories, measurement and evaluation techniques such as laser-vibrometer, anechoic chamber as well as an acoustic chamber for creating a 3D sound environment were presented. Finally, the wireless communication via bluetooth between two hearing aid devices, remote control and smart phone was introduced.



Student Branch members together with Mr Kircher from Siemens CT.

News in brief

Jordan's TISP pilot builds robot army!

A TEAM of student volunteers in Jordan launched five pilot Teacher in Service Program (TISP) workshops towards the end of last year. The workshops were accomplished by Mosab, Shurooq from the University of Jordan and Ezzalden Najjar from Hashemite University, and held in four governmental schools for classes of 60 pupils between the ages of 12 and 16.

The first pilot workshop involved designing a robot arm, with subsequent workshops looking at wind energy.

Mosab Awad

Digital design learning by distance technology

THE final exam for the first multi-modal learning course on digital systems design using VHDL and FPGAs was held at the premises of the Digital Systems and Media Computing laboratory of the Hellenic Open University in Patras, Greece on 15 December 2014. The five-week course consisted of lectures and laboratory exercises conducted through distance-learning technology.

Tech talk on power and energy saving

CCE-IEEE Student Chapter organized a technical special talk on the role of Electrical Power System Components and Energy Saving Automation System for CCE power engineering students last year. The guest speakers from Asea Brown Boveri in Oman were Suhas K Deshpande (general manager), Mohammed Al-Jahwari (engineering division) and Ahmed Al Riyami (LP Division).

Engg Fusion engages CCE students

SOME 60 student members of IEEE and ASME from the M&IE and E&CO engineering departments at Caledonian College of Engineering, Oman jointly participated in a highly engaging technical forum called Engg Fusion in May last year. The event featured a team-based quiz and a debating contest.



IEEE Hashemite University Student Branch had the honour of hosting the largest IEEE event in Jordan – the second IEEE Jordanian Student Branch Congress.

IEEE JSBC was a wonderful opportunity to gather hundreds of students, engineers, professionals and even those still at school to share their passion of advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. The congress played an essential role in bridging the gap between IEEE members from all over Jordan, representing 11 universities. Everyone agreed to take IEEE's mission forward in their universities via their further engagement.

After welcoming the participants and the guests on behalf of Hashemite University, Jordan Section and Student Branch chair Husam Momenah asked attendees to exploit this opportunity and network with their IEEE fellow members to get the maximum benefit out of the congress.

The congress aimed to inspire the participants to take their experience and interests to the next level by inviting 15 professionals – including IEEE EMBS distinguished lecturers, professional speakers, experts, Jordanian entrepreneurs and young leaders – to give a number of diversified workshops and lectures about

nanotechnology, leadership, motivation, user experience design and a session on IEEE itself. The congress also included a field trip to the 5MW PV system project at Hashemite University.

After a full day of inspiration and positive energy, and with warm applause from the audience, Ahmed Al-Omoush (IEEE JSBC 2015 chair) closed the congress by sharing his appreciation with the attendees for their remarkable engagement and by thanking the organizing committee and volunteers for their efforts.

Mustafa Almomani
Student Branch mentor

University College London, UK

1st-year undergrad sets up UCL Student Branch

UNIVERSITY College London's IEEE Student Branch came into being on 17 March. Branch founder and its first chair, Ryan Xi, was only a first-year undergraduate Electrical and Electronics Engineering student, but together with a newly formed committee, he organized an inaugural meeting.

Ryan was inspired to set up the Student Branch at UCL after attending two IEEE conferences in China. Realizing the positive impact that science and technology organizations such as IEEE have on young aspiring scientists and engineers like himself, he decided to establish the Branch at UCL as many other well-known universities have already done.

Supported by many motivated and determined students and under the supervision of the Student Branch counselor, Chin-Pang Liu, Ryan has begun something that is promising to be a success story.

The 60 students attending the inaugural meeting were treated to an introduction to IEEE Spark, an idea aiming to connect students to the forefront of technology. Topics such as superconducting quantum devices, spin electronics, using RFID tags for tracking people or a journey from a physicist to an engineer were provided by invited professors. Not only was the event informative, but

also motivating as professors, lecturers and students gained the opportunity to engage in discussions and share ideas.

