ON 23 September 2010, a Milestone celebration was held at Institut Catholique de Paris, France, where Edouard Branly spent his career. Branly was one of several French scientists who contributed to early developments of electricity and radio communications. His workshop has been transformed into a museum.

The citation on the Milestone reads: “In this building, Edouard Branly discovered radioconduction, now called the Branly Effect. On 24 November 1890, he observed that an electromagnetic wave changes the ability of metal filings to conduct electricity. "Branly used his discovery to make a very sensitive detector called a coherer, improved versions of which became the first practical wireless signal receivers.”

How to run a SB......p8

Vol 13 No 4 December 2010

www.ieee.org/r8

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Discovery in 1890 of the Branly Effect is commemorated in Paris

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Milestone honours the inventors of public key cryptography

ON 4–5 October 2010, the IEEE United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Section celebrated the IEEE Milestone for the invention of public key cryptography (PKC).

The work was done 35 years ago inside the top-secret offices of the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in Cheltenham, UK, where a ceremony and reception was held. The following day, a second ceremony was held at the nearby civic centre, followed by a luncheon for members and a technical symposium.

In 1975, James Ellis at GCHQ had proved that a symmetric secret-key system was unnecessary, leading Clifford Cocks and Malcolm Williamson to show how such ‘public-key cryptography’ could be achieved. Up to then, it was believed that secure communication was impossible without exchanging a secret key, with key distribution being a major impediment. These discoveries and their essential principles were kept secret until 1997.

The importance of PKC and the further work in the USA, which led to the development of the RSA algorithm patented in 1983, is possibly the most important development in secure communications for several centuries. It is the mechanism for private communication over public electronic networks, which forms the basis for security products now in use over the Internet.

To find out more, please visit the R8News website, and look up IEEE Global History Network.

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Celebrating the remarkable Star of Laufenburg

ON 19 August 2010, the Swiss-based high-voltage electricity supply link known as the ‘Star of Laufenburg’ was honored by an IEEE Milestone.

The Star was built in 1958 to connect the electrical power grids of Switzerland, Germany and France. Today, the electricity substation is the central node in the southern part of the European Interconnected Power Grid.

The Milestone plaque was unveiled by IEEE president-elect Moshe Kam.

The celebration of the Milestone took place under sunny skies at the Laufenburg site, near Basel on the Swiss border with Germany. Klaus-Peter Brand, chair of the Swiss chapter of the IEEE Power & Energy Society, and Han van Loon, chair of the IEEE Switzerland Section, expressed the feelings of pride that this event marked for engineers.

Moshe Kam remarked that the substation continues to pose interesting and deep engineering challenges.

The node is so central that it requires good protection both for the physical plant and for its highly sophisticated computing infrastructure.

Pierre-Alain Graf, CEO of Swissgrid, the company formed in 2006 to own the site, recapped the history of Star of Laufenburg. As the economies of France, Germany and Europe grew in the postwar years, so did consumption of electricity and the demand for inter-
Discovery in 1890 of the Branly Effect is commemorated in Paris

Region B Director Józef Modelski read a letter of congratulations from Pedro Ray, the IEEE President. Branly’s great grandson, Philippe Abelein, represented the Branly family.

Odile Macchi, member of the French Académie des Sciences, gave a talk on Branly’s life, emphasizing his multiple fields of interest and the lessons he taught us for today’s science.

The meeting was honored by the presence of Jean Lebel, one of the founders of IEEE France Section in 1961.

The milestone dedication gave thanks to Amara Amara, Jean-Gabriel Rémy and the late Jean-Claude Boudenot.

Celebrating Star of Laufenburg

Today, the Star of Laufenburg connects 530 million consumers in 30 countries and boasts 28,000mW of coupling capacity.

Following the presentations, guests were invited to tour the Swissgrid control center.

Giselle Weiss

Interview with IEEE president-elect Moshe Kam on the Star of Laufenburg Milestone

What does this day mean to you?

It’s an important day for IEEE because of the fact that what happened here was first of all a huge technical feat in terms of volumes. Nothing like that was tried before. It also shows how engineering can make a significant political difference: it is not easy to go to war when your electrical grid is interconnected with that of the other side!

