

New Zealand North Section Report

PART A - SECTION SUMMARY

A.1 Executive Summary – (Please follow the format given below)

- NZ North Section (R00301) Executive Committee Member List
 - Chair: Ho Seok Ahn
 - Vice-Chair: Peter Over
 - Treasurer: Latha Murugesan
 - Secretary: Tek Tjing Lie
 - Past Chair: Nitish Patel

The section officers were nominated and formally elected at the Section AGM.
- Section Highlights
 - The Section has a new Strategic Plan (which was developed for 2019-2023) that is continued to our previous Strategic Plan (which was developed for 2013-2018) for sustainable development.
 - Fiji Subsection led by Prof Maurizio Cirrincione joined to our Section, and joined to our Strategic Planning meeting in 2018, which makes them to be a part of our Section for the next 5 years, which can be a good start of their IEEE activity. We have included them in our section meetings and they continue to have a presence.
- Major Events (International, National)

The Section has also technically sponsored or agreed to sponsor the following conferences held in New Zealand:

 - New Zealand Robot Soccer Championship, 2015-present
 - IEEE NZN Strategic Planning Workshop, 2018
- Major Chapter Activities
 - The New Zealand North Section has organized more than 30 meetings during the year. These include section committee administration meetings, technical seminars, technical/professional meetings, workshops, field trips and social events.
 - The details of the activities have been listed on the Section website, and also reported online via IEEE v-tools L31 Meeting Reports. Note some joint chapters activities are reported under other Sections. For example,
 - An IEEE day event: NZ Robot Soccer Championship was an annual event organized again by the University of Auckland and IEEE New Zealand North Section. This was planned as the IEEE Day event for this year.
- Major Student and Affinity Group Activities
 - We current have two active student branches: The Univ of Auckland student Branch and Auckland Univ of Technology Branch.
- Awards
 - We continued the practice of sponsoring the poster prize of the final year research project poster presentations for the Dept of Electrical and Computers Engineering of The University of Auckland and Auckland University of Technology.

A.2 Financial Report – (Please follow the format given below)

- Summary (as per submitted L50)
 - The financial report was submitted separately via NetSuite. The Section finance is in a healthy condition with a total balance of NZ\$34855.3 (including Chequing: \$12108.39, Savings: \$5424.11, and Term deposit: \$17322.8).
- Any other financial activities
 - In 2018, the section had two special event budget approved at the second committee meeting. The strategic planning workshop for IEEE NZN with \$1343.2 expenses (budgeted \$2000) and the IEEE registration day across all IEEE local sections in NZ with \$674.96 expenses (budgeted \$800).

PART B - ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

B.1 Membership Development Activities

- Total number of active members in the past 3 years were increased.

We have 449 members for 2019 renewal (26 Feb 2019)

B.2 Chapter Activities

- ComSoc Chapter
 - ComSoc news highlighted: IEEE Joint NZ (North, South and Central) ComSoc news published in the IEEE Global Communications Newsletter (GCN) Feature Article “A Summary of IEEE ComSoc Activities in New Zealand” <https://www.comsoc.org/>
 - Chapter Chair Congress: ComSoc Chapter Chair A/Professor Nurul Sarkar represented NZ at the IEEE Chapter Chair Congress held in December 2017 in Singapore. The meeting was very effective and our ongoing community development through IEEE workshops in New Zealand has been highlighted. Click on the following link for more details. <http://gcn.comsoc.org/community-development-opportunity-through-ieee-comsoc-workshops-new-zealand>
 - IEEE DL: Our application for ComSoc DL tour to NZ and Fiji Islands has been successful. IEEE ComSoc distinguish lecturer (DL) Dr R Venkatesha Prasad (Netherlands) has agreed come and give five public lectures in NZ and Fiji from July 29 to August 4 this year. We need around \$500 from NZN to cover DL local expenses including accommodation and meals.
- R&A Chapter
 - International Robot Olympiad 2018: Team NZ got 6 Gold, 9 Silver, and 2 Bronze medals.
 - NZ Robot Soccer Championship 2018 in UoA 17-21 September 2018: Over 100 students participated to the weekly workshops.
 - Two seminars have organized.
- SP & IT Chapter
 - On 26 November 2018, the SP/IT Chapter hosted a Distinguished Lecturer Prof Rick S. Blum from Lehigh University. Rick gave a talk titled “Cyber Attacks on Internet of Things Sensor Systems for Inference”. This DL visit was fully funded by the IEEE Signal Processing Society and therefore no cost incurred to the Section. The seminars was cosponsored by the School of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences, AUT.
 - On 19 December 2017, the SP/IT Chapter hosted a Distinguished Lecturer Prof Josiane Zerubia from INRIA Sophia-Antipolis Méditerranée. Josiane gave a talk titled “Hierarchical joint classification models for multi-resolution, multi-temporal and multi-sensor remote sensing images: Application to natural disasters”. This DL visit was fully funded by the IEEE Signal Processing Society and therefore no cost incurred to the Section. The seminars was cosponsored by the Department of Computer Science, UoA to organise the seminars on the UoA campus.
 - On 23 March, the SP/IT Chapter hosted a technical seminar given by Dr Mathew Legg from Massey University with the title ” Acoustic Sensors for Imaging and Non-destructive Evaluation”, at University of Auckland. The seminar was attended by 19 people including 4 IEEE members. The seminar was cosponsored by the Acoustics Research Centre of the University of Auckland to organise the seminars on the campus.

