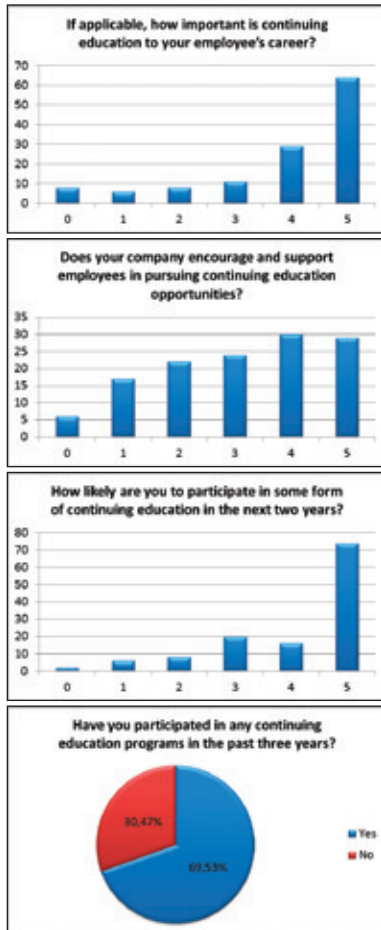# Can IEEE help with your continuing education? Our survey finds out

THE IEEE Region 8 Continuing Education (CE) team, together with the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Working Group of the IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Africa Activities (IEEE AHCAA), conducted a survey during November and December last year targeting the African community.

One of the aims was to determine whether there would be any interest by local or national professional societies in partnering with IEEE to extend access to the eLearning at local/national levels in Africa.

Another aim was to try to develop a baseline in terms of CPD resources available in various countries.

The survey's online questionnaire was created with the help of George Michael and distributed using the IEEE e-notice tool to 21,687 members in Africa, receiving 134 responses.

The most important results of the survey are summarised in the charts shown on the left.

Wherever a rating scale is applicable, it is ranged from 0 to 5, where 0 represents 'Don't know' or 'Not aware'.

All the charts and the answers given in text by the participants are provided in detail in the Continuing Education Forum (CEF) website.

George Papadopoulos
Niovi Pavlidou
Continuing Education

GISWORX workshops build on mobile, cloud and online

UAE Section participated in GIS-WORX 13 held from 2–4 April in Dubai, UAE.

Workshops presented the latest location and GIS technology, building upon the popular outcome of our initiatives on mobile, cloud and online. It also further explored how users in UAE and the region can further extend the use of GIS towards mobile and Cloud computing.

IEEE UAE Section was presented in this event by student members from several active Student Branches of UAE University, the Petroleum Institute, the American University in Dubai and the American University of Sharjah.

Noura HAFID

IEEE Day is an early Christmas for SOS Children's Villages

IN celebration of IEEE Day on 2 October last year, the Committee of the IEEE VTS & AESS Joint Greece Chapter visited the SOS Children's Village of Plagiari, Thessaloniki, Greece.

They brought as gifts a PC, an encyclopedia and school material for the children hosted in the village. The children and village officers accepted the presents with great joy. For more events, see http://ewh. ieee.org/r8/greece/avtc.

George Papadopoulos
Secretary, VTS & AESS
Joint Greece Chapter
Supporting Team Member,
Continuing Education

How to use WebEx teleconferencing in order to host your Section events

MANY Sections in our Region are geographically large. To help connect distant members, starting 2011, Region 8 began hosting a number of webinars using WebEx.

This service is available at no cost for IEEE Section events.

Here's how to set up a webinar:

1. Set up a regular event using IEEE vTools: https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/main/login. Enable the 'registration' link to keep track of who may be your attendees.

2. Promote your event. Use either your own SAMIEEE mailing lists, or use IEEE e-Notice. http://www.ieee.org/organisations/vols/e-notice/e-notice-submit.html. Social media, such as Facebook Groups, Google Plus, etc can be a great way to promote your event.

3. At least five working days in advance of your event, request a WebEx event setup: http://sites.ieee.org/vtools/products/webex/webex-registration. Your request will be processed by the IEEE Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Information Management team (mga-im@ieee.org).

4. During your event, you can record the WebEx session. For more details, see: www.ieee.org/about/volunteers/remote_conferencing/index.html#sect2

5. Following your event, remember to submit an L-31 report (using vTools) and also submit a short article to *IEEE Region 8 News* or other media.

(Steps 1 and 2 could be skipped if you want to setup a WebEx event for a smaller event, such as a Section ExCom meeting).

Best of luck with your webinars!

Saurabh Sinha
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EU-funded conference in Beirut focuses on renewable energies

THE first International Conference on Renewable Energies for Developing Countries (REDEC 2012) was held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 28–29 November last year.

More than 120 participants enjoyed the free event, the cost being completely funded by the EU Ressol-Medbuild Project and the IEEE Lebanon Section. It allowed many undergraduate and graduate students to take part in the 50 oral technical presentations during the 12 technical sessions. The conference received 82 submissions from 27 different countries.

The conference featured, three keynote speakers: Ansgar Kiene from World Future Council Foundation, Jean-Claude Tourret from the Institute of the Mediterranean, and Joachim Koschikowski from Fraunhofer ISE, each of whom were invited to talk on the use and exploitation of renewable energy.

Hadi Kanaan
(on behalf of the REDEC 2012 Organising Committee)