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Region 8 Director Józef Modelski reports:

Bountiful year for Region 8

NOW THAT 2009 is coming to an end, I can state with pleasure that the last months have been truly noteworthy, productive and memorable in almost all areas of activity for Region 8. The numbers speak for themselves – our membership is anticipated to exceed 70,000 this year, and there are 56 Sections, over 450 Chapters and more than 300 Student Branches – and the numbers are still growing. Most of our volunteers and organizational groups are very active, as is evident by their representatives serving on various boards and committees.

The year 2009 has also been exceptionally abundant in various types of events. This year we have held four Milestone ceremonies, which is rather unprecedented in a single year. The first two events commemorated two major inventions: the Philips CD player (organized by the Benelux Section) and the invention of electromagnetic telegraph by Pavel Litov Shilling (organized jointly with EUROCON by North-West Russia Section). The next, at Pavia, Italy, honoured Alessandro Volta who invented the battery. And in London, an IEEE Milestone celebrated Maxwell's equations.

Region 8 organized, co-organized or sponsored more than 300 conferences and workshops, among them two R8 flagship conferences – AFRI-CON 2009 and EUROCON 2009 – as well as many successful local events such as Gulf Co-operation Council countries Conference and Egyptian Engineering Day. We also made the grade with regard to the First Middle East Student Branch Congress, Chapter Chairs meetings and many others.

Another testimony to our Region's professional strength and condition is the elevation of as many as 63

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Engineering the future at historic Faraday lecture hall

THE UNITED Kingdom & Republic of Ireland Section's celebration of the 125th Anniversary of IEEE took place on 6 October 2009 in the most appropriate location in London: the Royal Institution of Great Britain, where Michael Faraday carried out experiments which laid a foundation for electrical science and technology.

Two keynote lectures by Fellows of the Royal Society were included in the programme, attended by several hundred people in the famous lecture theatre of the Royal Institution and coordinated by Master of Ceremonies, Roger Pollard (Vice-President of IEEE Technical Activi-



Left: The famous lecture theatre of the Royal Institution, London.



Right: IEEE's Milestone plaque dedicated to James Clerk Maxwell.

ties Board). The audience included several past Directors of Region 8.

Following introductions by the UK&RI Section Chair Seán McLoone and Region 8 Director Józef Modelski, the first keynote lecturer, Dame Wendy Hall (Presi-

dent of the ACM, Professor of Computer Science at Southampton University), discussed the future impact of internet research and development.

This was followed by an IEEE overview by IEEE President John Vig. He took the opportunity to show how Region 8 and the UK&RI Section values the contribution of younger members of IEEE by staging the presentation of the Larry K Wilson Award to Zhijia Huang, a recent graduate of Queen Mary, University of London.

The second keynote lecturer, Christopher Toumazou (Professor of Circuit Design and Director and Chief Scientist of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering at Imperial College, London), described how a resurgence of low-power analogue integrated circuits is revolutionising medical science with immense prospects to benefit healthcare and to remedy deafness and other disabilities.

Finally, a well-deserved vote of thanks was given by Chris Snowden (Vice Chancellor of Surrey University and President of IET).

Thanks are also due to Steve Furber (Professor of Computer Engineering at the University of Manchester) who, unnoticed by the audience, was standing by, ready to give an alternative keynote lecture

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Multiple events in Italy hail double anniversary

THE YEAR 2009 was very special for IEEE Italy members – our section celebrated its 50th anniversary together with IEEE's 125th. President John Vig and Region 8 Director Józef Modelski honoured us at the spring Region 8 committee meeting in Venice.

Both events were celebrated on 13 May 2009 by our Student Branches in the Polytechnics of Milano and Bari. At Bari, branch chair Andrea Maglie set up a programme with talks by Maria Grazia Dotoli and Savino Longo, and featured an introduction to IEEE section milestones by the Italy section chair, Silvano Donati. Luigi Dadda, past chancellor of the university, talked on the development of the electrical engineering in Italy. At Pavia University, a second celebration was organized on 21 May. Vito

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Silvano Donati (left) and Antonio Savini unveil an IEEE Milestone plaque commemorating the invention of the battery by Alessandro Volta.

Bountiful year for Region 8

(continued from page 1)

Fellows since January. This is a record number. In 2009, seven IEEE Societies' Presidents and Division's Directors (running their offices) have been R8 Officers / members.

The year 2009 was a year of anniversaries, the headline being IEEE125th Anniversary, with main celebrations held in Munich and London, with almost 30 local events organized in the Region. Moreover, two Sections celebrated their 50th Anniversaries: Benelux, with a big event in Antwerp, and Italy, with events in six cities. We recently held our R8 Fall Committee meeting with many interactive sessions, and I would like to heartily thank all dedicated Region 8 officers who have so significantly contributed into the creation of such productive and friendly atmosphere.

In spite of all the above reasons, which have made us both satisfied and proud, we should already set our focus on the goals for 2010. We will need to successfully set the stage particularly for MeleCon, SibirCon, EnergyCon, R8 Student Branch Congress and Chapter Chairs meetings. We should intensify our industry and educational initiatives. We also have to do our best to support the IEEE leaders in making the Institute the truly global organization.

I would mostly like to thank all Section Chairs whose terms in office are concluding this year for their meritorious and committed service, and welcome on board our newly elected Chairs.

Józef Modelski
Region 8 Director

Multiple events in Italy hail double anniversary

(continued from page 1)



The banners of 50th anniversary of foundation of Italy and Benelux Sections are presented to Section Chairs by IEEE President John Vig (far left) and R8 Director Josef Modelski (middle right) during the spring meeting in Venice.

Svelto, dean of engineering, and Tiziana Tambosso of the LEOS/Photonics Chapter addressed the audience.

At Pavia on 10 June, an IEEE Milestone was dedicated to Alessandro Volta, whose original experiments on storage of electricity while professor at the University led to invention of the battery and understanding of electrostatics. Antonio Savini, director of the Museum of Electrical History, was the host.

The fourth celebration was held in Naples on 26 May. Talks by Carotenuto and Cosenza were followed by P Corona, G Franceschetti, and B Siciliano.

On 4 June, the fifth celebration was organized at the

University of Trento by Dario Petri, chairman of the IM Chapter.

