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IEEE region8news

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IEEE Region 8 News is a quarterly newsletter, published by Region 8 Committee to keep IEEE members within the Region updated on programs, initiatives, events, and activities. The printed edition is distributed with [IEEE Spectrum](#) to IEEE members throughout the Region and the electronic version is distributed via email to IEEE Region 8 members, and downloadable from the [Region 8 News website](#) as well. IEEE Region 8 News is produced by volunteer editors with contributions from members from all over Region 8.

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This publication is here to showcase events, achievements, and news items from across the Region. As this is produced with specific deadlines throughout the year it is an ideal medium for reporting on past events, meetings or stories, with the ability to promote future events. We welcome reports, stories and general content, including photos, which can be emailed to us to r8news@ieeer.org or editors@ieeer8.org. Please find the guidelines for content submission [here](#).

The deadline for content submission for the June 2023 issue is April 15, 2023.

Director's Column



Vincenzo Piuri,
IEEE Region 8 Director

Dear All, dear Friends,

I wish you all a wonderful new year, healthy and full of joy, love, passion for technology, and care for society!

It is a privilege and a pleasure to write you this message and think with you how we can continue to understand and address the evolving needs of people in our field and improve our service to them.

We strive to become even more and continuously essential to all segments of

the scientific and professional community and the society as a whole in very diverse scenarios in the various geographical areas of the Region 8, understanding and valuing all diversities and the different needs. In particular, in addition to the many services that we are already offering and that we will continue to offer, our strategic thinking and practical actions will focus on:

- ensuring that IEEE is the home for everybody
- addressing the evolving needs of all segments of our scientific and professional community in each geographical area of our region
- expanding the cooperation for better serving our community and the society.

One of the critical aspects, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic, is to support students to expand their knowledge and be better prepared for professional life, with the ability to understand and address multidisciplinary areas typical of many modern and emerging technologies and applications. We also need to provide more technical support to young professionals, to be more capable of finding the job that they really like. And we need to support professionals to have more interdisciplinary and advanced knowledge and be more flexible in finding new jobs. Life-long education and industry engagement (also with company management) are therefore essential in this perspective.

In order to expand and improve services to our members, it is increasingly necessary to reinforce and expand cooperation among Sections, with other IEEE Organizational Units (OUs) (in particular, the Societies, the Technical Councils, the Educational Activity Board, and the Standards Association), and with the national associations. Synergies are always valuable to better serve not only the scientific and professional community, but also to better engage with the industry (both at the level of technologists and management). Together we can do much more and give more value to the IEEE membership!

On the other side, we also need to continue nurturing the local community, creating favorable conditions for its growth, and making visible the value of the IEEE membership for the various segments of the community in order to increase the membership in our Region and establish new local groups, according to the evolving interests of the local communities. We also need to nurture the new generations of volunteers and continue to provide a friendly and caring environment to explore soft skills and leadership. And we also need to recognize the excellence of volunteers in our Region and point them out as role models and mentors, especially for the new generations. We need to make our "giants" more visible so that the new generation can benefit from their knowledge and innovations and continue to advance technology and applications, by firmly "standing on their shoulders."

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Message from the Chair of Publications & Communications Team

IEEE Region 8 Communication Channels

Adeel Sultan, Chair - IEEE Region 8 PnC



Adeel Sultan, Chair PnC

Dearest IEEE Region 8 Members:

Hope you and your families are doing well. As we look ahead into the new year, we find ourselves nicely poised to contribute to the exponentially expanding world of technology. This is why it is imperative for us to collaborate and share our progress, learnings & achievements with each other. Keeping with the same spirit, PnC has been diligently working to augment our regional visibility through various means and procedures. Accordingly, I would like to take

the opportunity to thank all the outgoing EiCs (Editors-in-Chief: **Catia, Vinko, Chris, Hazar**) and their amazing teams for the wonderful work they did for our region in the past few years. At the same time, I would like to also welcome onboard the new incoming EiC/Chairs (**Maja, Fatma, George, Mohammed, Kassiani, Nick**) and their respective teams. With renewed fervor & energy, we aspire to build upon the generated momentum to keep you all informed & engaged throughout our journey together.

As you know, the Publications & Communications (PnC) committee, was established with a focused purpose to effectively, accurately & synchronously disseminate information & related content for the benefit of our Region 8 members. Due to its importance & significance, PnC was elevated to the status of a full standing committee in October 2022. Accordingly, it has become the main consolidated interface for the region (& to the World) with its various **communication platforms**, providing synchronized and latest information to the masses, while encouraging member engagement and appreciation. As such, biggest achievement thus far, has been the convergence of all regional communications and publications under one umbrella. The four distinct channels, comprising a hard publication (R8N) and 3 online platforms are as follows:

- 1) **[R8N] Region 8 News:** This is our flagship newsletter, published quarterly to keep IEEE regional members, updated on programs, initiatives, events and activities. For 2023 this channel will be led by **Maja Matijasevic**. Click [here](#) to visit R8N information on our website.
- 2) **[R8T] Region8 Today:** This is the online Portal of Region 8 with the main aim to quickly share current stories and the excellent work being done by our members. In addition to that, it also provides a good networking opportunity for newcomers to better understand IEEE. For 2023 this channel will be led by **Fatma Al-Zamil**. Click [here](#) to visit R8T information on our website & [here](#) to visit the main R8T webpage.
- 3) **[R8EC] Region 8 Electronic Communications:** Overall Electronic Communications are at the core of our operations and our website is a main repository of knowledge & news about the regional activities - suitable for posting information and resources available in the region. For 2023 this channel will be led by **George Michael**. Click [here](#) to visit the main Region 8 Website and [here](#) to read some news.

- 4) **[R8SM] Region 8 Social Media:** This channel is to ensure better engagement with our members and to provide quick real-time information and messages to our online followers using traditional social media methods (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram). For 2023 this channel will be led by **Mohamed Hossein**. Click [here](#) to visit R8SM information on our website.

Moreover, as we grow and demand for newer technologies/processes increases, some other ad-hoc committees may be created to cater for such requirements and to ensure that our communications remain efficient & effective. Accordingly, in our effort to connect with young and other aspiring followers who prefer latest modes of communication, R8 New Social Media Ad-hoc Committee will help to analyze & plan our positioning in those areas. **Kassiani Nikolopoulou** will be leading this effort. Similarly, to ensure the rejuvenation of our web-based footprint, R8 Web Ad-hoc Committee will assist in studying & proposing required improvements to our internet portals. **Nick Wainwright** will be leading this effort.






Since the PnC committee aims to further enhance all regional information flow, new members are continuously being added to support the team in handling the increased volume of activities and initiatives. Of course, as we put such growth mechanisms in place, we also want to solicit your continuous support. In this regard, let me first thank you all for your patronage and excellent participation in supporting the region's publication & communication efforts so far. We received numerous emails/enquiries from you after our initial call earlier this year, and also many submissions through our online form. This is evident, not only from the vast content of this newsletter & postings on our social-media platforms, but also from the significant increase in traffic on all our communication channels.

Therefore, please remember that we as PnC are here to help you, in not only promoting your IEEE message but also in sharing your activities/stories/achievements with all our regional & global members. So, kindly continue to share and send your articles/reports for events and activities as we heavily rely on your participation and support. As a reminder, note that in order to facilitate our correspondence, we have established two separate mechanisms through which you can reach us:

- Through editors@ieeer8.org email address: This is the dedicated email address and your request will go to all the Chair/EiCs, who will in turn review and publish the content in the relevant communication platform if deemed appropriate.
- Through [this online form](#) (also available at <https://ieeer8.org/pnc/>), that we have created for your convenience. Again, the request will go to all the Chair/EiCs, who will in turn review and publish the content in the relevant platform if deemed appropriate.