How important is Star of Laufenburg to the engineering community?

When it was established, Star of Laufenburg represented a bold leap in technology. So it is known for that. But it is also probably the prime test bed in Europe for checking and demonstrating new ideas, not only in power engineering but also in control, computing, sensing, pattern recognition, and signal processing. It is a wonderful laboratory.

What’s next for power engineering?

Star of Laufenburg is based on old technology. In the future, sources of energy will be much more heterogeneous, and we will need a smart way of dealing them. For example, we will need systems that allow wind at one end of a continent to produce energy that arrives in time at the other end of the continent with as little loss as possible. That will require entirely new thinking about how to manage the power grid.
R8 history matters

IN THE September issue of Region 8 News, Kurt Rich
ter’s article ‘2013 marks the 50th anniversary of Region 8’ asks members to contrib-
ute information to the “Jubilee Book”.

Here’s a reminder of two aspects of the history of Region 8:

■ History of the development of the IEEE organisa-
tion within the Region, such as Section histories, impor-
tant IEEE events, etc.
■ Technology History: im-
portant scientific and engi-
eering events, objects and inven-
tions in the field of interest of IEEE. A few are com-
memorated by IEEE His-
tory Milestone Plaques.

The Region 8 Commit-
tee has supported the cer-
emonies for dedication of Milestones. It has encour-
aged conference-tracks on Technology History and re-
cently conferences with the title HISTELCON have been held in the Region with co-
sponsorship by Region 8.

A part of the history of IEEE is recorded in meeting-
minutes, but these are not always complete, and the personal recollections of IEEE volunteers (past direc-
tors, secretaries, etc) are an important additional source of historical data.

Some of this data is on the IEEE R8 website, and addi-
tions are welcome. Sections are encouraged to complete accounts of their history and make this avail-
able on their websites.

Any members who be-
lieve they have interesting information to share concern-
ing their history are encour-
gaged to contact their section chairman and mention ‘Jubi-
lee Book’.
Tony Davies

Tonydavies@ieee.org

THE 7TH annual Industrial and Commercial Use of En-
ergy (ICUE) Conference, co-
sponsored by the Power and Energy Society (PES) Chap-
ter, IEEE South Africa Sec-
tion was held at the Vineyard Hotel, Cape Town on 11–12 August 2010.

The programme reviewed today’s energy priorities with energy efficiency and de-
mand side management high on the list.

The scope for renewable energy sources is endless. Solar and wind generators are standing in the wings to

feed their outputs into the national grid. Such options are environmentally friendly, but careful costing and plan-
ning has to be carried out to utilise such options most economically.

The ICUE team was par-
ticularly pleased that the president of IEEE’s Power and Energy Society (PES), Alan Rotz, gave the keynote on Sustainable Energy in the USA.

Matt Loeh, IEEE’s staff executive for IEEE Corporate Strategy, delivered the opening talk on behalf of the IEEE President 2010, Pedro Ray.

Joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter visits SMA Technology to learn more about power

ON 17–18 June 2010, well over 60 participants gathered for this year’s second meet-
ning at SMA Solar Technology AG in Kassel, Germany in co-
operation with the Fraunhofer Institute for Wind Energy and Energy System Technology (IWES) and the Knowledge and Data Engineering Group (KDEE) of the University of Kassel.

The theme was photovoltaic (PV) technology – now at the edge moving from a niche technology to a major player in electrical power genera-
tion, making it comparable

to the situation of wind power 10 years ago.

After a brief welcome by Chapter chairman Ingo Hahn, SMA’s senior vice president for technology and develop-
ment, Bernd Engel, gave an overview of the history of the company, a market and tech-
nology leader of PV inverters.

Flexible needs

Matthias Victor and Regine Mallwitz, spoke about technical requirements such as flexibility, support of several parallel strings within one inverter and a maximum
efficiency especially under partial load.

Battery supported PV systems were then discussed by Martin Rothert. On a sunny summer’s day, between 10% and 20% of the electric-
power in German grids is now delivered by PV plants, most of them connected to a low voltage domestic grid.

Challenges are to stabi-
lize the voltage within the LV grids, which were built as pure power sinks, but are now sometimes operated as a power source. Solar power battery systems support local
energy consumption during the evening hours.