The sixth event followed on 6 July at Villa Mondragone in Frascati, Rome. The patron Mino Stallo, the GOLD coordinator, arranged a programme of six lectures by Silvano Donati, G Galati, D Mortari, M Migliaccio, M Ruggeri and FM Foffi. Participants consisted of both academia and local Industry.

Last but not least, a seventh event scheduled for 22 October was organized by Stefano Zanero of the Computer Chapter in conjunction with the SMAU (Exhibition of Office Machines and Computers) in Milano.

Silvano Donati
Italy Section Chair

Engineering the future at historic Faraday lecture hall

(continued from page 1)

in the event of the incapacity or absence of either of the two scheduled lecturers.

Following the formal part of the programme, a reception for all present took place in the beautiful library of the Royal Institution, providing an evening for conversation and refreshments and an opportunity for individual visits to the basement museum.

Other events included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between IEEE and Engineers Ireland. An IEEE Historic Milestone Plaque was dedicated in



Zhijia Huang receives the Larry K Wilson Award for Student Activities from IEEE President John Vig

King's College, London, to mark James Clerk Maxwell's work on electromagnetism which led to the equations which bear his name.

Anthony C Davies

History session at Eurocon: Were the pyramids actually scientific sanctuaries?

IEEE EUROCON 2009, held on 18–23 May 2009 in St Petersburg, Russia, included a series of sessions on the History of Electrotechnology, held at the AS Popov Museum of Communications.

A paper on a very peculiar subject was 'Electric Egypt: Khufu's Maser, the Denderah Lamps and other Energy Features in Ancient Egypt', by Paul Brener (Israel) and Volodymyr Krasnoholovets (Belgium).

The paper presented a theory developed by Christopher Dunn in a book published in 1998. This was based on measurements of the Great Pyramid in Giza, Egypt. It claims this pyramid served as a geo-mechanical power plant of the ancient age that responded sympathetically to the earth vibrations and converted that energy into electricity.

The claim says the Great Pyramid was built as a resonator to the earth 'inertion' waves and that these waves resulted in the strengthening of acoustic and electromagnetic fields in the interior of the pyramid. Dunn considers that the sarcophagus in the pyramid's King Chamber was in reality an ancient MASER, amplifying the entered microwave radiation guided inside through the Northern open shaft and transmitted outside

through the Southern open shaft. These shafts might have worked as waveguides. The energy was fed into this ancient MASER. The aim of this system was, according to the theory presented, to act primarily as an earthquake damping installation, producing simultaneously electrical energy.

This theory, as well as other findings mentioned in the paper bring the authors to the following conclusion:

'Difficult to believe, but a lot of findings attest the existence and use of High-Tech procedures and devices in the Far Past of our planet. Of course, not all the people had visual contact with or manipulated such devices, but a certain class of specialists did – probably the viziers, the high priests, who assumed the role of the architects, the engineers, the physicians, the astronomers, the geographers and generally, the scientists of this time.'

(Editor's note: Thanks to the internet, ridiculous claims and contradictions can be examined more carefully. Google 'Egyptology' to find websites offering entertaining reading and serious comment relevant to ancient history and its re-invention.)

Jacob Baal-Schem
Region 8 Life Member &
History Activities

Membership development

MEMBERSHIP IS increasing in many sections of R8. This happens because many volunteers work at development and retention of members. They contact ex-members and encourage them to re-join, and they talk to potential members. Meetings and conferences offer excellent opportunities to set up an

IEEE membership desk. The Member-Get-A-Member Program www.ieee.org/mg offers benefits too.

If you want to sign up someone, please go to www.ieee.org and click JOIN at the top of the webpage.

Aleksandar Szabo
Region 8 Membership
Development

Rediscover the magnetron next April at CAVMAG 2010

THE CAVMAG conference will be held at Bournemouth University, 19–20 April 2010. Its purpose is to review the history of the magnetron and subsequent developments, and to be of interest to scientists, engineers, and historians. The conference is sponsored by the Defence Electronics History Society (DEHS), the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and the IEEE. More details of the conference are available at www.cavmag2010.org.uk.

Magnetrons generate powerful microwaves and they have had a substantial impact upon military technology, such as innovative radar systems and 'line of sight' communications systems. Later developments led to industrial heating applications and to the familiar domestic microwave oven. The high-power cavity magnetron, developed at Birmingham University, England, and the

General Electric Company, is often claimed to have helped to change the course of World War II. Less well known, earlier research took place

in several other countries, including Russia, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Japan and France from the 1920 decade onwards.

Did you know?

THIS IS an experimental magnetron from World War II. The part cut away reveals the cavity where electrons move outward in a spiral due to a magnetic field parallel to the cathode.



This device is from the collection of Tony Dutton, who also provided the photograph.

MELECON 2010

www.melecon2010.org

26–28 April 2010 • Valletta, Malta

MELECON 2010 is one of the flagship conferences of IEEE Region 8 – an international forum presenting design methodologies, techniques and experimental results in emerging electro-technologies.

Tour sponsorship to help Life Members

THE IEEE Life Members Committee is sponsoring a Technical Tour Programme. The focus of these tours will be IEEE Historical Milestones or similar attractions of interest to IEEE Life Members. The benefits include:

- An opportunity to engage IEEE Life Members in a programme which satisfies their interest in a technical field of interest
- An opportunity to increase the awareness of the IEEE Life Members Fund (LMF) and the projects supported by the LMF

- An opportunity to contribute a portion of the cost of the tour to the LMF

- Promotion of the IEEE Historical Milestone Programme

The first tour will be a pilot 3–10 March 2010 in Panama. The 8-night/7-day itinerary will include a tour of the Panama Canal and a special visit to the Control House at Miraflores Locks. For more information, email LM-tours@ieee.org.

Luis T Gandia

IEEE Life Members Committee Chair

AFRICON predicts technological powerhouse

SET IN the beautiful natural reserve of Safari Park Hotel and Casino, Nairobi, Kenya, the IEEE AFRICON 2009 conference could not have chosen a better location.

The conference was opened by the Kenyan Minister of Information & Communication, Samuel Poghishio who spoke on behalf of President of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki. He told us of the importance of science, engineering and technology to both Kenya as a country and Africa as a continent. He emphasised the worth of engineers and called on the young minds of budding engineers to keep creating innovative ideas to better the community.