Furthermore, our teams from specific channels will also be individually approaching their counterparts within the various OU's to request content, stories and information. Hence, liaise with your respective OU officers (within your section, society, chapter, student-branch, affinity-group, etc.) and kindly collaborate with them, so we may be able to support you efficiently.

For quick reference, listed below are direct links to some of our important pages:

- [Region8 Social Media \(R8SM\)](#)     
- [Region8 Website/Electronic Communications \(R8EC\)](#)
- [Region8 Today Online \(R8T\)](#)
- [Region8 News Publication \(R8N\)](#)
- [Region8 Latest News Online](#)

Editors' Column



Vinko Lešić,
2022 Region 8 News Editor-in-Chief

As this is the last edition of Region 8 News that I am contributing to as a member of the Editorial Board, my words are filled with gratitude for what a great and rewarding journey through our Region this has been. Thanks to all the authors, our texts and photos have spoken thousands of words as we have provided insights into stories and recorded glimpses of the incredible positive energy of our events, which will now remain a part of our joint history for times to come. The voice of our volunteers was diverse and dynamic, yet united to advance knowledge, education, and our wide network of professionals. We spoke with this voice of our Region proudly.

Even in this current March edition, stories from various corners and origins are all filled with teaching, training, and knowledge sharing. They speak about awarding efforts and setting new foundations to further empower our community of scientists and professionals in the future. I am very happy to have had the opportunity to contribute to this effort, and I will happily continue to do so in my new role within IEEE as the IEEE Region 8 Vice Chair of Member Activities. We have fulfilled our goal of publishing four editions annually and thereby established the continuity of the newsletter. With that, I am pleased to pass on the newsletter to the most capable hands of Maja Matijašević and her team for 2023. I look forward to their success!

Thank you all for being part of this great joint journey!
Vinko



Maja Matijašević,
2023 Region 8 News Editor-in-Chief

As the newly appointed Editor-in-Chief of Region 8 News, I am excited about my new role and grateful for the opportunity to contribute to its goal: keeping you updated on programs, initiatives, events, and activities in our Region.

Region 8 is the second largest IEEE region and home to many of the world's leading universities, technology companies, and research institutions. It is also home to many IEEE members who make a difference in local communities, that goes beyond their daily jobs. To solve complex problems to improve the world around us, technical skills as well as creativity are needed. However, it is only when engineering expertise is coupled with empathy that the magic happens. Stories that exemplify this "magic" are, in my view, not just a great read but also a source of inspiration to us all.

This issue showcases several educational programs and workshops aimed at elementary schoolers and highschoolers, as (potential) "future engineers." The newsletter also highlights collaboration and networking events and activities, which are organized by students and Young Professionals, as well as by "seasoned engineers" such as Life Members. The newsletter also covers events promoting women and girls in engineering and STEM fields, as well as programs that provide training and support for female students to become computer scientists and energy entrepreneurs. Additionally, the newsletter presents two journals published by "Sister Societies" of IEEE technical societies, past and upcoming conferences, notable collaborations and agreements, and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development. I thank all the authors for their contributions.

In the past two years Cátia Bandeiras and later Vinko Lešić have managed to revive and revamp the R8 News, with the help of Mohammad Hossein Babae and IEEE Publishing. They all have my heartfelt thanks. Let us build on the momentum they have created to sustain it. With that in mind, please keep your contributions coming by submitting them to editors@ieeer8.org or using the submission form at <https://tinyurl.com/4sc88249>.

New Voice for IEEE Members in Region 8

Antonio Luque, IEEE Region 8 Past-Director

IEEE is geographically organized into 10 Regions that cover the whole world. The number 10 is not "magical" but has a long history within the organization and is not likely to change. What can change, however, are the borders between Regions and the way that the members living in each of them can share their voice and participate in the global governance and decision-making processes in IEEE.

Nevertheless, this distribution of the IEEE geographic Regions has not been modified since the '80s of the last century. At that time, it was decided that Region 8 covers Africa, Middle East and Europe, while Region 10 consists of the part of Asia and Oceania. Other Regions, 1-7 and 9, cover the rest of the globe. Much has changed in the world since then, and IEEE membership is no exception to that. While in the 20th century most of the members lived and worked in the US, the situation is different now. Membership in R8 and especially in R10 has grown considerably, now outnumbering the other Regions. Since the members of each Region elect one Delegate and Director to sit on the MGA Board and the IEEE Board of Directors, this led to a situation where the diversity present at the Boards did not accurately represent the diversity and breadth of IEEE membership.

Steps had been taken to change this, and after a few years of work, in November 2022 the Board of Directors decided to change, for the first time in 40 years, the way members are represented in the governing bodies of IEEE. Region 10, the largest in terms of membership, will be split into two Regions starting in 2028, while Regions 1 and 2 will be merged into one. In addition, starting in 2023, Region 8, as the second largest, will be represented by two seats on the MGA Board, to accommodate its size and the number of members. The MGA Board is the body that oversees IEEE membership and the activities of geographic units worldwide. This is good news for the IEEE members living in this part of the world, who will have an additional voice on the MGA Board.



Image credits: IEEE Region 8

It was decided that the second person to sit on the MGA Board along with the Region 8 Director must come from a different part of the Region, to encourage that diverse points of view are represented. Thus, when the members elect a Director coming from what is called Zone A (basically North and West of the Region), the so-called zone representative will come from Zone B (South and East), and vice-versa. This being a new process, work need to be done to ensure that all Sections that are part of IEEE Region 8 participate in the selection of this second member of the MGA Board.

The Region 8 Committee, as the governing body of the Region composed of leading volunteers from all Sections, will be working on updates to the governance documents to reflect this exciting change during this year. We will be happy to hear your comments and opinions. Please write to me at: past.director@ieeer8.org.

IEEE Smart Village and Industrial Electronics Society for the Next Generation of Female Energy Entrepreneurs

Abdullateef Aliyu, Vice President of IEEE Smart Village, and Morgan Kiani, Chair of IEEE Industrial Electronics Society Multimedia

Overcoming energy poverty, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, is an urgent and immense challenge that requires a coordinated effort of the international community. Renewable energy sources are seen as key to clean and affordable energy access, brought by energy entrepreneurs. A renewable energy workshop was organized by the IEEE Smart Village (ISV) Africa Working Group in partnership with the Industrial Electronics Society (IES) and the Nile University in Cairo to train and encourage the next generation of female energy entrepreneurs.

The renewable energy workshop took place at the Nile University in Cairo, Egypt on October 18-19, 2022. It was attended by 26 delegates from 10 countries, including Algeria, Jordan, Libya, Kenya, Tunisia, Sudan, Egypt, Nigeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the United States of America. The main venue of the workshop was the Industrial and Service Engineering Laboratory led by Professor Irene Samy, an associate professor in the Industrial and Service Engineering and

Management Department at the Nile University in Cairo, Egypt, and the American University in Cairo.