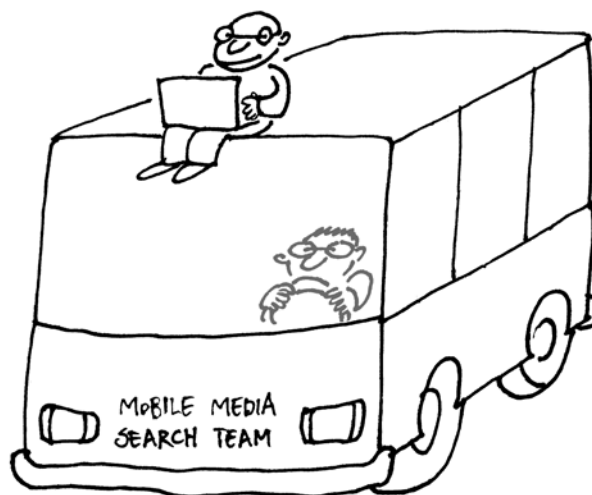
We plan to incorporate graduate and post-graduate students since the Branch

initially consisted only of undergraduates. We look forward to collaborating with other existing Student Branches and improving our range of events.

Ryan Xi and Qihong Lai



Students attending the inaugural Branch meeting



t.



Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Zagreb, Croatia

Central European student and YP volunteers unite at CEuSYP

CONTINUING the tradition of Central European cross-Section congresses, after Linz in 2011 and Opole in 2013, this year the third IEEE Central European Student and Young Professionals Congress (CEuSYP) was held in Croatia on 8–10 May, at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Zagreb.

This edition of the Congress was attended by 72 participants – Student Members and Young Professionals, as well as Section and Region 8 representatives – from a dozen Sections: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Greece,

Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine.

During the opening session of the Congress, the audience was addressed by Mislav Grgic (dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing and IEEE Croatia Section chair), Margaretha Eriksson (Region 8 director-elect) and Christian Schmid (Region 8 secretary), emphasizing the importance of Student Member and Young Professional volunteers in the future of IEEE.

The Congress program consisted of plenary sessions aiming to inform the participants about the latest initiatives



and programs. They had the chance to choose between 11 workshops for improving their soft skills, increasing their technical knowledge, and informing them about IEEE topics.

Participating Student Branches and Affinity Groups presented their recent activities and upcoming events during

the poster session. Last but not least, volunteers had the chance to get to know each other during a gala dinner and multicultural evening. They made new contacts and friendships, gained insight into new trends in science and technology, and most certainly became better IEEE volunteers.

For more information about the CEuSYP, go online to the website at: www.ceusyp2015.org

Ivana Stupar

Chair, Croatia Student Activities

Vinko Lešić

Chair, Croatia Young Professionals



Congress attendees learn how to get involved in the TISP program

A TEACHER in-Service Program (TISP) Training Workshop was organized during the third IEEE Central European Student and Young Professionals Congress held in Zagreb, Croatia in May.

Distinguished speakers and trainers attending the congress gave an opportunity to participants to obtain new technical and non-technical skills, to get updated on news about IEEE and to hear about new ideas and plans for future activities.

Among others, Ioannis Mousmoutis, corresponding member of the Region 8 Educational Activities Subcommittee, organized a TISP Training Workshop, sponsored by the Region 8 Pre-University Works Committee, with the aim of informing volunteers attend-

ing the congress about the Teacher in-Service Program and its goals, raise their interest and awareness about the program, and to help and guide them on how to organize TISP workshops by themselves.

The response from participants was very positive, everyone wanting to learn more about TISP. Taking that into account, we expect them to get involved with TISP in the near future and increase the level of technological literacy in their local schools.

For more details or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Region 8 Pre-University Works Committee at r8puw@ieee.org

Ioannis K Mousmoutis

Corresponding member, Educational Activities Subcommittee

Session on leadership and management introduces TEMS

AT the third IEEE Central European Student and Young Professionals Congress in Zagreb, Croatia in May, the Technology and Engineering Management Society (TEMS) was presented to the participants.

TEMS is an IEEE Society focused on advancing, enhancing and improving the essential management and leadership knowledge and skills of IEEE members.

During this session, the goals and the mission of TEMS were presented, the benefits and the programs offered to the members of the Society (conferences, publications, *IEEE Engineering Management Review* article series,

webinar series and more) were explained, and the future TEMS plans were introduced, including the 'Engineering Management for Young Professionals' online course which will be launched in 2016.

Overall, the participants were very enthusiastic about the vision of TEMS and they asked to be more informed about the Society.

You can contact Technology and Engineering Management Society at the official website <http://ieee-tems.org> or by email at sohaibqamer@ieee.org

Ioannis K Mousmoutis

Corresponding Member, Educational Activities Subcommittee