The IEEE President John Vig highlighted the stark gender imbalance that exists at these technical conferences and encouraged female engi-



neers to publish more papers and attend such conferences.

There were four technical break-away sessions. The IEEE received tremendous exposure at the event. Overall, the presentations were of strong technical content. Highly engaging questions

were asked by the audience consisting of fellow presenters, peer reviewers and experts, occasionally producing heated debates.

The plenary sessions were informative. Mr Mugo Kibati of Kenya Vision 2030 gave a particularly interest-

ing keynote address. Over the next 20 years he envisions Kenya becoming a technological power house, with rural areas being connected to the Internet and fundamental infrastructures being freely accessible. He proposed that engineers aspire to become

world-renowned engineers and researchers. He urged everyone to join him in helping to achieve this dream.

The Gala dinner was colourful with a wide range of tasty food, music and entertainment.

I would like to thank the IEEE South Africa Section who applied to the IEEE Region 8 voluntary contribution fund (VCF), from which I received a grant. Without it I would not have been able to attend.

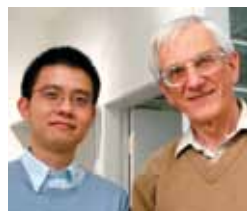
The IEEE region 8 VCF is created as a result of your donations. To give to the VCF, please contact IEEE Region 8 VCF Coordinator, Christine Nora, c.nora@ieee.org, or put a gift amount on your annual IEEE renewal.

Veronica N Sentongo
University of Cape Town, South Africa

Keep the momentum beyond 125th year

LOOKING THROUGH this issue, our members enjoyed a very good year with many IEEE 125th celebrations around our Region. These events helped us tell our story – who we are what we do and how we promote our professions. The publicity was good. We now need to maintain those contacts we made with the general public, the press and industry. Contact your section's professional activities coordinator with your ideas.

That is something we all can do. IEEE publications, standards, knowledge products are found everywhere



Your editors: Zhijia Huang and Roland Saam

in today's developments. Tell someone about the advantages of becoming a member. Get them to join us. You can easily subscribe to another IEEE society, journal or educational programme... simply go to www.ieee.org and click.

Roland Saam

SIBIRCON 2010

<http://sibircon2010.sibsutis.ru>

11–15 July 2010 • Irkutsk, Russia

SIBIRCON 2010 is one of IEEE Region 8's flagship events – an international conference focusing on computational technologies in electrical and electronics engineering.

Congress sees many positives in negatives

THE 3RD International Congress on Advanced Electromagnetic Materials in Microwaves and Optics took place in the People's Palace at Queen Mary University, London, during the week 30 August to 4 September.

A large audience from many countries heard leading researchers talk about recent theoretical and practical developments such as

artificial materials with negative refractive index, negative permeability and negative permittivity.

The event was organized by Sergei Tretyakov (Helsinki Univ Tech), Queens University, Belfast and Yang Hao of Queen Mary University, London, with the co-operation of IEEE, URSl, Optical Society of America and the Institute of Physics.

Boosting senior lectures

THE MEMBER Visit Program (MVP) recently announced by the IEEE Computer Society helps its senior members to give talks to chapters when they travel to other places. The objective is to fulfill IEEE's mission, to share

knowledge and facilitate networking. If you are interested, please email MVP@computer.org with an outline of your presentation and details of your itinerary, indicating available dates for an IEEE CS talk.

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Bylaws and descriptions of the committee offices — refer to www.ieee.org/r8

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Celebrating 125 Years
of Engineering the Future

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Submitting articles We welcome news, articles and letters from any member of the IEEE. Please send these to the editor as plain text by email to r8news@ieee.org, remembering to put *Region 8 News* in your email subject line. If sending photos or graphics, please make sure they are high-resolution files. Read our full guide to writing and submitting articles at www.ieee.org/go/r8news.

Deadlines for upcoming issues

March 2010 issue.....*deadline: 1 January 2010*
June 2010 issue.....*deadline: 1 April 2010*
September 2010 issue.....*deadline: 1 July 2010*
December 2010 issue.....*deadline: 1 October 2010*



Spain Section marks celebrations in Seville

IEEE SPAIN Section celebrated the Institute's 125th anniversary at the Engineering School of the University of Seville on 10 June.

The event began with presentations by Manuel Sierra, chair of Spain Section, and José A Delgado-Penín, who told us our section's history from its origin in 1968.

Professor Javier Aracil gave a delightful speech on the transition from Maxwell, Hertz and Marconi to modern communications, illustrated by the various methods of

engineers and technicians.

An exhibition featuring artifacts and objects from the last 125 years of electronics and electrical engineering was opened. The display included a mercury discharge lamp, vacuum tubes, early electric power meters and silicon integrated circuits.

The celebration closed with a reception and birthday cake for IEEE. More than 60 people enjoyed the party, with thanks to sponsors, Endesa and AICIA.

Antonio Luque

WIE in South Africa launches STAR programme to inspire girls

THE SOUTH Africa Section Women In Engineering group has started a Student Teacher and Researcher/Scientist (STAR) programme in previously disadvantaged schools to inspire young girls to pursue careers in science and engineering.

The initiative fights the under-representation of women in our professions. Most girls do not choose engineering and science because they believe the profession is not for females, and so they make choices which block their path. Our goal is to inform high school girls about career choices with the strategy of 'catching them young'. The STAR programme focuses on mentoring and tutoring grade 9-12 school girls with the objectives to 'Expose and Inspire'.

For these high schools, a forum will be created to tell how engineering has revolutionized our world. Demonstrations of engineering/science, interactive talks, and Q&A sessions will be held.

One part of the programme is 'Mentor and In-

volve', in which a group of the young women known as the 'STAR girls' will be chosen from these high schools. Experienced persons in our IEEE WIE will counsel, train, and provide career guidance for them. Other programmes included are computer training, personal and life skills development and excursions to relevant places of interest.

The STAR program is

strategic. It enables the us to help develop working relationships with those schools where girls struggle to attend school.

The programme was launched with the help of Chioniso Kuchwa-Dube and Hanneltjie Nell.