The program spanned two days, with the previous day reserved for participant arrival, registration, and a welcome event which included introductory remarks on the workshop aims and expectations. The first full day of the workshop took place at the Industrial and Service Engineering Lab. The opening remarks, as well as the objective of the workshop, were presented by the IES President Professor Mariusz Malinowski, Professor Morgan Kiani of University of Texas at Arlington, and the Vice president of IEEE Smart Village for Africa Engr. Abdullateef Aliyu. The program for the day ended with a Nile dinner cruise. The second day of the workshop started in the early morning with a recap of learning with use cases while the afternoon program included a practical demonstration and hands-on with hardware provided by Solariz Egypt, an industrial partner for the workshop. The participants had the opportunity to size and install a mini solar system. The workshop was concluded with a tour of the Old Cairo and a closing dinner with distribution of certificates of participation and farewell messages.

Here is what the participants have said about their experience at the workshop:

"Great opportunity to learn, gain new experience and exchange knowledge; also which is very important is to get to meet new people from different societies and countries." – Sana (Libya)

"This was a very good and well organized workshop. I would really love it if we could have the chance to have and attend more this such a great experience!" Vanessa (Kenya)

Overall, the workshop received overwhelmingly positive feedback and had the desired impact on the participants. The date and location for the next workshop will be announced for delegates to submit their applications to participate.

A special thanks goes to the leadership of IES especially Prof. Morgan Kiani for co-organizing the workshop as well as the leadership of IEEE Smart Village, IEEE Egypt, and most importantly Prof. Irene Samy and her team from Nile University in Cairo.

... Continued from page 2 ►

We should also increase the visibility of IEEE, our volunteers and members in our society. We need to continue to contribute to make IEEE more relevant and appreciated in our Region. Pervasive knowledge dissemination and visible projects in which technology is applied to address real-world problems in the local community are two approaches that we will continue to pursue and expand.

In particular, we can coalesce the knowledge, expertise, and enthusiasm of many people in our scientific and professional community to contribute knowledge and competences to address the most impactful challenge affecting people's daily lives around the world: climate change.

Let's contribute to build together the future of IEEE and support our scientific and professional community and the society. Let's nurture the passion for technology and innovation, especially in the new generations. Let's make the IEEE vision a reality for the benefit of humanity, the environment, and all living beings! Together we can make the difference.

Thank you for what you have done and what you are currently doing, but especially, thank you in advance for what you will do! Each of you is important and valuable. Each of you is essential in our community and the society!

Ciao

Vincenzo Piuri, IEEE Region 8 Director, 2023–2024



Image credits: IEEE Smart Village and IEEE Industrial Electronics Society

The Current YPs are the Future LMs—A joint Meeting of Life Members (LMs) and Young Professionals (YPs) in Prague

Peter Magyar, Chair of IEEE Region 8 Life Members Subcommittee

The R8 Life Members (LM) Subcommittee held an in-person LM Affinity Group (LMAG) meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, on Oct 27, 2022. The meeting was organized by the R8 LM Subcommittee in cooperation with the Czechoslovakia Section LMAG. The meeting took place at the Czech Technical University in Prague and was hosted by the local LMAG under the leadership of Andre Sopczak, LMAG Chair. The meeting expenses were covered mainly by the R8 Committee Membership Activity, with a partial contribution from the participants' Sections and the Life Member Committee (LMC) budget. The group of 22 participants included nine Life Members, four higher grade and three Young Professional (YP) IEEE members, and (self-paying) guests, including five spouses and a baby.

The program covered pre- and post-meeting social events and a full-day presentation series. After the introductory presentation by the host LMAG, the following IEEE-related presentations were given: IEEE and IEEE R8 Update: an Overview by Magdalena Salazar Palma, R8 Past Director, IEEE R8 Member Activities by Sara Pena Barros, R8 VC MA, IEEE R8 LM Overview by Peter Magyar, R8 LM Subcommittee Chair, Activity of the IEEE History Committee – Milestones by Martin J. Bastiaans, R8 HA Subcommittee Chair, LMAG Activity Highlights by LMAG chairs Andre Sopczak (Czechoslovakia Section), Bernadette Bouchon-Meunier (France Section), Goce Arsov (North Macedonia Section) and Imre Rudas (Hungary Section).

The other important part of the meeting was the one about the technical activity. Two technical presentations were given by the France Section LMAG and the North Macedonia LMAG, and three presentations were given by Yps as the R8 LM Subcommittee supported different kinds of student and YP activities, among others the student-led International Youth Conference on Energy (IYCE'2022), held in Hungary, on July 6-9, 2022. Three outstanding YP authors (Stepan Jedlak from Czechoslovakia Section; Kim Krawiec from Germany Section and MD Moshir Rahman Chowdhury from Hungary Section) were invited to present their papers again, in line with the motto of the Prague Meeting "*The current YPs are the future LMs*". The invited YPs clearly demonstrated their outstanding research and engineering professionalism as well as their presentation capabilities.



Image credits: IEEE Region 8 Life Members

One of the highlights of the Prague Meeting was the award ceremony in conjunction with the IEEE Regional Life Member Individual Service Award 2022. The plaque was jointly presented by Magdalena Salazar Palma, R8 Past Director, Sara Pena Barros, R8 VC MA, Goce Arsov, North Macedonia Section Chair and Peter Magyar, R8 LM Subcommittee Chair, to the Region 8 recipient Georgi Dimirovski, Professor Emeritus of the Cyril & Methodius University Skopje, North Macedonia Section LMAG.

The participants liked the initial idea of the in-person regional LMAG meeting very much and the meeting itself was also considered a success. The coming together of LMs, regional officers and younger members in a joint meeting with a mixed IEEE-related and technical program was a new and valuable experience. Plans are underway to organize similar events in the future and several volunteer LMAGs have been considered as potential hosts. The decision about the topics and the venue of the next event will be made by the next regional LM coordinator team.

Cooperation & Support— Important Components of the Life Members (LM) Activity in R8

Peter Magyar, IEEE Region 8 Life Members Subcommittee Chair

The R8 Life Members (LM) Subcommittee defined the expectations towards Life Members Affinity Groups (LMAGs) in *The Four Commandments*: 1) Sustainable LMAG operation, 2) Cooperation & support, 3) Development, and 4) Publicity. The Committee encouraged the LMAGs to extend their activities to support and cooperate with other IEEE and non-IEEE entities for the benefit of their members, as well as to follow our motto *The Current YPs are the Future LMs*.

The envisioned cooperation may include administrative and technical help in setting-up LMAG meetings, endorsing nominations and technical programs, providing meeting speakers and organizing joint events. In that line, various activities have been reported by the LMAGs of the Sections Czechoslovakia, Greece, Hungary, North-Macedonia, and the United Kingdom & Republic Ireland, in conjunction with the local and Section-related events. Further initiatives on the regional level are mentioned below. These ideas have been well promoted by the Team and Vice Chair of R8 Member Activities.



IYCE'22 Technical Session award presentation (Image credits: IEEE Region 8 Life Members)

The R8 LM Subcommittee assisted the financial support request of the R8 Student Activities and R8 Young Professionals for the IEEE R8 Student and Young Professional Congress 2022 in Tunisia (<https://www.facebook.com/R8SYP/>). The requested fund has been approved and provided by the IEEE Life Members Committee. It became an important contribution to the success of the event.

