A message from the Sweden Section Chair

Dear IEEE Member,

I hope this mail finds you in good health.

Let me begin with the achievements of the Young Professionals in the section. In a historic victory, the YP’s have won the bid to host the next edition of the IEEE Region 8 Students and Young Professionals Congress (R8 SYP). This event gathers 400+ students, young professionals, IEEE leaders (including the IEEE President) among others. Given that Sweden will be hosting this for the first time, the stakes are high.

High profile events like these are demanding but very rewarding. One of the key drivers for Sweden section has been and always will be the support we get from the chapters. In bid to make the relation with chapters, affinity group stronger, we hosted the annual chapter chairs workshop in September. More info on page 2.

Meanwhile, there have been many successful events all through the summer. Some of them are in this newsletter, while you can find the rest on www.ieee.se

Samarth Deo
Chair IEEE Sweden Section

The IEEE Sweden has numerous activities this autumn. We are increasing our membership drive to electrical and electronics engineers that work in industries including research and development, academics, engineering services, manufacturing, telecommunications, and the government. We must have constant curiosity to discover how to make IEEE tools more efficient to our quest for learning. According to James Kip Finch American engineer and educator, “The engineer has been, and is, a maker of history”. Therefore, excellence and integrity in our engineering practice and society participation remains our watchdog. We are committed to delivering as entrusted the benefits of membership to members of IEEE Sweden Section. We urge every member to connect with us and enjoy the benefits of collaboration, sending in your activities for publication and participating in IEEE activities. The board remains grateful to committed members of IEEE Sweden section. IEEE Sweden section will continue to put our efforts to help with your career and personal development.

This Newsletter is subject to continuous improvements and aims at sharing information with IEEE members. Hence, we kindly ask for contributions, feedback and involvement from our readers. Please submit to the Newsletter Editor, Dr. Celestine Iwendi celestine.iwendi@ieee.org
In the beginning of September, the section hosted its annual Chapter Chairs workshop at KTH in Stockholm. The workshop was attended by majority of chapter chairs, some physically in Stockholm and some on the web. The goal of the workshop is to foster relations between the chapters and empower them to cooperate and collaborate. Each chapter chair gets around 20 minutes to present their current year activities while also thinking about a few years from now. The treasure presents the budget process and the importance of having one for the coming years.

This year’s workshop highlighted the fact that topics such as sustainability and Artificial Intelligence among others resonate with many chapters, not just one. Several chapters discussed and have vowed to work together on conducting seminars, lectures, workshops to cater to a wider audience. The students, women in engineering and young professionals also appreciated the idea that chapters want to involve them in all their events.

The day ended with an IEEE Day cake cutting and a casual dinner at a nearby restaurant.
My undergraduate students who were with me few months back while on a project demonstration got excited in my lab because to them a great thing had happened. We tested an intelligent Sweeping Robot. The device has three functions, tracking, obstacle avoidance and automatic sweeping. We were able to use infrared tracking sensors to control the machine. Thereafter, I decided to engage my students and encourage them to join the newly established IEEE student branch chapter. Below is the conversation between me and a student on the Importance of Joining IEEE.