The first day closed with a factory tour and a recep-
tion hosted by Roland Grebe, Chief Technology Officer of SMA.

Wind energy

The second day of the meeting was located at the Fraunhofer Institute for Wind Energy and Energy System Technology (IWES) in Kassel.

Jürgen Schmidt delivered the greeting and Dr Strauss, who explained how net services from the plants as well as variable transformers are needed to adjust the voltage corridor to the direction of the power flow.

Chapter chairman Ingo Hahn later announced that the Chapter had won Region 8’s Chapter of the Year award.

For further information please visit our website: ewh.
.ieee.org/r8/germany/ias-pe-
ls

Andreas Waagner

Joint IAS/PELS/IES Chapter

Discussing commercial use of energy at ICUE in Cape Town, South Africa

The conference was at-
tended by 150 delegates from various countries, and was preceded by an Indus-
trial and Mining Optimisation seminar. Workshops concen-
trated on energy manage-
ment in commerce and at universities.

Delegates left the con-
ference with fresh ideas and initiatives to manage energy use in their respective organi-
sations and industries.

Nico Beute
Chair, ICUE General Conference

NicoBeute@ieee.org
Milestones: a sense of pride in the profession

THE SUMMER and autumn months were full of activities for many IEEE sections. Several Milestones celebrated technical achievements which had not previously been given public recognition.

IEEE chooses to celebrate an engineering accomplishment in order to explain its value to the general public and to honour the people behind it.

When you read the reports you can feel the pride in our profession, understanding and acknowledging something carried out for the benefit of everyone.

Please visit IEEE Global History Network at www.ieeeh.org which is dedicated to the history of our innovation.

Elsewhere in this issue we print reports from many IEEE Region 8 ‘organisational units’ – the Student Branches, Affinity Groups, Sections and so on. They are interesting because they show our future engineering leaders in action. IEEE member activities give us opportunities to shoulder increased responsibilities as volunteers.

There is a direct link between these activities in a changing professional environment. Career growth is about leadership skills and the ability to communicate – so-called ‘soft’ skills as well as technical.

Have you an interesting invention, development, initiative? We hope that you will contribute to future issues of News.

Roland Saam and Zhijia Huang

Region 8 in retrospect: 2010

Region 8 Director 2009–10: Josef Modelski
Director-elect for 2011–12: Marko Delimar
Region 8 Members (as of end of Sep): 68,828
including 16,391 students
Sections: 56
Chapters: 452
R8 Committee meetings:
Riga (7–9 May 2010)
Prague (9–10 Oct 2010)
New Initiatives:
IEEE e-Membership
IEEE Day (8–9 Oct)
Regional Conferences:
Milestones & Anniversaries:
June 2011 issue: deadline: 1 January 2011
September 2011 issue: deadline: 1 July 2011
December 2011 issue: deadline: 1 October 2011

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A SUMMER School on Cellular Technologies and Solutions (www.athenasch.gr) was held during 19–25 July 2010 at the Department of Telecommunication Systems and Networks (www.tesydeimes.gr/en), Technological Education Institute of Messolongi, Nafpaktos, Greece. The event was supported by the IEEE Joint VTS & AESS Greece Chapter and Greece GOLD Affinity Group, and it attracted 50 non-IEEE members and 10 speakers. The Chapter was represented by Dimitrios Efstatiou (vice-chair) and Athanasios Iossifides (IEEE liaison), who spoke on the subjects: BTS-GPS Synchronization, WCDMA for UMTS and HSPA Evolution. A talk on Chapter activities and the IEEE organization was given by Dr Efstatiou, who received a lot of questions on the IEEE community. Pencils and notebooks with the Chapter logo were given to the attendees.

Visit us online at http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/greece/avtc.

Athena Summer School focuses on cellular technologies in Nafpaktos

The event was supported by the IEEE Joint VTS & AESS Greece Chapter and Greece GOLD Affinity Group, and it attracted 50 non-IEEE members and 10 speakers. The Chapter was represented by Dimitrios Efstatiou (vice-chair) and Athanasios Iossifides (IEEE liaison), who spoke on the subjects: BTS-GPS Synchronization, WCDMA for UMTS and HSPA Evolution. A talk on Chapter activities and the IEEE organization was given by Dr Efstatiou, who received a lot of questions on the IEEE community. Pencils and notebooks with the Chapter logo were given to the attendees.