One of the main interests of the R8 LM Subcommittee is to promote technical programs involving students and YPs to encourage IEEE-related professional activity. In line with this aim, the R8 LM Subcommittee supported the 8th International Youth Conference on Energy (IYCE'22), held in Eger, Hungary, on July 6-8, 2022 (<http://iyce-conf.org/>). IYCE is a student-led face-to-face technical paper conference which follows the IEEE conference standards and has the technical co-sponsorship of the IEEE Industry Applications Society (IAS). The special features of IYCE include not only its international character but also the fact that it is a student-led event. It is the first such conference in R8, hosted by two student organizations, the Budapest University of Technology IEEE Student Branch PES/IAS Chapter, and the Student Association of Energy, Hungary (<https://www.en.eszk.org/>). In addition to the IEEE Societies, there is a strong connection to the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) as well. IYCE is not only one of the 10 or so currently active student-led technical conferences within the IEEE IAS, but also one of its flagship student conferences.

IYCE was selected as a "pilot project" supported by the R8 LM Subcommittee as a model for future LM-YP cooperation. The R8 LM Subcommittee Chair attended the event thanks to the travel support provided by the R8 Member Activities and served as conference honorary co-chair, multiple sessions chair, and an IEEE workshop organizer. The workshop program included an overview of IEEE and IAS, a general R8 overview, as well as an overview of R8 WIE and YP technical activity.

The 10th Edition of the Tunisian Students and Young Professionals Congress in Conjunction with the Young Professionals in Space (YSP '22)

Ala Chalghaf, Chair of the IEEE TSYP X in conjunction with YPS'22, IEEE Tunisia Section ESPRIT SB

The 10th edition of the Tunisian Students and Young Professionals (TSYP) Congress was held in Sousse, Tunisia, from the 19th till the 21st of December 2022. The event was a resounding success with over 1100 enthusiastic IEEE members and prominent national and international guests and participants in attendance. The theme of the 2022 TSYP Congress was Aerospace, which fitted perfectly with the opportunity to host a co-located event entitled Young Professionals in Space (YPS '22). The goal of YPS '22 was to inspire the Tunisian, as well as international attendees to become more involved in the aerospace industry and to explore the aerospace-related opportunities offered by IEEE and its technical societies.

The main objectives of TSYP were networking, acquiring technical skills and competing in various challenges. The TSYP also provided an opportunity for the Tunisian Section to evaluate the achievements of the student branches (SBs) during the previous year, and to allow the 37 represented SBs to compete for the honor of hosting the next edition of the TSYP Congress.



Image credits: IEEE Tunisia Section ESPRIT Student Branch

The TSYP program extended over three days and included various events and activities. The first day of the TSYP Congress started with the opening ceremony. The Congress chair, Ala Chalghaf, gave a warm welcome to the attendees and declared to have finally reached "T minus 0". Cordial greetings were also extended by Fedi Naimi, the IEEE ESPRIT SB Chair, the organizing SB of this edition of the TSYP Congress. The next speakers were the founder and director of ESPRIT Tahar Belakhdar and Mekki Ksouri, IEEE ESPRIT SB Counselor who gave an insightful speech on the current situation of education in the country and the importance of volunteering in IEEE for a thriving professional career. Next, Ilhem Kallel, IEEE Tunisia Section Chair, gave her welcome address. She also presented the R8 Award plaques and certificates to the various awarded SBs, IEEE units and volunteers, which she had received on their behalf at the latest Region 8 meeting in Cairo, Egypt. Following the welcoming addresses of the opening ceremony Ahmed Bougaf, the Student Branches Coordinator, took the floor followed by Anis Ben Arfi, the YPS'22 honorary Chair. A pre-recorded welcome video was played, conveying the greetings and congratulations from the Region 8 Director, Antonio Luque.

The welcoming speeches were followed by presentations from sponsoring partners and patrons and a brief musical intermission. Finally, keynote speaker Steven C. Reising, Secretary of the IEEE GRSS AdCom, delivered a speech entitled "Global Remote Sensing of Hurricanes, Typhoons and Severe Storms using Small Satellite Constellations".

After the opening ceremony, the participants took the opportunity to network. As is customary in SYP Congresses, "booth sessions" were organized, in which each student branch from the Tunisia Section used the opportunity to present their work and achievements at their booth. Some chapters of IEEE technical societies, organizational units, as well as sponsors that supported the event also had their respective booths so that they could interact and exchange ideas with the attendees, promote their benefits and attract more members to their societies and services.

The TSYP program on the second day was divided into four sessions. Each session included a panel discussion, Tunisia Section chapters' challenges and several workshops. In total, the program included four panel discussions, eight challenges, and 28 workshops throughout the day to ensure the attendees' satisfaction and diversity of the topics covered. The program also featured many notable speakers who gladly accepted the invitation, such as Mehmet Ogut, a Nasa JPL engineer in the Aerospace Panel, Lorenzo Lomonte, IEEE AESS Distinguished Lecturer, and Nuno Borges Carvalho, IEEE MTT-S President-Elect, to name a few.

... Continued on page 12 ►

Programming Workshop for Girls by WIE Slovenia

Tajda Bogovič, Chair of IEEE Women in Engineering Slovenia

Between August 24 and 26, 2022, a three-day programming workshop was held at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science of the University of Maribor (UM FER), co-organized by the IEEE Slovenia Section Women in Engineering Affinity Group. It brought together 17 female participants from primary and secondary schools. The goal of the workshop was to introduce the students to basic programming concepts. The workshop comprised two parts. In the first part, the students explored the power and simplicity of programming in Python, its features and applications, as well as solving simple problems. The students familiarized themselves with Python data types, operators, variables, functions, conditions, and loops. The second part covered the use of artificial intelligence (AI) with practical examples. The students used Scratch, a widely used educational block-based programming platform, to create projects and build games with machine learning models that enable classifying text or numbers, image recognition, as well as making predictions.



Image credits UM FER, Tajda Bogovič

The students who completed the workshop felt encouraged to explore computer science further. The workshop was hosted by Tajda Bogovič, chair of IEEE Slovenia Women in Engineering Affinity Group, and supported by Milica Masič, a student at UM FER.

Fire Fighting Boat Robotics Competition in Egypt

Rowida Elsayed, Secretary of IEEE Egypt Section E-JUST Student Branch

IEEE Egypt Section Egypt Japan University for Science and Technology (E-JUST) Student Branch, with the collaboration of E-JUST and the strategic partner NTRA, make the first edition of the Fire Fighting Boat (FFB) robotics competition and is the first of its kind in the MENA region. The competition was created to change the normal type of robotics water competitions and add a new and creative idea to it, FFB aims to raise awareness of the importance of robots and their uses, especially on the surface of the water. There were 155 participants including the guests, judges, visitors and the competitors. The purpose of the competition is to create a robot that floats on water and puts out fire spots. The robot should be controlled by a wireless joystick, and the winners are determined by the scoring criteria in the rule book.

Competition registration teams started on 29/9/2022 ends on 30/11/2022 online, with registering 18 teams with 87 competitors. There were 18 teams who registered for the competition, and they compete to win prizes by making creative and great ideas each robot was different from the others, we got 18 robots with 18 ideas, and this was our aim to help people think out of the box and make something simple and achieve the mission at the same time. The 18

teams were divided into academic and junior, academic participated with 14 teams and juniors participated with 4 teams and the maximum number of team members was 5 members with one supervisor, on the competition day there were 30 visitors from all around Egypt who came on the competition day to encourage the competitors. The rule book was sent to all competitors once they register and the scoring criteria were included in the rule book, we assign a mentor for each group to follow up with the teams and help them if they struggled with anything and if they want to ask about anything related to the competition, in addition to making an online info session with all the registered teams to explain all the details of the competition with them and there were Questions and answers on the last 15 minutes of the session to answer all their questions.

