

## Tunisia Section

**Habib M. Kammoun**

### Getting Closer to Industry

- The following activities fostered our industry relations:
  - Tunisia section is co-founder of the group “IoT Tunisia” in cooperation with well known ICT companies in Tunisia
  - Industry tours for students to the main companies
  - Invite industrial engineers to the IEEE conferences
  - Industry ambassador officer was appointed to follow up with the companies and to look for internships for IEEE students
  - Presenting IEEE benefits and our activities to the companies stakeholders
  - IEEE Tunisian forum for Industry-Academia Partnership <http://tfiap.ieee.tn>
- Requested changes by IEEE to improve Industry Relations: provide an agreement partnership template to be signed by the section, IEEE HQ, and the company
- Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations:
  - The number of members from industry increased
  - Organize more industry - academia joint activities
  - Better visibility of IEEE to the local companies
- The section will continue to foster Industrial Relations by the following actions:
  - Organize a meeting with 100 industry stakeholders to discuss the most important soft skills needed for new graduates
  - Organize challenges in cooperation with industry partners
  - Sign agreements between IEEE Tunisia section and companies

### Attracting and Supporting Future Members

- To support our members, the section organized the following activities / programs / initiatives:
  - Tunisian Students and YP congress, attracting over 500 participants <http://tsyp.ieee.tn>
  - Engineering days for students to present their projects
  - Helped students to participate in the IEEE competitions (IEEE Day, MTG, MadC, IEEEExtreme Programming, etc.)
  - Helped members to develop projects and to search for IEEE foundation funds
  - Helped students and YP to participate to the R8 SYP, PES students congress, IAS annual meeting, WIE leadership conference, and PES power Africa
  - Helped SB, student chapters, and WIE student groups to organize their activities
  - Appointed 2 student representatives; and students, professionals, technical, and humanitarian activities coordinators
- To better support our members, the section need better financial support
- Major successes since the last meeting: The section organized the following activities:
  - 3rd IEEE School on Computational Intelligence
  - 4th IEEE Tunisian SYP 2016
  - 4 TISP workshops during the R8 TISP week
  - CyberSecurity days
  - Robotics challenge Tunisian qualifications
  - 3 international conferences
  - Create 1 chapter, 3 SB, 1 WIE student groups, 1 student chapter
- The section will continue to foster Students and Young Professionals activities by supporting:
  - Humanitarian SIGHT projects
  - Entrepreneurship challenges
  - Educational activities
  - Organize workshop for conference organizers to present the IEEE MCE benefits

### Section Vitality

- The section is organizing the following activities / programs / initiatives:
  - The elected vice-chair will become the section chair on 2019-2020
  - Help members with over 10 years of professional activities to apply for senior member grade
  - Help dormant chapters to organize an election and to find new active volunteers
  - Attract more members to become volunteers within IEEE
  - Update of the section’s website <http://www.ieee.tn>
  - Prompt communications with our members by email, eNottice, IEEE Collabratec, and Facebook
- To improve Section vitality and sustainability, the section needs to increase its funds by organizing Regional and Society conferences in Tunisia
- The major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality are the following:
  - Exceeded 2,250 members
  - Completed the election process of the 2017-2018 officers by the end of October 2016
  - Organized section’s awards gala dinner to recognize IEEE members and subunits who have given valuable achievements
  - Pins and certificates presented to members with over 20 years of memberships

- The section is planning to continue to foster Section Vitality by the following actions:
  - Help members to renew their memberships with local payment. The section transfer the membership funds to IEEE in USA
  - Support the activities of the subunits
  - Encourage the initiatives of members

#### **IEEE in Africa**

- Further encouragements and support from IEEE to activities in African countries not represented by sections and subsections
- Sign partnership between IEEE and main African organizations
- Help subsections to organize IEEE activities in their countries. For example: to invite distinguished lecturers
- The Tunisia section can help organizing IEEE activities in Africa

#### **Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria**

- Help the sections to contact European companies to look for sponsors to the IEEE activities
- Help the sections to participate in European funded projects
- Help non-European IEEE members to receive visa to participate in IEEE activities in Europe

#### **Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback**

- The Tunisia section is now legally recognized in Tunisia
- Two cities (Ariana and Sfax) were selected as affiliate cities in the IEEE smart cities initiative <http://smartcities.ieee.tn>
- Participation of the IoT Tunisia in the 2017 IoT forum in USA
- Middle East SYP congress 2017 will be organized in Tunisia by INSAT SB
- Proposal to organize the R8 meeting on March or September 2018 in Tunisia
- The Tunisia section organized the R8 MD workshop on 18-19 Nov. in Tunis
- Plan to organize the 10th IEEE Tunisia section Anniversary on 2018
- IEEE R8 EnergyCon 2020 will be in Tunisia <http://www.ieee-energycon2020.org>