Me: Have you heard of the new IEEE Student branch?
Student: Yes Sir, but I am not interested in joining
Me: Why?
Student: Anything you pay for is not genuine, I want to earn it like you did and become a good teacher also.
Me: Joining IEEE is not ultimate but will guide you to becoming ultimate in your career. Moreover, anything that is free has no good value. I joined IEEE as a student in 1997 and it was a great experience for me and has helped model my teaching and career. It is worthy of note that the cost of IEEE membership compared to most professional associations is significantly lower, as much as 30%, compared to other well-known organizations. When you really think about it, IEEE membership dues are quite reasonable when you consider the quantity and quality of benefits offered to members. Also, IEEE membership often pays for itself. The discounts members receive on IEEE products or attending a conference makes membership a good return-on-investment.
Student: I can get my document from search engine like Google and Baidu.
Me: There’s a lot of information to be found on Google, but IEEE publications are not available for free on Google and Baidu. Moreover, the quality of technical information found via Google is random and doesn’t adhere to any consistent standards of technical excellence. Did you know that 60,000 patents cite IEEE information? —These patents cite IEEE, not Google. IEEE membership is much more than access to information. It’s about networking, professional development and soft skill acquisition. Membership is about meeting new colleagues and coming into contact with really great people—individuals who join IEEE form friendships that last a lifetime. You wouldn’t meet these people on Google.
Student: I don’t need the products because I have access to IEEE from my school
Me: Yes, organizations worldwide rely upon IEEE information to be technically current and competitive—it speaks to IEEE’s quality. It makes you a proud member of the largest organisation in the world and keep you connected to jobs and research collaboration. IEEE membership is more than access to information. **IEEE membership is about you being competitive and again taking personal responsibility for your career.** IEEE’s benefits include venues and tools for members to network, build valuable professional connections, and hone leadership skills. These are essential for managing your career. IEEE membership is more than what you receive—it’s also about what you’re giving back. When you belong to IEEE, you are also supporting a much larger mission—your membership enables initiatives such as public information and policy efforts, affordable student membership for example your own student membership has been subsidized and more subsidized as you are required to only pay half year rate.

Student: Hope I will have time to read all the articles when I join?
Me: You cannot be successful in life or in your career if you are not a merchant of knowledge. Consistency of seeking knowledge will make you a better Engineer, a better researcher and a well-informed student.
Student: Thank you. I will join today

This article was written by Dr Celestine Iwendi – who happens to be the Branch Counselor of Bangor College IEEE Student branch and first Published by IEEE Region 8 Today.
Dr Jessica Bian is a true “Power Woman” with long experience from multiple utilities and the regulator in the US, who has recently moved to the consulting business. She is also a strong supporter and promoter of the IEEE PES, where she has been very active as a Secretary and is now running for President-Elect! In addition, she is a Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE. On September 5th, Dr Bian visited our local Joint Power & Energy / Power Electronics Chapter to give a lecture at KTH on the topic of “Grid Reliability and Its Vital Signs”. The lecture was well attended with more than 40 participants of which more than 20 were IEEE members. With her informal style, Dr Bian managed to engage the audience in an interactive session, including the many students present.
IEEE Sweden wins the right to host the 2020 Region 8 SYP

Sweden’s application to host the prestigious Region 8 Students and Young Professionals congress in 2020 has been successful. This means that next year over 400 IEEE members from across Europe, Africa, Russia, and the Middle East will be descending on Gothenburg for five action packed days. There will also be a host of high-ranking IEEE officers including the Region 8 director and IEEE president.

The congress will be held in the hometown of the IEEE Sweden Sections founder J. Torkel Wallmark - Gothenburg. He was an IEEE Fellow and a new Professor in solid state physical electronics at the university that we will host most of this congress - Chalmers University of Technology.

The event will be organized by the YPs, Swedish board, WIE, and the two student branches - KTH in Stockholm, and Chalmers in Gothenburg.

We are excited and have begun preparations for the event that will put Sweden at the center of attention of not just region 8, but the entire IEEE for 5 days in July 2020. It is a great honor to be chosen to host the event and we have no doubt that all our members will join us in Gothenburg for what will be a fantastic and memorable week.

Upcoming Events in the section

1. **Optics & Photonics in Sweden (OPS) conference 2019**  
   October 16th - October 17th  
   Stockholm, Sweden

2. **IEEE Nordic Student and Young Professionals Congress 2019**  
   October 25th – October 27th  
   Stockholm, Sweden & Helsinki, Finland

3. **IEEE NMDC-2019 & the IEEE WIE event**  
   October 27th - October 30th  
   Stockholm, Sweden

4. **Women in Innovation and Sustainability**  
   October 27th - October 30th  
   Stockholm, Sweden

5. **IEEE NMDC-2019 & the IEEE WIE event**  
   October 27th - October 30th  
   Stockholm, Sweden

6. **Women in Innovation and Sustainability**  
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