

*By Terence Betlehem*

Region 10 Director Ramakrishna Kappagantu opened, describing the challenges of increasing student memberships and in obtaining membership renewals. Goals for this year include (i) enhancing membership benefits, (ii) creating deeper connectivity between industry, research and academia to enhance value for students and young professionals (iii) enhancing the quality of leadership in geographical units. Vice President MGA Lawrence Wong followed by describing future challenges of delivering “exceptional membership experience” as well as the need for strengthening volunteer capability and demonstrating value to Young Professional members.

An issue of relevance to the Section was that of membership retention and student membership growth, which both have scope for improvement. On this challenge, the representative for the IEEE NSW Section in Australia, Bruce Poon, described great growth in his Section over the last 40 years, from 467 members in 1972 to 2861 members in 2014. Student members form the core of their membership base. At least 20% of their student members currently move to full membership. Keys to successfully attracting student members included waiving membership fees, organizing company tours and running regular meetings.

The Region 10 award and recognition programme was described. As this programme is currently undersubscribed, nominations are very welcome. Nominations are to be submitted through Section Chairs. Please send any enquiries with the Region 10 Awards Strategy officer.

Presentations were delivered for the 2016 Candidates for IEEE President-Elect, Karen Bartleson and Frederick C. Mintzer.

At the R10 meeting, summaries were made of the following events:

- IEEE Region 10 Student Young Professionals and Women in Engineering Congress 2015 in Sri Lanka, 9 – 12 July. Committee members are recommended to be sent to this conference, for IEEE training and knowledge, to inspire and to reward active participation.
- IEEE Region 10 Humanitarian Technology Conference 2015 in Cebu City, Philippines, December 9-15.
- TENCON 2015 in Macao on 1 – 4 November 2015.
- TENSYP 2015 in Ahmedabad on 13 – 15 May. The emphasis will be on big data analytics and the Internet of Things, with an industry track session titled “Driving IoT Innovation through Sensors” and a panel discussion title “IoT Driving Infrastructure”.
- TENCON 2016 in Singapore on 15-18 November 2016, with focus on technologies for better human care.

The Meeting coincides with the unveiling of Collaboratec™, an IEEE social networking system similar to LinkedIn. The Section Vitality Dashboard in SAMIEEE, a monitoring tool that provides real-time Section vitality metrics, was also promoted.

I also visited the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering of Independent University of Bangladesh, where I delivered a short talk on emerging spatial sound technology to the local student chapter.