Visit us online at http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/greece/avtc.

Macedonia hosts power electronics conference attended by 400 engineers from 51 countries

THE 14TH International EPE-PEMC Conference was held in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia, on 6–8 September 2010 (epe-pemc2010.com).

The event was organized by the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies (FEEIT) of Ss Cyril and Methodius University, under Auspices of Ministry of Education and Science, Republic of Macedonia, with cooperation of the EPE-PEMC Council in Budapest, Hungary, and EPE Association in Brussels, Belgium.

The general Chair was Slobodan Mircevski from FEEIT, and the general co-chair was Dushan Boroyevich, currently president-elect of the IEEE Power Electronics Society. The Conference was opened by the President of the Republic of Macedonia, His Excellency Gjorge Ivanov.

Over 400 specialists, engineers and scientists from 51 countries all over the world participated in EPE-PEMC 2010. 154 papers were presented in 3 plenary, 17 lecture and 15 special sessions, and 195 in dialogue (poster) sessions.

The Conference was complemented by a technical exhibition featuring 20 industrial and academic stands.

During the gala dinner, EPE-PEMC Council Awards were given to Thomas A Lipo from the USA and Frede Blaabjerg from Denmark.

The next 15th International EPE-PEMC Conference will be held on 4–6 September 2012 in Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia (for more details, go online to: epe-pemc2012.com).

The Power Electronics and Motion Control (PEMC) conference series go back to 1970, held biannually since 1996. After joining the European Power Electronics and Drive (EPE) Association in 2000, it was renamed EPE-PEMC to stress the strength of mutual cooperation. For more about the history of EPE-PEMC, see our website at http://epe-pemc.get.bme.hu.

Goce L Arsov
Section Chair

Iran Section bids farewell to Caro Lucas

AFTER BATTLING with cancer for a year, Caro Lucas, a distinguished professor of the University of Tehran, passed away on 8 July 2010.

He made significant contributions to IEEE and revived the IEEE Iran Section in 1990.

He was known as the father of computational intelligence in this country with contributions to biological computing and business intelligence, and was recognized by the Iranian Science and Culture Hall of Fame with their highest honour.

The President of the Republic of Macedonia, His Excellency Gjorge Ivanov, declares the Conference Open.

Istvan Nagy, chair of the EPE-PEMC Council, hands the EPE-PEMC Council Award to Tomas A Lipo.

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He was known as the father of computational intelligence in this country with contributions to biological computing and business intelligence, and was recognized by the Iranian Science and Culture Hall of Fame with their highest honour.
THE FIRST conference on Power Electronics and Drive Systems and Technologies (PEDSTC) was held at Tarbiat Modares University on February 17–18 2010.

82 out of 186 submitted papers were accepted and presented at the event.

The conference goal was to provide an opportunity for interested researchers and the industry sector to convene and exchange ideas in power electronics and drive systems.

The conference heard two keynote speakers: Prof Vaez-Zadeh talked about vector control and DTC methods and new opportunities in AC motors; and Prof Lipo, IEEE Life Fellow, spoke on the subject linear inverter current regulations.

The papers presented at this conference are indexed in the IEEE Xplore database.

New workshops

Iran Section also organised two new workshops in the autumn.

The first of these was on 4th Generation Mobile Networks (IMT – Advanced), presented by Mohammad Razavi-Zadeh on 9 October.

The second workshop was on the topic of Satellite Systems for Various Applications, presented by Mohammad Hakkak the following day on 10 October.

Embedded systems design takes centre stage as Greece hosts 2010 edition of ISVLSI symposium

THE 2010 IEEE Computer Society Annual Symposium on VLSI (ISVLSI’10) was successfully held on 4–7 July in Kefalonia, Greece.