Oladayo Salami
Chair, IEEE WIE, South Africa Section
oladayo@ieee.org



IEEE WIE SA section committee members

WIE Egypt sets the work-life balance

IEEE EGYPT Section Women in Engineering (WIE) affinity group held its first forum - 'Innovative Ways to Achieve Work-life Balance' - on 3 August during the Egyptian Engineering Day at Cairo International Conference Centre.

Hind Hanafy, President of Alexandria University, gave the opening address. Panel discussions included prominent women who have achieved the highest positions in universities, public corporations, and government.

The forum covered three main areas:

- models of work-life balance, related by some prominent women who succeeded
- initiatives for a woman-friendly work environment.



- examples of how Etisalat Egypt and ITWorx maintain their profitability through recession with a balanced working environment for employees.

The Ministry of Adminis-

trative Development presented 'Your Home Your Office', an initiative for working from home.

More than 160 people from the industry, press, academia and NGOs attend-

ed the forum. Some 400 visitors to the IEEE booth during the three days expressed interest in joining the WIE by filling registration forms.

Esraa Ali
Secretary, Egypt WIE

Heinz van der Broeck

RIK DE Doncker, founding chair of the IEEE German IAS-PELS-IES Chapter, reports the death of Heinz van der Broeck, Professor at Cologne University of Applied Science and at RWTH Aachen. He was an active member of both IEEE Power Electronics and IEEE Industry Applications Societies, and served as Chair of the Chapter.



Lebanon Section holds successful ACTEA 2009



THE 2009 International Conference on Advances in Computational Tools for Engineering Applications was organized by the Faculty of Engineering at Notre Dame University and technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Lebanon Section.

The conference was held on 15–17 July and was very well attended with 130 papers in the technical program and four distinguished keynote speakers. Attendees came from 30 different countries and represented more than 70 universities and research centres worldwide. The social programme

included visits to natural and historical sites in Lebanon including the Jeita Grotto, a beautiful underground cavern. More information at: www.ndu.edu.lb/actea09.

Elias M Nassar
Chair, Lebanon Section



COMPENG to address complexity theory

COMPENG, a conference addressing complexity theory, will take place in Rome, Italy, on 22–24 February 2010.

It is not easy for a Section to plan and co-ordinate international meetings but past successes for the Italy Section have included MELECON, Roma 1996, Bari 1988, and EUROCON Venice 1977.

The new COMPENG conference was an outcome of a recent Italy Section ExCom meeting which discussed complexity theory and its recent applications to problems of engineering. It is a collaborative effort of Ales-



sandro Rizzo, Chair of the NPS Chapter, and six other Chapter Chairs (CAS, Computer, CS, IA/PEL, PE, VT/COM).

For further information on the COMPENG conference please go online to: <http://compeng.ieee-sezioneitalia.it>

Silvano Donati
Italy Section Chair



Stockholm workshop shows leadership in developing power

THE IEEE Region 8 Power Chapters Leadership Workshop and IAS Seminar on Wind Power Technologies was held on 13–15 September in Stockholm, Sweden.

The idea of a Regional Chapter Leadership Workshop was initiated by the Region 8 Chapter Coordination Subcommittee at the beginning of 2009. Chapter Chairs belonging to the Power Group Societies in the Region (IAS, IES, PES and PELS) were invited and 22 Chapters attended (out of a total 63).

A technical seminar on Wind Power Technologies included 13 presentations by researchers from nine countries, including Claus Madsen, head of ABB's wind initiatives and country manager of Denmark.

The conference ended with an excursion to the European Offshore Wind 2009 exhibition. The IEEE Sweden section also celebrated IEEE 125th anniversary during the conference.

Robert Chin, IEEE Sweden IAS Chapter
Tamas Ruzsanyi, IEEE R8 CCSC



Rhine Valley summer school signals radar learning



IN THE picturesque Rhine Valley close to Bonn, more than 30 students and scientists participated in the first International Summer School on Radar/SAR on 24–31 July.

It was an initiative of Joachim Ender, director of one of Europe's first radar

research establishments – the Fraunhofer Institute for High Frequency Physics and Radar. Over the course of the week participants learned about imaging radar, automotive radar, antenna design and ultra-wideband technologies. A tour of the Fraunhofer-

er-FHR facility showed real world applications.

Support from the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology of North Rhine-Westphalia, EADS-Germany and IEEE Germany's MTT/AP Joint Chapter helped ensure it was a great success.

AS THIS issue comes along, your academic year is most likely to be in full gear. 2010 is just around the corner and we're happy to tell you what is in the game for students.

Did you know...

...that there is a second edition to 'Change the World'?

The IEEE Presidents' '2010 Change the World' competition is open to college and university students who demonstrate excellence in the development, design and implementation of technology that can solve a life challenge for the benefit of humanity.

The goal is to recognize and reward individuals or teams of students who identify a real-world problem and apply engineering, science, computing and leadership skills to solve it. The contest offers the opportunity to have their ingenuity recognized by prestigious IEEE members around the globe.

... that 2010 will feature mega student events?

The Student Branch and GOLD Congress (SBC) occurs once in every two years. The 2010 event will be hosted by the Student Branch Leuven, which celebrates its own 50th anniversary next year.

Every student branch should prepare to send at least one primary delegate to Belgium, to join the training and

networking sessions, and to exchange leadership and management ideas with others from all around the Region.

The next Student Paper Contest will be held in 2010 with the Region 8 conference MELECON. If you are a Bachelor or Master student and have not yet entered your PhD studies, this is your chance to get your technical paper published on IEEEExplore. Be quick – the deadline for paper submission is 15 December.

... that reporting is fun and pays off for your Student Branch?

And you can do it online. Just check out <http://ewh.ieee.org/forms/scs/interactofficer.php>.

Every unit in the IEEE should report their newly elected officers at least once a year. This helps to keep data current and ensure that information reaches the right people. Note that if you don't report, your branch will receive less funding. So please make sure your SB does report!

... that Student Branch life can be sweetened by linking to Societies?

The technical part of IEEE is in Societies on global level with Chapters as the

representative entity on Section level. You can enhance your student experience by joining the Society that most applies to your technical field. There are 38 societies to choose from. Keep up-to-date in your field of interest.

... that you can get rewarded for your volunteering?