The technical criteria depend mainly on the robot and achieving the mission: The boat starts with 300 points when each second passes decrease a point from the total points, distinguishing a fire spot increases the score by 100 points, If the boat hits the borders or obstacles will decrease by 5 points per hit, Troubleshooting the boat decreases 10 points without any time compensation, using a remote controller made by you gives 20 points per round and Using a pre-made remote controller gives 10 points per round. The competition total score was not only on the technical part but also on the teamwork part as our belief that team spirit is part of the success of the team so we added social media task that required the competitors to upload photos for all team members and upload short video from 1 to 3 minutes for them

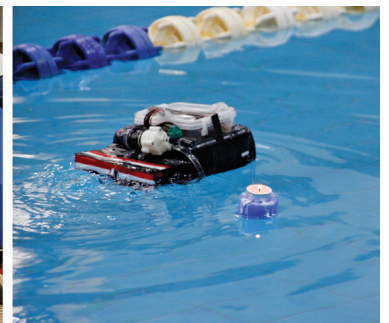
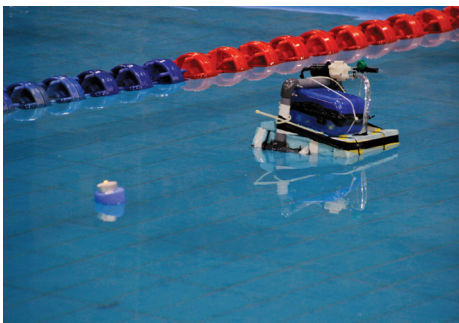


Image credits: Abdelrahman Radwan



Image credits: Abdelrahman Radwan

working on the robot as a team and show test of the robot if they tested it before the competition day and all these videos were uploaded on our Facebook page and FFB event <https://www.facebook.com/IEEE.EJUST>.

IEEE WIE ESPRIT Launches Star-Studded Journey in Astronomy and Space

Salah Dabbech, Vice Chair of IEEE Tunisia Section WIE ESPRIT SB AG

The IEEE Women in Engineering - Student Professional Awareness and Readiness in Technology at ESPRIT recently embarked on a thrilling adventure to inspire the next generation of space and astronomy enthusiasts. Under the umbrella of the Student-Teacher and Research Engineer/Scientist (STAR) program, the aim was to address the declining interest in mathematics, science, and engineering among young girls and promote a positive image of engineering careers.

Galactic Expedition to Introduce Aeronautics

On December 3rd, 2022, the STAR program team invited a group of school children to visit the university for a day filled with exciting sessions. The first stop of this galactic expedition was the Aeronautical and Simplified Aerodynamics session where the kids learned about the basics of flight through the examples of birds and kites. They also got a chance to showcase their creativity by constructing their own aircraft with simple tools and to participate in a mini-competition to determine whose plane would soar the farthest.

Planetary Fair Ignites Curiosity about the Solar System

The second leg of the journey took place on December 10th, 2022, at the El Bared School in Sokra. The STAR program aimed to create an interactive experience for the kids and spark their curiosity about the solar system. During the Solar System Fair, the children were invited to participate in booths where they had to guess the names and shapes of the planets based on hints provided to them. The STAR team also conducted a presentation about environmental awareness and concluded the day by planting with the kids, answering their questions, and gifting them with a prototype of a machine that reduces water wastage during irrigation.

Journey to the Science City to Discover the Mysteries of the Universe

On December 11th, 2022, the STAR program team took the kids on a journey to the Science City to learn more about the mysteries of the universe. Under the guidance of knowledgeable teachers, the kids went on a tour of the Science City and learned about the various planets and space through interactive presentations and demonstrations.

The IEEE WIE ESPRIT STAR program not only provided a fun and educational experience for the kids, but it also aimed to create a

The competition day was on 24/12/2022 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, there were 2 rounds for the robots each round takes from 2 to 5 minutes depending on the robot's speed, on the first round they moved from the start point passing from the obstacles reached the end line, and then come back to the start point, and on the second round, they moved from the start point passing through the obstacles putting off the fire spot reaching o the end line and then return back to the start point.

The first three teams in the academic category were: 1-Titanic from Alexandria university, 2-IEEE CUSB firestorm cooler from Cairo University and 3-IEEE HTI from the higher technology institutions. The first three teams in the junior category were: 1-Jerry, 2-The Pirates and 3-Aqua. The best design prize was for RASiots Team from Zagazig University.



Image credits: Mohamed Aziz Hbaili

technical support network for teachers and a mentoring program for students. The team at WIE ESPRIT is dedicated to promoting and supporting the growth of women in engineering and science.

Conclusion

The STAR program journey of IEEE WIE ESPRIT was a resounding success, filled with moments of wonder and excitement for the school children who participated. The team's mission to create a positive image of engineering careers and inspire the next generation of space and astronomy enthusiasts was achieved through these engaging and educational events. The future looks bright for women in engineering and science, and initiatives like the STAR program will continue to play a significant role in their success.

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Beside the above links, should you have any other questions, concerns, ideas, feedback, etc., or would like to join our PnC team, please feel free to reach out to me directly at adeelsultan.ieee@gmail.com. You may also contact the entire PnC Team at pnc@ieeer8.org or you may visit us at our main website <https://ieeer8.org/pnc/>.

Finally, don't forget to get in touch with us and "subscribe" to our social-media handles. Make use of this excellent facility to promote your IEEE stories, events, activities & achievements.

Look forward to another amazing & successful year together,
best regards,

Adeel Sultan
Chair, IEEE R8 PnC
adeelsultan.ieee@gmail.com



IEEE Palestine Boosts Innovations for Sustainable Development Goals

Mona Demaidi, Chair of IEEE Palestine Subsection

Seven Palestinian universities and 18 teams participated in “IEEE Pioneers” entrepreneurship competition. The Students from all over Palestine Subsection, as well as those participating online from Gaza, presented and pitched their ideas to judges from government, private and public sectors. The participating teams received intensive training on ideation, design thinking, business model canvas, and pitching to develop entrepreneurial ideas that contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations.

Dr Mona Demaidi, Chair of IEEE Palestine Subsection, explained that the number of universities participating doubled this year and that the competition helped students learn more about Palestinian startup ecosystem. It is also worth mentioning that Palestine had two ambassadors for the this year’s competition, Buthayna Qutaina and Masa Aq, who worked closely with student branches to train and prepare the students for the competition.



Phot credit: IEEE Palestine Subsection

A Productive Year for the Faculty of Sciences of Tunis (FST) Computer Society Student Branch Chapter

Zaineb Boujelbene, Chair of IEEE Tunisia Section Computer Society Chapter of FST Student Branch

The Faculty of Science of Tunis IEEE Computer Society (CS) Student Branch Chapter is dedicated to advancing the field of computer science and technology. It provides a variety of services, resources and events to its members, including technical meetings, workshops, and networking events. The Chapter’s main goal is better serve its members and the scientific and professional community, by addressing their evolving needs and making the IEEE membership and the services provided by the Computer Society Chapter valuable for each individual, adopting a human-centric approach. Furthermore, the aim is to further engage many more volunteers, providing them unique experiences for personal and professional growth. The Chapter achieved these goals throughout the year by organizing various activities.