IEEE ISVLSI is one of the most famous and important conferences organized both in USA and Europe, focusing on embedded systems design, circuits and systems, along with more specialized topics such as cryptographic hardware, memory design, signal processing, and nano computing. The technical program included 75 papers, spread over 18 sessions in three interesting days. At the same time, manuscripts were displayed at the poster session showing work from young scientists for the PhD forum.

The program also included six invited talks from worldwide experts from both academia and industry. We also organised a Research Project Workshop, where the results of projects were discussed and presented.

Nicolas Sklavos
nsklavos@ ieee.org
http://isvlsi2010.org

South Africa Section celebrates IEEE Day in Pretoria with talk on electronic publishing

AN INAUGURAL IEEE Day event was held in Pretoria by South Africa Section on 7 October 2010, to celebrate the achievements of IEEE members.

The day was dedicated to giving information on IEEE membership to Denel Dynamics employees. Denel Dynamics manufactures tactical missiles, precision-guided weapons and unmanned aerial vehicles.

IEEE South Africa Section Educational Activities chair, Excellent Sithole, highlighted the key benefits of IEEE membership. Attendees were then given a chance to ask questions, which proved to be a lively and wholesome discussion.

The second part of the day was handled by the invited speaker, Chris Yelland, managing director of EE Publishers and an IEEE member. EE Publishers produces print and electronic media, including EngineerIT, PositionIT, Energize and Vector.

In his talk entitled ‘Technical publishing and the impact of the new media’, Chris mentioned that EE publishers acts as voice for IEEE South Africa section by communicating news and displaying articles about IEEE South Africa at both student and section/chapter levels.

South Africa is one of the countries that now qualify for IEEE e-Membership (starting in September 2010). A live demonstration was also given on the use of Flash in electronic magazines as utilized by EE publishers.

The day ended with an exciting photo shoot by the Denel Dynamics Youth Forum. All were dressed in IEEE Day T-shirts sponsored by Chris de Kock, manager of the Engineering department. Photos were submitted to the IEEE Day contest website, sharing the success of the day with the international IEEE family.

Excellent Sithole
excellent@ieee.org

NEW workshOPS

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Ex-student delivers keynote at Cape Town STEP event

The keynote lecture was given by Michal, a graduate from the University. In two years since graduation, he has successfully formed a social media analytics company Fuseware. He told us about his transition from being a student to becoming a professional.

The main part of the evening was for the graduating students to socialize with invited guests from engineering companies in Cape Town and representatives from the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE).

Joyce Mwangama
Student Branch Chair
University of Cape Town
joyce.mwangama@ieee.org

Brett Kilpatrick from GIBS spoke on the value of an MBA qualification for young engineers.

Members of the organizing committee.

GOLD Affinity Group and Student Branches in South Africa launch ComSoc Chapter

THE IEEE South Africa Section’s GOLD Affinity Group Northern Region and Universities of Pretoria and Witwatersrand Student Branches hosted a STEP event and launched the Communications Society Chapter. 70 local GOLD and student members attended.

Keoikantse Marungwana, chairman of the GOLD AG, opened the event with a welcome speech.

Sunil Maharaj of the Joint Signal Processing and Communications Society Chapter of IEEE South Africa Section gave an overview of Chapter activities in the Section. The inaugural Chapter chair, Thinus Prinsloo, proudly declared the ComSoc Chapter of the Student Branch formally launched.

The second part focused on career development, with keynote speakers from the University of Pretoria’s Gordon Institute of Business Science, and the Graduate School of Technology Management.

Siebert Benade, outlined the merits of Technology Management, Engineering Management, and Project Management qualifications for young engineers.

Brett Kilpatrick from GIBS captivated the audience with his presentation on the value of achieving an MBA qualification for young engineers.

The audience thoroughly engaged the speakers, attempting to decide between the two offerings.

Keoikantse Marungwana

AFRICON 2011
www.africon2011.co.za
13–25 September 2011 • Victoria Falls, Zambia

IEEE AFRICON presents a forum for electrical, electronic and IT research with related mechanical and civil engineering activities in Africa.
The Student Branch Cook Book, part 2: what is a Student Branch Chapter?

A STUDENT Branch Chapter is a technical sub-unit of a Student Branch, but it actually has two parents: the Student Branch itself together with one or more technical societies. A Student Branch Chapter functions as a committee of the SB and must have at least six members that hold membership in the respective societies.