You organized a meeting for your fellow students? You were host, mediator, co-ordinator of an event held by your Student Branch? You are a student member or graduate student member? Or you know friends who fall into those categories and deserve recognition? Then please go forward and nominate your friends or yourself for the various Student Awards. Find out more on www.ieee.org/r8sac.

... that the doors to RBSAC are always open?

We at Region 8 Student Activities are eager to hear how you are doing, what you enjoyed and liked about the last IEEE event you took part in or organized. You have suggestions or questions regarding student activities in your everyday SB life? Don't hesitate to send us your feedback, suggestions, concerns at r8sac@ieee.org. Visit us at <http://www.ieee.org/r8sac>.

Your Student Activities Committee,
Eva, Pablo, Martin, Amélie, George, Saurabh and Yasemin

IEEE Region 8
Student Paper Contest
Deadline: December 15, 2009
www.ieee.org/r8sac

Izmir Institute of Technology, Turkey:

SB and GOLD Congress was biggest ever

THE 7TH IEEE Turkey Section Student Branches and GOLD Congress took place at the Izmir Institute of Technology Campus from 7 to 11 August 2009. There were 200 participants from 29 student branches in IEEE Turkey Section and also students from Princess Sumaya University of Technology (Jordan).

The congress started with a seminar by Mr Metin Akay about 'Medicine and Biology Society', followed by a detailed presentation about IEEE electronic database IEL and its usage. The IEEE Student Branch Industry Relations team gave a presentation and organized ISBIR-related workshops. The congress also



included a WIE workshop and technical projects meeting. Different Student Branches also shared their experiences, such as those from Bilkent, METU and KTU. This was followed by presentation about 'How to Organize an Event' and presentations of IEEE GOLD and IEEE Region 8 & IEEE Awards and Contests.

The congress finished with a Q&A session between Turkey Section Chair, Engin Erzin, and the participants about the Section and IEEE.

During this congress students had the chance to share their knowledge and ideas of IEEE student activities through making new contacts. They also got the

opportunity to talk to industry sponsor and learn about them during the sponsor sessions. It was the biggest event ever for the IYTE-IEEE Student Branch. We would like to thank Region 8, IEEE Turkey Section, ISBIR and all of the sponsors of the congress from industry.

Hatice Ciraci

Greece GOLD hails 125 years with archeology

IEEE GREECE GOLD Affinity Group hosted a special exhibition to celebrate the 125th anniversary of IEEE, the 'Day of Museums', on 18 May at Technological Educational Institute of Patras, Branch of Pyrgos.

The GOLDies, under the supervision of archeologist Lampaki Ageliki, organized an exhibition of photographs. They visited a museum of natural history and a gallery where they took photos of what they liked and did not like. Each photo was exhibited with authors' comment justifying the choice.

A speech by Lampaki Ageliki explored topics of the exhibition followed by the IEEE Greece GOLD chair's talk on the IEEE and the 125th anniversary.

Nicolas Sklavos

GOLD meets industry at motor show

SOON AFTER the Frankfurt International Motor Show opened its doors, a group of German GOLD members had the chance to visit the show. In co-operation with BMW, IEEE members discovered new trends on a day when only industry professionals were invited.

The shine of new models might temporarily obscure the fact that the industry is going through a significant downturn. There were fewer exhibitors but many innovations. One of the new trends at IAA 2009 are 'eco cars'. The automotive industry has picked up old concepts: start/stop systems or brake energy regeneration. Hybrid and electric cars were presented in many models and visions. The group was also invited to talk about BMW's innovations – Active Hybrid X6 and ConnectedDrive.

Oliver Prinz



Midsummer night dream for Benelux

ON 19–21 June, the Benelux Section GOLD group celebrated the longest day of the year at a festival organized by Emre Ayranci, the professional activities & GOLD chairman.

The celebration in Utrecht Griffpark was organized in collaboration with the 'Couchsurfing Community' in Utrecht. It featured live acoustic music, a murder mystery game staged by the medieval core of Utrecht, the Netherlands, a midsummer night ceremony and several workshops. The night spectacle – the lighting of lanterns sent aloft into the night sky – was a warm-up for the next GOLD weekend.

Emre Ayranci

GOLD Committee Member

Fighting fires in Qatar



QATAR IS experiencing unprecedented economic growth, which is accompanied by population and solid waste growth. A single integrated domestic solid waste management centre and four waste transfer stations is to be built for the whole Qatar.

My employer, AGAMEP Contracting and Engineering, has the job to install HVAC, firefighting and fire alarm systems in this huge project. I am proud to be part of it and of IEEE GOLD in the Region.

Anil Kumar

IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and Student Member Awards

2009 Outstanding Branch Counsellor Award

Aware of the unusual and dedicated efforts of Student Branch Counsellors and Branch Chapter Advisors, the MGA and TA Boards sponsor a cash award to each of approximately ten outstanding Counsellors and Advisors throughout the world. Winners are those individuals who, through their work as Counsellors and Advisors, exemplify the Institute's commitment to the educational, personal, professional, and technical development of students in IEEE related fields of interest.

Award recipients from IEEE Region 8:

■ Michael Muhr, Student

Branch Graz Technische University, Austria.

■ Simon Fabri, Student Branch University of Malta, Malta.

Larry K Wilson Region 8 Student Activities Award

In the Royal Institution of Great Britain, where in the 19th century the likes of Faraday and Cavendish made tremendous discoveries and introduced them to the world, Zhijia (Martin) Huang, past Chair of the Queen Mary University of London IEEE Student Branch, was presented the Larry K Wilson Region 8 Student Activities Award 2009 on Tuesday 6 October. He exceptionally received it from the hands of John Vig,

IEEE President & CEO 2009, and József Modelski, IEEE Region 8 Director.

Zhijia may be proud of this ceremony that took place in front of so many IEEE fellows and members gathered to celebrate the London Celebrations of the 125th Anniversary of IEEE.

During Zhijia's term as Chair, the Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) IEEE Student Branch went from a newly re-launched Student Branch to a very active one which successfully hosted the biggest student event of the Region: the Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2008.

Zhijia is now involved in the UKRI Section Student Activities Committee and

you might already know him as co-editor of the Region 8 News (Student Activities and GOLD).

