

IEEE Sections Congress 2017
11th to 13th August, Sydney, Australia
Samarth Deo | Executive Vice-Chairman, IEEE Sweden Section

IEEE Sections Congress is a triennial gathering of IEEE grassroots leadership to:

- 1) Network with other Section leaders
- 2) Attend training programs
- 3) Develop recommendations to guide the future of IEEE

The 2017 Edition of Sections Congress was held in Sydney, Australia, at the International Convention Center, from 11th to 13th August 2017. IEEE Foundations as a diamond sponsor, Melbourne Convention Center and UBTECH Education as Platinum sponsors and IEEE Region 10 as Silver, sponsored the event.



ICC Sydney- Venue for the Sections Congress

The IEEE Sweden Section was well represented at the event, with Mats Edvinsson traveling as a primary section delegate; Samarth Deo traveling as Vice-Chair of the Section and Margaretha Eriksson traveling as the IEEE R8 Director. The event had a gathering of around 1200 IEEE members from around the world and witnessed more than a 100 sessions during the three-day event. Besides there were numerous talks, named IGNITE sessions throughout the event. IEEE R8 Meeting was also organized two days before the Sections Congress at the same venue, a report of which is compiled by Mats Edvinsson with all the important points covered. Here are some points from the Sections Congress sessions.

1) Focus on IEEE Collabratec

A new version of Collabratec is on the way out soon. With its much improved interface, ease of use, Collabratec aims to become the Facebook for IEEE members where members have access to Networking and Messaging tools, Community Building Tools and Tactics, Career Development and Mentoring tools among other key points. In essence, Collabratec can be a one-stop platform for discussions, tools, mentoring and networking- for Sections, Regions and IEEE at large. More information and resources available at: <http://ieee-collabratec.ieee.org>

2) IEEE Certificate Program

IEEE Certificates Program offers Sections the opportunity to award IEEE Certificates for their events. Certificates can awards continuing educations units, professional development hours or simply recognize participation. Through an easy, automated online application process, IEEE Educational Activities offer this service to all Sections. The process is simple and the certificates are delivered directly to the participants on ordering. IEEE maintains an official registry of all certificates awarded. It makes accounting to state licensing boards an easier task for engineers. This helps IEEE organizational units keep track of their participants. More information at: https://www.ieee.org/education_careers/education/certificates/index_ceus.html

3) IEEE Educational Activities Programs

IEEE Educational Activities Board recommends policies on educational matters and implements programs specifically intended to serve the educational pursuits of IEEE members, the engineering and scientific communities and the general public. The IEEE Continuing Professional Education program focuses on eLearning Libraries, Certificate program (mentioned in point 2), Standards in Education and also IEEE Society Educational Resources. Whereas the IEEE Pre-university Education provides quality educational resources for educators, parents, students, IEEE volunteers, and the public. Programs like TryEngineering.org, Engineering Projects in Community Services (EPICS), Teacher In-Service Program (TISP), TryComputing.org are some to mention among others. To mention briefly- TISP enables IEEE volunteers to share their technical expertise and demonstrate the application of engineering concepts to support the teaching and learning of science, mathematics, and technology discipline. Whereas the EPCIS-in-IEEE program helps by funding and guiding a group of IEEE students to solve a local community based problem, while also involving high-school students to learn about engineering and grow interest in the same. More information: https://www.ieee.org/education_careers/education/eab/eab.html



At the Educational Activities Booth

4) vTools officer reporting, Resume Lab, Writing Your Article

vTools is a site developed by volunteers for IEEE members and IEEE volunteers. The toolbox aims to simplify organizational efforts and administration by offering web-based software in order to reduce time spent on managing activities and to assist in member development. Some useful tools for the section are- vTools eNotice, vTools Events, vTools Officer Reporting, vTools Officer reporting etc. More info: www.sites.ieee.org/vtools IEEE Resume Lab is an online service that allows IEEE members to develop a resume or CV using a wide array of templates. Members can also perform mock interview using around a 1000 interview questions. The service is free for IEEE members and can be accessed at:

http://www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/resumelab.html

Writing your article was a session focused on educating on the best practices on how to write and prepare an article for a publication in a journal. The session also dealt with the ethics of publishing in the Internet era.

5) Other sessions and overall impression:

Focus on Young Professional and Women in Engineering: A number of sessions focused on Young Professional and Women in Engineering on how to involve them in IEEE and retaining their membership over years. There were also sessions on IEEE Smart Village, Smart Grid Success Story, IEEEExTreme among many others.

Besides many societies had their stalls in the exhibition hall, who you can interact with and know what activities and events you as a section volunteer could be interested in- participating hosting. To sum it up- IEEE Sections Congress is a mega IEEE learning event, where you could have all your questions answered related to IEEE- activities, programs, boards etc., under the same roof within three days. The social events in the evening add icing to the cake by bringing different cultural programs and mingling sessions.



At Vehicular Technology Society Booth to the left and the IGNITE sessions on the right



**With the Sweden Section Representatives
Samarth Deo (Vice-Chair), Margaretha Eriksson (R8 Director), Mats Edvinsson (Chair)**