What do you need to establish a Student Branch Chapter?
A petition to establish a Student Branch Chapter, in the required form (see IEEE website), must be approved by the Student Branch officers and Student Branch counselor.

What are the Student Branch Chapter requirements for membership, meetings and activity?
A Student Branch Chapter is required to maintain a membership of not fewer than six students, and hold not less than two technical meetings per year. It must maintain a level of activity acceptable to the Society president, the regional director, and the region Student Activities committee chair.

How does the Student Branch Chapter operate?
Chapter members elect officers to form an executive committee which then follows the rules and guidelines of the Society and the Student Branch.

What about reporting, rebates and benefits of Student Branch Chapters?
Activity reporting is done like a regular Chapter and can be included in the Section’s report.

Benefits of Student Branch Chapters:
- As members of the Society, access to the particular activities of that society (such as fellowships, prizes, contests, etc).
- Direct line to Graduate Student Members in your branch: you can look for them in the database and contact them, they are usually very interested in chapter meetings and particular benefits (again, contests, fellowships, etc).
- Increased access to Society sponsorship packages.
- Support from the Section: you provide a ‘free chapter’ to them, which results in more rebates for the Section itself.

Student Branch, but it is a technical sub-unit of a Student Branch itself together with one or more technical societies. A petition to establish a Student Branch Chapter, in the required form (see IEEE website), must be approved by the Student Branch officers and Student Branch counselor. The number of Student Branches increased in 2010. Right now the count is well above 300. We expect to hit 350 in early 2011. The overall Student and Graduate Student membership is 20,000+ which is more than one-quarter of the total IEEE membership! More than one-quarter of the total IEEE membership is 20,000+ which is more than one-quarter of the total IEEE membership! Students and Graduate Students make up more than one-quarter of the total IEEE membership!

Furthermore, this year marked the first celebration of IEEE Day, with Student Branches around the region realising for the purpose of advancing their technical and professional skills.

Last but not least
DO GOOD and tell others about it! Make sure you let your Section, your Section Student officers as well as us at Region 8 Student Activities know about your activities.

We would be happy to receive any feedback on your IEEE experience. Let us know what you like or dislike, what made you join IEEE and which areas you want to see improvement.

Do you want to compete? Check out all the awards, contests and prize winning contests available at IEEE. Visit www.r8sac.org or shoot us an email to r8sac@ieee.org.

Thanks for being a member of the IEEE family! All the best for 2011 from your 2010 Student Activities Team,

Eva, Amélie, Pablo, Jorge, Muhammad and George

Eva, Amélie, Pablo, Jorge, Muhammad and George

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Activity reporting is done like a regular Chapter and can be included in the Section’s report.

With respect to rebates, there is no direct fund for the Chapter but the Section receives more rebate for every student member who is also a member of a Society (so you can always encourage your section to help you more).

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Region8 SAC Team
Student Branch Vienna, Austria
Workshop looks at modern embedded systems with ARM

About 20 students took part with an ARM Cortex A8 processor development board including a TFT display outfitted with a touch screen.

The participants gained good insight into the amazing world of embedded systems, which was also reflected in their positive feedback.

Strong participation
We were pleased that many people in the IEEE organisation participated actively in the sessions, including past president John Vig, president-elect Moshe Kam, both R8 director-elect candidates and the entire Region 8 Operations team, which highlighted the importance of this student event within IEEE.

From a total of 334 registrations there were 238 students and 30 GOLD representatives from 46 countries. With 32 participants, the Turkish delegation was the largest by far, even outnumbering the local organizing members.

The prize for the distance farthest travelled went to the Region 10 Student representative who came all the way from Australia.

The congress started with a guided tour through the historic city of Leuven in the afternoon, taking all participants to the city hall for the opening reception. Plenary sessions started early in the morning followed by workshops about new branch activities, networking and soft skills for tomorrow’s leaders – over 40 different topics in total!

The congress had a lot of useful experiences to offer. Highlights in the program were the ‘Elect the President’ debate, the highly explosive ‘mad scientist’ John Cohn, Thursday’s gala dinner in the heart of the city and Friday’s guided tour on the Leuven High-Tech campus ending with a live band supported barbecue in the green surroundings of the engineering campus.