The Larry K Wilson Regional Student Activities Award is an annual award that is given in every IEEE Region to a Student Member who has significantly contributed to IEEE student activities in a Region, Section, Student Branch or Student Branch Chapter. Nominations can be made by a Section Chair, a Section Student Activities Chair or a Student Branch Counsellor.

You can already send us your nominations for the 2010 award by emailing rsac@ieee.org.

R8 Student Activities Committee

Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary:

IYCE focuses on technical challenges faced by the oil and gas industry



Participants at the closing ceremony.



Presenters and participants of the IEEE round table discussion.

THE ORIGINS of IYCE were laid in 2002 when a few students at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics decided to organize lectures and factory visits – this was the birth of the Student Association of Energy. In 2007, the Association organized the first International Youth Conference on Energetics.

IYCE 2009 was held on 3–6 June with 62 presentations from 20 countries. The keynote speech was delivered by Rami T Al-Muschab on 'Technological Challenges Facing the Oil & Gas Industry'.

Péter Magyar and Tamás Ruzsányi brought cooperation with IEEE, and it was technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Industry Applications Society. The IEEE Joint IAS/PES Student Branch Chapter was also launched.

Bálint Németh, Bálint Hartmann, Péter Jeszenscák, Richárd Cselk
Organizing Committee

Tanta University, Egypt:

Egypt launches Student Chapter for Robotics

THE ROBOTICS and Automation Student Chapter was founded by students from Tanta University IEEE Student Branch.

This Chapter is the first of its kind not only in Egypt but also in The Middle East. It was inaugurated by Ahmed Darweesh, Minister of state for administrative develop-

ment, and other VIPs on the Engineering Student Day. Even in its first year, the Chapter made a good start by presenting two robots in the ESD. All the Chapter members are looking forward for more achievements in the future.

Bahaa El badry

Bahaa_elbadry@ieee.org



Faculty of Engineering in the University of Porto, Portugal:

Student group works on designs for a fully integrated wireless receiver

IN 2008, eight students from the Faculty of Engineering in the University of Porto, Portugal, started a young researchers group specialized in the design of CMOS circuits.

The group, known as the Microelectronics Students' Group, has quickly captivated new members and is

now composed of more than 20 students.

Radio-frequency circuits are one of the main focuses of the students' designs. They are presently working towards the design of a fully-integrated wireless receiver in sub-micron CMOS. The group is supported by two professors, who encourage

the students in their autonomous activities. This provides the undergraduate students a particular environment to develop their work freely, whilst maintaining the professionalism essential to achieve such enthusiastic results. For more information please visit: <http://cmos.fe.up.pt>

Candido Duarte

"MONEY, money, money...". It is crucial for student branches to raise funds. Industrial sponsors might have decided to stop. If you are new, it can be difficult to attract sponsors. Learn our secrets here.

Industrial sponsors

Never hesitate to ask! Even the smallest companies can benefit from the public awareness.

Prepare a set of predefined sponsor packages: platinum, gold, silver, etc. For a given amount, each package subscriber receives the same treatment, such as their logo on your T-shirt or a stand at your next big event. This gives equal fairness to your sponsors and avoids potential misunderstandings about your contract with them (yes, ask them to sign a contract!).

For small sponsors that cannot afford one of the packages, offer them alternatives. They can, for instance, sponsor the coffee break (make sure their name appears on the coffee table).

Don't only go after the big fish: do target startups, especially those founded by



Student Branch Cookbook

Part 1: Fund-raising

alumni from your university. They already know what you do and how their money is used. In exchange for their sponsorship, you could organize a job fair dedicated to them because they could be particularly interested in hiring fellow students from their university.

Keep a record of your sponsors: who funded what and how much, who already refused to fund you, which person inside the company

was your contact, etc. This will save you some time and you will be able to negotiate better terms with your sponsors next year.

Contact ISBIR IEEE Student Branches Industry Relations (www.isbir.org). They can help you in the process of getting in touch with industrial partners.

"Do it yourself"

Apply to your university or department for support. If they

can't give money, they might give equipment or a spare room for your headquarters.

Organize tutorials (e.g. LaTeX, Matlab) and charge admission for non-IEEE members. Conduct a raffle. Sell coffee doughnuts, sandwiches, drinks, ice cream, and so on in the student faculty lounge or at student social events. Organise social events – movies, pizza parties or maybe a scientific pub quiz, and charge admission.

How IEEE can help

First of all, do your Student Branch reporting. The Student Branch rebate may be small but it all adds up!

Sections usually support their Student Branches to a further degree. If they can't help regularly then they might want to support a single event.

Target the right IEEE organisational unit. For technical events, your local chapters could cover speakers' expenses, for example. For your Professional Awareness activities, apply for funding from the SPAA committee. For big projects with a good forward planning, get in touch with IEEE foundation and other such groups.

For your next non-technical event involving several Student Branches, contact us at Region 8 SAC (r8sac@ieee.org).

There are many other ways to raise funds. Be creative! Be sure that your actions are professional and represent the image of engineering in a positive way.

Amélie Anglade

Student Branch Coordinator
amelie.anglade@ieee.org

Cairo University, Egypt:

SB at Cairo University runs new courses and proves to be a winner

IN LESS than a year after re-activating IEEE Student Branch at Cairo University, the Branch managed to participate and win in several IEEE contests.

Our first win was the Enterprise Award, for which the prize will help fund a project concerning 'Resala', one of the biggest charity organizations in Egypt. The project is to make a database management system for all the branches of 'Resala' in Egypt, to facilitate gathering information on the volunteers and the needy families. It should also facilitate communications between the branches to achieve the most efficient supply to deprived people in Egypt.

Our second achievement was 2nd place in the Region 8 web contest. Last, but not least, the Branch won 1st place in ESD'09 held in July at the Tanta Student Branch.

Based on a strong belief in women's role in engineering and serving the community, IEEE CUSB has formed a WIE Affinity Group under supervision of Magda Faik. The Affinity Group participated in the organization of EED (Egyptian Engineering Day) in cooperation with the Student Branch, held in July. The WIE Team was also one of the organizers of the WIE Day entitled 'Work Life Balance' (see page 5 of this issue). Eman Ali, the head of

WIE affinity group in Cairo University, also set up a presence online: www.ieee-cusb.org/wie.