A hands-on coding workshop in a supportive and collaborative environment was a perfect opportunity to delve into the world of



Design thinking workshop (image credits: IEEE FST CS SB Chapter Tunisia)



Codakids STEM workshop (image credits: IEEE FST CS SB Chapter Tunisia)

Python programming. Designed for beginners and led by experienced programmers, the workshop covered the basics of programming, including data types, variables, and more. By the end of the workshop, CS members have gained a strong foundation in Python programming and the skills to start building their own projects and participate in coding competitions.

Design thinking is a problem-solving methodology that has become increasingly popular in recent years, and for a good reason. It encourages creativity, empathy, and collaboration, and it has been successfully used to develop innovative solutions in a wide range of industries. The CS members had the opportunity to learn and apply the basics of design thinking, with focus on teamwork and personal projects.

UI/UX design is essential in digital product development, and it can make or break the success of a software product. A workshop led by experienced instructors was held to introduce the basics of UI/UX design, covering topics such as user research, prototyping, and design principles.

The Chapter organized the “IEEE Talks Blockchain” series of presentations to educate the Chapter members about the blockchain technology, which has the potential to revolutionize a wide range of industries, from finance to healthcare. The talks covered the blockchain technology basics, potential applications and challenges.

The Chapter also held a Codakids workshop to inspire students of all levels to improve their computer science skills and advocate for equity in STEM education. The Codakids workshop aimed to encourage pupils to discover the joy of learning computer science and allowed them to explore, play and create with code. In partnership with Youth Science Association of Tunisia (AJST: Association Jeunes Science de Tunisie in French) for the first session of this edition, students completed a variety of coding activities designed to teach them coding skills. The

Open Data Hackathon 2022: Promoting Open and Transparent Data Culture for Sustainable Development in Iran

Sayed Amin Atabak, Vice Chair of the Newsletter Committee, IEEE Iran Section

The Open Data Hackathon 2022 event was held by the IEEE Iran Section in cooperation with the ICT Research Institute on November 19–20, 2022. It was organized as a programming competition focused

on promoting open and transparent data culture and sustainable development. The best teams were awarded exquisite prizes. The event covered topics such as health, image processing, money and banking, energy, and the exploitation of open data.

A noteworthy aspect of the event was the introduction of the best projects with high business value to the Information and Communication Technology Park, as well as the central bank regulatory sandbox of Iran, in order to obtain special support.

Specialized panels, including those on Open Data and Opportunities and Challenges of Service Development, were held with the presence of Engineer Reza Bagheri Asl, Dr. Vahid Shah-Mansouri, Dr. Jafar Mortezaevan, Dr. Ali Moini, Dr. Neda Abdolvand, and Dr. Alireza Yari.



Open Data Hackathon 2022 final meeting (image credits: IEEE Iran Section)

News in IEEE Iran Section

Sayed Amin Atabak, Vice Chair of Newsletter Committee, IEEE Iran Section

MoU with ICT Research Institute to enhance international cooperation and optimize scientific capacities

To increase international cooperation and optimize the use of scientific and research capacities, IEEE Iran Section signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ICT Research Institute. At the official signing ceremony, both parties expressed their pleasure to have signed the MoU, and emphasised working towards common goals in the fields of education and research, as well as supporting student activities.

“Considering the international position of the IEEE Iran Section, this MoU will help the ICT Research Institute to increase our international

relations. Also, the IEEE Iran section can benefit from all the facilities available in the ICT Research Institute for the implementation of its projects,” said Dr. Seyed Mohammad Razavizadeh, head of the ICT Research Institute.

“The IEEE Iran Section has prominent scientists as members, and this has resulted with Section having a high capacity in the international society. Currently, there are lots of potential capacities in the international common fields of the ICT Research Institute and the IEEE Iran Section, which can be turned into reality with this MoU. I hope that by creating a joint committee, it will be possible to implement these great capacities and take important steps towards the development of the country,” added Prof. Vahid Ahmadi, IEEE Iran Section Chair.

The IEEE Iran Section, with a history of over half a century, comprises 17 committees, 6 technical societies, 58 student branches, consultants and industry experts.



Signing MoU with ICT Research Institute (left) and awards ceremony (right) (image credits: IEEE Iran Section)

Aerokids—Inspiring Youth to Reach the Stars

Abir Tabarki, Chair of IEEE AESS ESPRIT Student Branch Chapter

IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society ESPRIT Student Branch Chapter (SBC) and IEEE SIGHT Group ESPRIT joined forces in 2022 to inspire and educate the next generation of engineers in the fields of aerospace and technology. Focusing on children who have limited access to educational opportunities in these areas, a series of bootcamps were organized in local schools in Tunisia. Each edition, more special than the previous, hosted special guests and collaborators, providing a unique and valuable experience for the children. These guests, experts in their respective fields, offered insights and inspiration that further added to and enlivened the educational experience. The bootcamps were filled with interactive and engaging sessions, including hands-on aeronautical and aerodynamics workshops, science fairs to test the children's knowledge about space, and an astronomy session that delved into the mysteries of the cosmos.

In the Aeronautical and Simplified Aerodynamics Session, students got to build their own aircraft and learn about aerodynamics through real-world examples like birds and kites. The session concluded with a thrilling competition to see who could build the farthest-flying plane. During the Science Fair, the kids participated in interactive booths where they tested their knowledge of space and learned about the different planets, moon phases, and robots' mechanisms. The Astronomy Session offered an introduction to the solar system, with opportunities for the children to ask questions and deepen their understanding of the cosmos. At the end of the journey, the young students left with a newfound appreciation for science and technology, and a thirst for further exploration and learning.

The importance of these events cannot be overstated. For many of these young children, this was a chance to gain knowledge and broaden their horizons in fields they may not have been exposed to otherwise. It's a chance to inspire them and plant the seeds for a brighter and more innovative future.

By providing access to hands-on learning experiences, the IEEE AESS ESPRIT SBC and IEEE SIGHT Group ESPRIT are helping to shape the next generation of scientists and technologists. These events serve not only to educate, but to ignite passion and encourage curiosity in young minds, helping to ensure a brighter future for us all.



Image credits: IEEE AESS ESPRIT SB Chapter

Promoting Women in Engineering and STEM Fields in Slovenia

Tajda Bogovič, Slovenia Section, Chair of IEEE Women in Engineering Affinity Group

As a part of the "Woman Engineer of the Year" initiative in Slovenia, an event that is covered state-wide, ten nominees are selected annually to inspire the younger generation in STEM fields through their personalities and achievements. The "Woman Engineer of the Year" award was initiated by Siemens Slovenia, co-organized by IRT3000 magazine and Mediade, and is part of the "Let's be Engineers!" initiative that brings together engineers, researchers, students and businesses in science and engineering. The aim of the award is to emphasize the importance of women engineers and their contributions to technology, economy and society. The nominees for the Woman Engineer of the Year 2022 include Tajda Bogovič, a software developer for medical diagnostics, currently serving as the Chair of the Slovenia Section Women in Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group. (Another article in this issue of R8 News reports on a programming workshop for girls in Maribor, Slovenia, that was coorganized by WIE.) Other nominees came from industries such as aeronautics, IT, pharmaceuticals, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and mining. As a means to promote their work as engineers to a wider audience, the nominees will visit various educational institutions to share their experiences with students. More information is available at <https://inzenirka-leta.si>.



Image credits: Mediade d.o.o.