The most highly expected activity by far was Saturday’s multi-cultural evening, where all participants could meet, drink and eat each other’s culture after having experienced a part of the Belgian culture during the brewery visit.

Late night
For some participants, a ‘multi-cultural hangover’ was one of the side effects of this evening activity, which resulted by far in the largest drop of breakfast attendees one could ever expect the morning of the last congress day.

After the closing sessions and the visit to Brussels, all congress participants returned to their home countries, student branches and affinity groups, with a bag full of stories and experiences, counting the days until the next SBC...

REPORTS: IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2010

With almost 300 attendees, this year’s R8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress was a very successful SBC!

From 4-8 August, 268 young engineering students and young professionals from all over the region gathered together in the small city of Leuven in Belgium for what would become the 7th edition of the biannually held SBC. Here, they had many opportunities to network, to learn more about the IEEE and to discuss present and future engineering challenges.

University of Ibadan, Nigeria
Symposium on Nigerian electronic payments

The University of Ibadan Student Branch hosted its annual Students’ Professional Awareness Conference (SPAC) on 18 August with an attendance of 200 students. The theme of the discussion was ‘The Electronic Payment Industry in Nigeria’.

The panelists for the main discussion selected were professionals from the leading companies in the e-payment industry in Nigeria. They were Ayo Akintoye (NCR), Olayombo Ogunsanya (ATM-Consortium), Femi Adesina (Coporeti Support Services) and Kayode Akingbolade (NCR). The moderator was Debo Onifade, CEO of E-Peak Systems.

The discussion focused on the industry in general, products and services, technical and business innovations in the companies, career prospects for graduating students, expectations from technology job seekers, as well as the future of the electronic payment industry in Nigeria. There were also presentations by the Head of the Electrical Electronics Department, A Olatunbosun, on students’ academic focus and Abisola Awojobi on women excelling in a male-dominated field by the WIE Affinity Group.

As a prelude to the main discussion, Pelumi Egunjobi, a student of the Electrical Electronics Department, gave a presentation on ‘Prcrime’, an application software developed by him, for managing and keeping records in a prison system.

Opanuga Toluwalase & Nwankwo Mary-Theresa

The Student Branch Congress organizing team at Leuven included a very colourful bear who popped up everywhere during the event.
IEEE PSUT had several great events in the past few months, starting with a technical session about WiMax technology: Modulation techniques, physical layer, and Policies. Next, a Red Hat network administration training course was given by Mousa Nassar, a certified Redhat partner.

The training was sponsored by Savvytek, where the participants got the opportunity to learn how to use the Linux based OS in network administration.

**Self-confidence**

The Branch WIE Affinity Group had a self-confidence workshop for members at PSUT. It was women-only event, where they discussed how to become more self-confident in the society and have a bigger impact in personal and professional life.

Two members from IEEE PSUT represented IEEE in Leadership Summer School, along with another two members from IEEE METU SB. The participants had an extensive 10 days’ training in leadership, management, and soft skills.

**Student Branch award**

At the Region 8 Student Branch Congress 2010, PSUT SB won the exemplary Student Branch award and also the Darrel Chong Bronze award for the hosting the Middle East Student Branch Congress.

In August, we had the blessings of the holy month Ramadan, during which we tried to show our responsibility towards the community as much as we can by cooperating with King Hussein Cancer Foundation to gather donations for cancer patients. We collected more than US$100,000.

We also had another charity campaign, where clothes and gifts are donated for people with financial difficulties. We had a great BBQ Iftar together with members from other Student Branches.

It was one of the best gatherings we had during the year. Besides, IEEE is always socially responsible: the donations made it possible to have an orphan Iftar with help from other volunteers.

**Linux Fest**

Finally, we would not let IEEE Day pass by without doing something special. We joined forces with Jordan Open Source association and had Linux Fest!

This was a full-day event with sessions from experts about Open Source and Hack groups to discuss technical knowledge.

We are also preparing for the elections and participating in the Global Entrepreneurship Week.