Electronics is the basic building block in the development of the world today. The IEEE CUSB tried to deliver different levels of electronics related education to the students. It was achieved this through two tracks: school day and university campaign. On the school day in April, the Student Branch's Electronics Club committee managed to go down to a preparatory school to meet about 50 students. We aimed to help the school students to understand the importance of electronics.

In June, the Electronics Club committee organized a free course for more than 100 students introducing the basics of electronics and principles.

IEEE CUSB role should not only organize technical seminars – we are also planning some essential courses based on students' needs. We began by organizing three low-priced courses, two free courses and a summer training session. They are the introduction to Wireless Communication, VHDL, and Programming with C++. We also offered IT lovers a free web-development course and a free Java course.

Shady Hanafy
Shady.hanafy@ieee.org



cartoon © Taha Ayari

University of Zagreb, Croatia

Student Branch and GOLD take the first STEP in Croatia

GRADUATES OF the Last Decade (GOLD), graduate students and young professionals had the opportunity to network with each other at the first STEP (Student Transition and Elevation Partnership) event in Croatia.

IEEE Croatia Section GOLD Affinity Group and IEEE Student Branch Zagreb organized workshop 'STEP One' in September at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, in Zagreb, Croatia.

IEEE Croatia Section is very proud of the success of this workshop that attracted 50 attendees. Three invited



speakers – Tomislav Pokrajcic, Dusan Bogdanovic and Kresimir Lugaric – shared their experience and thoughts about onset of a career in talks 'Fear and Loathing in Software Startup', 'The Firm:

Work Experience in Big Company' and 'ITI Student Lab'.

Fruitful discussions took place between the audience and the speakers. The discussions continued in the break between the talks where student members and non-members had the opportunity to meet GOLD members. Here, they could discuss the benefits of IEEE membership after graduation and during the transition to professionals.

Jelena Bozek
 Croatia Section Student Representative and GOLD/PA team member
jbozek@ieee.org



Photo quiz

This picture shows the essential electronic component of an appliance found in most homes. What is it?



Please email your answers to r8news@ieee.org with the subject line 'December Photo Quiz' before 1 February 2010. Please state your name, IEEE membership number and address!



Beautiful Santorini hosts DSP 2009

THE IEEE Greece Circuits and Systems Chapter supported a number of student members to actively participate in DSP2009. This has been achieved via a CASS '08-Major Projects /Initiatives Grant' awarded to Greece Chapter.

The 16th International Conference on Digital Signal Processing (DSP2009) took place on the island of Santorini, Greece, in July. It is the longest-running conference in existence in the area of DSP and is technically co-sponsored by IEEE CASS. The student members, coming from five different countries around the world (Greece, India, Russia, Serbia, UK), presented their

work and gave an overview of the conference to their institutions upon return.

The scheme has been proved very successful for the cross-fertilization of ideas and techniques in the CAS and SP societies, and for the support of young members.

A Skodras

Greece CAS Chapter Chair



IEEE-HU breakfast attracts large numbers and helps orphans

THE IEEE-HU Breakfast was held in Salt for the first time on 1 September. It was hosted by IEEE-HU, and attracted more than 60 IEEE members, 75 non-members and 24 orphans together and introduced IEEE to attract new members.

We decided to utilize the chance of Ramadan month where the programme started at 5am. The Student Branch Chairman Mohamad Abu Khalaf spoke about the Branch's achievements through the last five months, from reactivating the IEEE-

HU branch to signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAGKnowledge) to provide the best training in various fields to IEEE members.

The Team Contest was followed where the team who collected the highest score won prizes.

After the Iftar (breakfast), the orphans' session was the last one. We helped to paint their faces, hand out gifts, and the event made us all really happy!

Mahmoud Al-Shattel

A reader writes:

Teaching IT where it's needed

[Editor's note: Julian Bass spent two years with Voluntary Service Overseas in Ethiopia. We hope readers find his experiences interesting.]

USING STEPPING stones to cross a river may seem an idyllic way to get to work. But when the river's level goes up because of rain upstream, then a long detour is a nuisance.

My work as an IT volunteer in sub-Saharan Africa developed my problem-solving, influencing and training skills. Lack of infrastructure and chronic skills shortages make these kinds of projects very challenging.

I worked at a teacher training college and a new university in the town of Debre Birhan, 130km north east of the capital Addis Ababa. This included helping develop campus network plans, installing network equipment and building computer classrooms.

A chance meeting with a government minister visiting the campus involved me in a national computing curricula change process. I used material from the IEEE/ACM Computing Curricula Task Force to highlight the contrasting

Information Technology and Computer Science subjects. This led to four universities launching vocational information technology degrees for the first time. Furthermore, the ministry of education extended decided on a four year degree to allow extra time for students to perform laboratory and project work.

Volunteering was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I found it hugely challenging at times, but fantastically rewarding when things

go well. People here are intelligent and resourceful but often lack the resources we take for granted. Helping to overcome IT skills shortages in low income countries really can help to change people's life chances. Good IT skills can secure someone's livelihood and ensure that other family members have enough to get a good education.

Please check out www.vso.org, and my website www.julianbass.com.

Julian Bass



Illustration © uccipura

Flick a switch and obtain five benefits for the environment

THE WHOLE world is now experiencing the harm from excess use of fossil fuel. Our living comforts come to us at a cost.

An additional cost is the threat to safe and healthy life on this planet. Floods, drought and famine appear linked to Global Warming.

Our right to live in comfort includes a major responsibility to minimize the use of energy. At our fingertips are five benefits that can be obtained whenever you are not using your computer, lights, fan, air conditioners – to get them, kindly act and switch off appliances.

This gets you five guaranteed benefits:

■ Since you have switched off, the direct benefit to you is smaller power bill.

■ The power not used by you now can be used by someone who is needy where there is acute shortage of electrical energy.

■ Electricity undergoes transformation in voltage level. On average seven stages are encountered during this process. There are losses. One kW supplied to you needs about 1.6 or more kW at the generation station, in a well maintained, efficient generation-transmitting-distrib-

ing system. This could be more and be even up to 2kW in many cases. A kW saved by you helps in non-generation of 1.6kW to 2.0kW.