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A very productive day ended with a talent show where IEEE members showcased their artistic skills, after which, the Tunisia Section's leaders announced the winners of the chapter challenges and the congress finalists.

The third and final day of the TSYP programme began with the Tunisia Section awards ceremony. Then, the five finalist Student Branches pitched their proposals. After the Q&A session and voting process, the University of Sousse Higher School of Sciences and Technology of Hammam Sousse (ESSTHS) Student Branch was crowned winner of the 10th edition of TSYP.

The TSYP program has come to an end, as for the YPS participants, they spend the rest of the day on a sightseeing tour at Eljam historical site. There was no better way to conclude this diversified experience than with a gala dinner that brought together participants from different nationalities where they could network while discovering both traditional Tunisian food and music.

Check more at: <https://tsyp.ieee.tn>

Manchester Energy and Electrical Power Systems (MEEPS) Symposium 2022

Omoniyi Akinpelumi, Wenzhu Li, and Airam Perez Guillen, IEEE University of Manchester Power and Energy Society Student Branch Chapter

Students, independent researchers, sponsor representatives and guests from industry and academia, all gathered together on 11 November 2022 for Manchester Energy and Electrical Power Systems Symposium, MEEPS 2022, at the Core Technology Facility in Manchester, UK. The event attracted over 60 attendees from 13 UK universities, and wider, as far as Sweden and India, and is the largest annual event of IEEE University of Manchester Power and Energy Society Student Branch Chapter (SBC) of IEEE UK & Ireland Section.

MEEPS 2022 was themed to discuss energy challenges for a more sustainable energy future, centred around various keynote talks of prominent guest and presentations by university researchers. The event kickstarted with an opening address given by Prof. Mike Barnes, Head of the Power and Energy division at University of Manchester. He shared insights on the UK's Integrated Grid 2050 plans, inspiring young researchers on finding solutions to his highlighted challenges in this future supergrid. Diptargha Chakravorty, a Principal Consultant at TNEI Services, provided an overview of TNEI's technical operations

and their solution in probabilistically assessing stability constraints on power networks in his presentation "Advanced Planning Tool for Future Systems". Presentations by researchers from different universities followed. Two IEEE Women-in-Power sessions were held by Siva Kaviya from TNEI Services and Dr. Angeliki Loukatou from National Grid ESO. Poster session of students research continued. Technical program was followed by keynote talk of David Botterill, General Manager at Weidmann Whiteley, about insulation paper innovations in distribution transformers, and keynote talk by Dr Pablo Briff, the R&D Manager at General Electric Renewable Energy, about High-voltage DC to integrate offshore wind farms. Dr Robin Preece, advisor of SBC, rounded up the program with general closing remarks on the event. Omoniyi Akinpelumi, SBC Chair, announced the awards to Alice Jansson, University of Lund, for the best oral presentation, to Kathleen Davies, University of Strathclyde, for the best poster, and to Zaichun Zhang, University of Manchester, for best poster as part of IEEE Region 8 Local Student Paper Contest.

We would sincerely like to appreciate the kind support of our sponsors General Electric, TNEI, Weidmann, IEEE Region 8 and the University of Manchester, and our partners IEEE Women in Power of UK&Ireland Section, IET, IEEE PES and IEEE UK&Ireland section who made this event a success. Special thanks go to the passionate and hard-working student branch members and also student volunteers from the University of Manchester.

Check more at <http://www.ieee-manchester.org.uk>



Image credits: IEEE University of Manchester PES SB Chapter

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Celebrating Excellence: The 13th IEEE Iran Section Award Ceremony

The 13th award ceremony of the IEEE Iran Section was held on January 4, 2023, at the ICT Research Institute and was broadcast online, with over 150 professors, student branch advisors, and students in attendance. Mohammad Ghaderzadeh, the host of the ceremony, officially welcomed all the prestigious guests and started the session. Dr. Seyed Mohammad Razavizadeh, the Chair of the ICT Research

Institute, was the next speaker, after which he was presented with a memorial plaque in recognition of valuable efforts and cooperation between the Institute and the Section. Prof. Jawad Faiz, Chair of the IEEE Iran section Awards and Recognition Committee, presented the information about the 2022 award nominees. In total, 18 awards were given across various categories, including lifetime teaching and lifetime research, industry, student theses and awards, young professionals, and women in engineering.

HISTELCON 2023 Announcement

Stefano Selleri, Technical Program Chair of HISTELCON 2023 and History Activity Committee member of IEEE Italy Section

HISTELCON 2023 will be the 8th edition of IEEE Region 8 flagship conference on History of Electrotechnology as the only IEEE conference worldwide dedicated to any aspects of the history of electrical engineering, electronics, computing, and their impact on social and economical and development.

The conference returns to Italy after the 2012 Pavia edition. It will be a hybrid event, allowing also online participation, with in-person presence highly welcome. The conference will be hosted in the magnificent city of Florence, Italy. Opening ceremonies will be in main hall of the rector see, in the historical building in San Marco square. Regular sessions will be held in the Antica Canonica di San Giovanni, in Florence Cathedral Square, a few steps from the Cathedral itself and all main attractions: the Uffizi gallery, San Lorenzo church, with Medici's tombs, Palazzo Vecchio, Pitti palace, Medici Riccardi palace, Strozzi palace. The Antica Canonica is the ancient rectory of the cathedral, with a narrow entrance facing the northern door of the San Giovanni baptistry, and rooms still maintaining fragments of middle age frescoes.

Regular sessions will span from Technology museums to Computers and microprocessors, Device and system vulnerability, Foundational research and Big Science, Measurement systems and units, Big corporations, Radio astronomy and Humanistic studies and technology. A few special sessions are being organized as well, and we welcome you to check the conference site for detailed information on these.



Image credits: IEEE Italy Section

New R8 Ad-hoc Committee on Educational Infrastructure: Calls for Inputs

Albert Lysko, Chair of IEEE Region 8 Ad-hoc on Educational Infrastructure

IEEE Region 8 Director Vincenzo Piuri has established a new Ad-hoc Committee on Educational Infrastructure in 2023. The committee shall study services and infrastructures to make technical knowledge and practical skills more accessible and support the expansion of R8 educational activities.

The diverse multinational committee is composed of nine members, namely, Albert Lysko (South Africa) (Chair), Ala' F Khalifeh (Jordan),

Aleksei Tepljakov (Estonia), Ali Hussain Alfayly (Kuwait), Barbara Vujkov (Serbia), Igor Matias (Portugal), Murielle Lacombed (France), Neecharl Ramprosand (Mauritius), Sohaib Qamar Sheikh (United Kingdom), and two *ex-officio* members, Vincenzo Piuri, and Marios Antoniou, IEEE Region 8 Vice-Chair: Technical Activities.

Region 8 Director intends this committee to prepare a framework to collect what R8 is already producing and provide guidelines on how to make recordings, which can be usable and define a global publicity plan. That will allow for deciding the repository and the recording guidelines by the end of 2023.

Volunteers and members are welcome to send their inputs on improving access to the events and materials such as slides and recordings from the R8 events. The inputs can be forwarded to the Chair of the Ad-Hoc committee, Albert Lysko educational.infrastructures.coordinator@ieeer8.org.

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classes were buzzing with fun and students received certificates for their participation.

The CS Challenge was held as part of the Tunisia SYP Congress (10th, or X edition), with a focus on artificial intelligence. The main task was to come up with a high accuracy model for segmentation convolutional neural networks, designed to perform semantic segmentation of assigning a label to each pixel of an image. Participants were committed to identify craters in satellite images of the Martian surface.