IEEE PSUT SB Executive Committee

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**Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Jordan**

**Social responsibility mix with tech talks in PSUT’s extensive calendar**

**National School of Engineers of Sfax, Tunisia**

**First Software Freedom Day hails Open Source**

IN ORDER to promote the free and Open Source software in the National School of Engineers of Sfax, the Student Branch organized the first Software Freedom Day (SFD’2010) on 18 September with the collaboration of Ubuntu Tunisian Team.

More than 100 students took advantage of the event. The program contained seven sessions, introduced by Chokri Ben Amar, director of Studies. The IEEE Benefits were introduced by Habib Kammoun, chair of ENIS SB; Mohamed Turki spoke about ‘Free Software: Industrial and Academic Challenge’.

‘Ubuntu OS’ was presented by Wajih Letaief from Ubuntu Tunisian team; ‘Google Applications’ by Mahdi Hamdani; ‘Open Source as a State of Mind’ by Hatem Zidi; and finally ‘Economic Model of Free Software’ by Zied Alaya from Ubuntu Tunisian team.

After lunch, an install party and a Quiz competition on free software were organized by Ubuntu Tunisian team.

Many awards were granted to the winners.

For more photos, see the website: [www.ieee-enis.org](http://www.ieee-enis.org), Randa Hammami and Habib Kammoun

sb.enis @ieee.org

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**Texas A&M University at Qatar**

**TAMU makes preparations for regional SB Congress**

IEEE STUDENT Branch in Texas A&M University at Qatar will host the Second IEEE Middle East Student Branch Congress in Doha from 15–18 March 2011.

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar and Qatar University Student Branch, the Second IEEE Middle East Student Branch Congress will provide participants with learning, career enhancement, plus exhibition opportunities in the engineering sciences, research, and many other technology areas. The Congress will also feature many distinguished speakers, technical presentations, tutorials, workshops, seminars, etc. The congress will introduce the slogan of Qatar Foundation: “Unlock Human Potentials” through multidisciplinary workshops.

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One IEEE

Playing our part in the technology lifecycle

by Roger D Pollard
2010 IEEE Vice-President, Technical Activities

A regular column that investigates the role of IEEE and its members

THE recent promotion of the new IEEE tagline ‘Advancing Technology for Humanity’ made me think about the roles of IEEE and the way each contributes. Consider the technology lifecycle: it starts with an idea, and then moves through the stages of research, technology development, product development, use and application, and finally deployment into an environment.

Benefit to humanity is only realised after we have deployed the results of research into some infrastructure. We also have to recognize the specific geography and the social and political environment into which new technologies are deployed.

The wide range of activities of IEEE and its members can be mapped to the technology lifecycle model. For example, IEEE Technical Activities plays its role in supporting research and development of technology. Its technical societies support a diverse range of activities from very narrow research focus through to broad applications and professional activities.

On the other hand IEEE Member & Geographic Activities (MGA) tends towards the use, application and deployment of technology. In my view it is vital that IEEE services and products cover the full breadth of the technology lifecycle, supporting industry and our members at every stage.

The role of IEEE is to help people accomplish their own goals; by helping members develop as professional people through the two major subdivisions of IEEE – the regional with its focus and professional development, networking and so on, and the technical with the principal emphasis on the discipline and technology. The basis of IEEE is community – technical and local.

Nowadays, the average engineer will have seven employers during a career. She/he may not be in the same place or working in the same technology. IEEE is the global common thread which gives us the professional home.

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in both technical space and geography. We all need to make this work for our benefit and make our diversity an asset. Whenever we change our speciality and/or location, we need flexibility to look at what we have and to make the connections.

‘Advancing Technology for Humanity’ also reminds us of our social responsibility as engineers and technologists. It can mean that we refrain from acting in any way that may do harm. Or it can mean that we are responsible to act in positive ways for the benefit of society.

Apply it to the manner in which IEEE conducts its own operations or to the objects of its mission. IEEE can focus on certain deliverables that help its members be more socially responsible within their own communities. Examples might be: to develop databases of member activities that facilitate networking; to share best practices of members through conferences and publications; to identify members able and willing to solve high-profile grand challenges that are important to society.

At the end of the day, it’s all about teamwork – we’re all one IEEE!