■ The power that is not generated results in non-utilization of coal/liquid fuel as the case may be. The depletion in availability of these fuels gets slowed down as a result. ■ Pollution from ash, unburnt carbon etc. also comes down.

Use your finger. One act and five benefits and saving mother earth.

Rajagopalan Kannan
Senior Member, Hyderabad
India



Alexandria University,
Egypt:

Delivering technical know-how to students

IEEE ALEXANDRIA University Student Branch organized the third episode of the annual 'Interact with Today's World' (ITW) conference on 10–12 July in the great hall of Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference Center.

The conference aims at delivering the required up-to-date technical and non-technical knowledge to Egypt's brightest engineering students and fresh graduates. The opening speech was given by IEEE Alexandria Sub-section Chairman Said El-Khamy under the title of '125 Years of IEEE'. He addressed the long history of the IEEE, its achievements and the membership benefits associated with it.

More than 500 attendees came to ITW 2009 to learn about 'Green Energy', 'Hybrid Vehicles', 'Entrepreneurship', 'Wireless Sensor Networks' and 'Web 3.0'. The conference held two panel-discussions discussing 'Studying Abroad' and 'Scientific Research in Egypt'. The sessions were given by speakers representing local and international academic institutions, governmental agencies and the private sector. Recorded videos of the technical and non-technical sessions are made available through the IEEE Alexandria Student Branch Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/IEEEAlexandriaSB. For more information about the Branch and its various activities, please visit www.alexsb.org.

Ahmed Saied Khalil

Conference calendar

Workshops, conferences & symposia in Region 8

See also www.ieee.org/web/conferences/home

DECEMBER

Humanoids 2009

9th IEEE-RAS International Conference on Humanoid Robots
07–10 December 2009
Paris, France
www.humanoids2009.org

ICECS

IEEE International Conference on Electronics, Circuits and Systems
13–16 December 2009
Medina International Exhibition Center, Hammamet, Tunisia
www.icecs2009.org

ICAST 09

2nd IEEE International Conference on Adaptive Science & Technology
14–16 December 2009
Accra, Ghana, West Africa
www.edictech.com/ICAST09

ISSPIT 2009

IEEE International Symposium on Signal Processing and Information Technology
14–17 December 2009
Ajman, United Arab Emirates
www.isspit.org/isspit/2009

EnergyCon 2010

Towards Sustainable Energy
18–21 December 2010
Manama, Bahrain
www.ieee-energycon.org

HONET

6th International Symposium on High Capacity Optical Networks and Enabling Technologies
28–30 December 2009
Alexandria, Egypt
<http://honet.uncc.edu>

MMWaT

First Conference on Millimeter-Wave and Terahertz Technologies
29–31 December 2009
Tehran, Iran
<http://mmwatt.ir/1>

Note to Organizers

Only IEEE co-sponsored conferences and workshops in Region 8 are eligible for free publicity here. Send details as a plain text message to r8news@ieee.org, putting *R8 News Calendar* in your subject line. Remember to state the event's full title, location, date and URL.

JANUARY 2010

ITW

IEEE Information Theory Workshop on Information Theory
06–08 January 2010
Mena House, Cairo, Egypt
<http://ITW2010Cairo.info>

WTM 2010

IEEE Photonics Society Winter Topicals Meeting Series
11–13 January 2010
Gran Mella Victoria, Majorca, Spain
www.ieee.org/portal/site/leos

FEBRUARY 2010

BioMed

7th IASTED International Conference on Biomedical Engineering
17–19 February 2010
Innsbruck, Austria
www.iasted.org/conferences/home-680.html

COMPENG 2010

Complexity in Engineering
22–24 February 2010
Roma, Italy
<http://compeng.ieee-sezioneitalia.it>

WSA 2010

International ITG Workshop on Smart Antennas
23–24 February 2010
Bremen, Germany
www.ant.uni-bremen.de/wsa2010

SAS 2010

Sensors Applications Symposium
23–25 February 2010
Limerick, Ireland
www.sensorapps.org

MARCH 2010

IWAT 2010

International Workshop on Antenna Technology: 'Small Antennas, Innovative Structures and Materials'
01–03 March 2010
Lisbon, Portugal
www.iwat2010.it.pt

MCIT 2010

International Conference on Multimedia Computing and Information Technology
02–04 March 2010
Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
www.sharjah.ac.ae/mcit

ISCCSP 2010

4th International Symposium on Communications, Control and Signal Processing
03–05 March 2010
Limassol, Cyprus
www.cs.ucy.ac.cy/isccsp2010

DTIS 2010

5th International Conference on Design & Technology of Integrated Systems in Nanoscale Era
23–25 March 2010
Conference Location: Hammamet, Tunisia
www.dtis-conference.net

APRIL 2010

CAVMAG 2010

Radar System powered by Cavity Magnetron
19–20 April 2010
Bournemouth University, UK
www.cavmag2010.org.uk

MELECON 2010

15th IEEE Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference
26–28 April 2010
Valletta, Malta
www.melecon2010.org

ESANN 2010

European Symposium on Artificial Networks, Computational Intelligence and Machine Learning
Bruges (Belgium)
28–30 April 2010
www.dice.ucl.ac.be/esann

MAY 2010

WFCS 2010

8th IEEE International Workshop on Factory Communication Systems
18–21 May 2010
Nancy, France
<http://wfcs2010.loria.fr>

ETS 2010

15th IEEE European Test Symposium
25–28 May 2010
Dorint Hotel Don Giovanni Praha, Czech Republic
<http://ets2010.felk.cvut.cz>

JUNE 2010

MIKON 2010

18th International Conference on Microwaves, Radar & Wireless Communications
14–16 June 2010
Vilnius, Lithuania
www.mikon-2010.org

IRS 2010

11th International Radar Symposium
16–18 June 2010
Vilnius, Lithuania
www.irs-2010.org

JULY 2010

ISIE 2010

IEEE International Symposium on Industrial Electronics
04–07 July 2010
Bari, Italy
www.isie2010.it

IPCC 2010

IEEE International Professional Communication Conference
07–09 July 2010
University of Twente Enschede, Netherlands
<http://ewh.ieee.org/soc/pcs>

SIBIRCON

IEEE International Conference on Computational Technologies
11–15 July 2010
Irkutsk, Russia
<http://sibircon2010.sibstis.ru>