The Chapter's activities are regularly supported by sponsors, and arranging sponsorship is a long process that requires particular skills such as negotiation proficiency. A sponsoring workshop was held with our dear mentor, Oussema Ben Said, to familiarize our members with this concept.



IEEE Sister Societies' Journals

Infocommunications Journal

Pal Varga, Editor in Chief of Infocommunications Journal

Infocommunications Journal is published by the Scientific Association for Infocommunications, Hungary (HTE), a Sister Society of IEEE and IEEE Communications Society. The scope of our journal spans a wide range of technical areas, covering a large variety of topics of interest to our Society, in classical telecommunications, information technology, media technologies, and media communications, thus representing the process of convergence of telecommunications, digital broadcasting, and information technology. Our scope also includes some interdisciplinary areas such as economics, regulation, and management aspects of infocommunications, as well as the society-related issues. There are distinguished chapters as expert domains that the Infocommunications Journal pays special attention to. These are quantum communications,

networks and security, radio communications, neural speech technology, internet of digital and cognitive realities, for which we have dedicated editors and special issues.

Year 2022 was successful for our community as the journal received the peak number of individual submissions so far, nearly 150. This is certainly due to three factors. The first reason is, of course, the continuously and visibly improving journal metrics. Second, the two calls for special issue papers: on Internet of Digital & Cognitive Realities and on Tech-Augmented Legal Environment. Third, the activities of the Editorial Board, which helped a lot in attracting great papers. As the Infocommunications Journal is listed in the Web of Science: Emerging Sources Citation Index, we became eligible for an official Impact Factor calculated by Clarivate, already for the year 2022, while the actual value will be announced in June 2023. According to our calculation, the Impact Factor will be between 1.4-1.7, and its announcement in June 2023 will provide our Journal a significant visibility.

The latest December 2022 issue is available at: https://www.infocommunications.hu/2022_4.

Infocommunications Journal

A PUBLICATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION FOR INFOCOMMUNICATIONS (HTE)



Journal of Communications Software and Systems (JCOMSS)

Nikola Rozic, Editorial Chair, and Dinko Begušić, Editor-in-Chief

The Journal of Communications Software and Systems (JCOMSS) is published by the Croatian Communications and Information Society (CCIS), a sister society of IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc) since 2002. The initial Sister Society Agreement between ComSoc and CCIS was signed at the 2002 IEEE Global Telecommunications Conference (GLOBECOM) in Taipei, Taiwan, and has subsequently been renewed ever since. In addition to publishing JCOMMS, in cooperation with the University of Split, FESB, CCIS also organizes the annual International Conference on Software, Telecommunications and Computer Networks (SoftCOM). Both the journal and the conference are technically co-sponsored by ComSoc and supported by IEEE Croatia Section and its ComSoc Chapter.

JCOMSS is a peer-reviewed, open-access (OA) journal. It is indexed in WoS, ESCI, Scopus, EBSCO, Inspec, Google Scholar, CrossRef, and DOAJ; and it is currently undergoing the screening process for inclusion in the WoS SCI-Exp database (Clarivate Analytics). Papers are electronically published on the journal website (<https://jcoms.fesb.unist.hr/>) soon after acceptance and are made permanently

available in the journal's Archives. JCOMMS is published quarterly and the preparation of Volume 19 is underway, with the Issue 1 to be published in March 2023. JCOMMS typically has a 2-month window for the final decision for well-prepared regular papers that are accepted after one round of the prescreening and peer review process. The quality of peer review is established and maintained by a number of recognised scientists serving as Area Editors (AE) for specific technical areas.

JCOMSS invites submission of high-quality papers that advance the state-of-the-art and applications in communications software engineering and communications systems and services. Researchers are solicited to submit manuscripts presenting new methods and innovative techniques, as well as reports on experiments with the performance analysis of systems and prototypes. The journal covers all aspects of communications software, systems, and services in wired and wireless communications. In addition to the regular call for papers, a call for special issues proposals is open. Several special issues have been published, and currently a special issue entitled "Healthcare Applications: From Sensor to Cloud" is being prepared for publication. More information is available at <https://jcoms.fesb.unist.hr/>



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Engineering Day 2022 in IEEE Portugal Section—The Semiconductor Industry at a Crossroads Point

Catarina Reis, Vice Chair of IEEE Portugal Section

The IEEE Portugal Section's annual Engineering Day 2022 focused on the importance of semiconductors and component failures. This hybrid event was held in UNINOVA, FCT NOVA School of Science and Technology in Caparica, on 25 November 2022, and attracted a diverse crowd of 68 participants (38 online) from IEEE community based in Portugal. The ability to attend this yearly gathering online

The IEEE Solid-State Circuits Society Chapter joined forces with the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society, IEEE Broadcast Technology Society, and IEEE Consumer Technology Society Chapters, to host an outstanding half-day event. Six renowned international speakers provided an overview of the history of the semiconductor technology, followed by a discussion of the current state of the shortage associated

with the pandemic and war situations. The speakers also offered some useful insights into the significance of the industry and concluded with a thought-provoking preview of what the future might hold in the light of thin-film transistors (TFT).

During the event, the IEEE Portugal Section announced the winners of the Section Awards, Special Recognition Awards, and the third edition of the IEEE Outstanding M.Sc. Award. The Outstanding M.Sc. Award initiative recognizes exceptional theses completed by students enrolled in Portuguese Higher Education Institutions during the previous year. With 42 applications received, the IEEE Portugal Section honored 4 theses, each in a different technical area. The evaluation process involved 30 academics and researchers, and joint efforts and engagement of 4 Section Chapters: Communications Society, Vehicular Technology Society, Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, and Power and Energy Society.

In 2023, the IEEE Portugal Section is committed to continue these initiatives, with the fourth edition of the IEEE Outstanding M.Sc. Award and a similar initiative to recognize exceptional Ph.D. theses. The recipients of these awards will be announced at the 2023 IEEE Engineering Day (date TBD). More information at <https://engineeringday.ieee-pt.org>.



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University of Technology Bahrain (UTB) and Bahrain Section Sign Agreement to Advance Education and Student Support

Ali Zolait, Chair of IEEE Bahrain Section

The University of Technology Bahrain (UTB) is a private university in the Kingdom of Bahrain, established in 2002 and accredited by the Higher Education Council. It offers bachelor's programs in engineering, computer science, and business, as well as a Master of Business Administration program. UTB is committed to providing high-quality education and is undergoing a significant transformation to upgrade its position as a provider of cutting-edge technology and business programs. The university has links with the industry and public sector to align its programs with market needs. UTB has recently signed an agreement with the IEEE Bahrain Section to advance the educational process and provide support for student activities and technical support for conferences and student programs. This agreement is seen as a progression from previous agreements and represents the high level of successful collaboration that has been achieved in recent years. The

signing ceremony was attended by Dr. Hassan Al-Mulla, the President, and Dr. Adnan Al-Tamimi and Dr. Haitham Al-Qahtani, the Vice-Presidents of UTB; and a delegation from the IEEE Bahrain Section, including the Dr. Ali Hussain Zolait (Chair), Dr. Adel Hamid Abdulla (Vice Chair), Professor Husham Ahmed (Treasurer), and Professor Isa S. Qamber, one of the Bahrain Section's Honorary Founders.



Image credits: IEEE Bahrain Section