B.3 Professional and Continuing Education Activities

We successfully organized school student events, which are NZ Robot Olympiad and NZ Robot Soccer Championship.

B.4 Students Activities

- Total number of Student Branches in the Section: 2.
- Number of Student Branches formed in the current year: None.
- Section level student activities (student congress, paper and other contests, awards etc): The student branch organizes their own activities under the guidance the Section Student Activity Coordinator.
- Number of active Student Branches: 1. UoA Branch, and 2. AUT Branch

- Summary of Student Branch activities (Student Branch wise with attachment table/information)
Their activities are reported separately.

B.5 Affinity Group Activities

- Young Professional (YP)
They organizes their own activities.
- Women In Engineering (WIE)
They organizes their own activities.
- Life Member: two

B.6 Awards & Recognition Activities

- Award constituted by the Section
Only sponsored two student research project poster prizes. The Section discussed how to award the volunteers, but need more detailed policies and implementation plan.
- Award(s) received from R10: None.
- Award(s) received from IEEE HQ: None

B.7 Communication Activities (Newsletter, Home Page, E-mail etc.)

- Newsletter (name and number of issues in the year): None
- Home Page of the Section (give the URL and how often it is updated): <https://ieeenorth.org.nz/>
- Other means of contacts with Section members including social media: Face to face meetings, Skype meetings, and phone calls.

B.8 Industry Relations

- Membership growth and retention
We have most members from universities, but we do have active members from industry coming to attend IEEE events. Growth and retention in industries are a bit difficult in NZ due to the small size.
- Activities for/with industrial members
Our IEEE seminars are often deliberately scheduled in late afternoons to make it easier for industrial members to attend, and we plan to have more speakers from industry

B.9 Humanitarian Technology Activities

- The formation of Fiji Subsection provides good opportunities of projects.

B.10 Community Activities

- IEEE Social activities (Family day, IEEE day, Engineers Week)”
Apart from the end of year Section Dinner, we had the IEEE day with robot soccer competition. And the student Branches and the Young Professional had their own activities, including the dodge ball game with the Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering, UoA.

PART C - OTHERS

C.1 Special Events

None

C.2 Relationship with National and International Societies and Non-Government Organizations (NGO)

We have an agreement with IPENZ, and we continued the practice of allowing members to attend seminars organized by the other party, including IET.

C3. Collaboration with other IEEE Sections

- Support extended to neighboring Sections
We have joint chapters with NZ South and Central Section, and have been helping each other in seminar organizations, particularly DLs, conferences sponsorships, etc.
- Joint activities with any other Section
We had joint activities, particular in organizing local and DL seminars.

C.4 Support extended to Sub-sections & Society Chapters within the Section

- The Fiji subsection is formed under NZ North Section, and we invite them to our events and meetings.

C.5 Best Practices of your Section (which you would like to share with other Sections for the benefits of members)

- Strong support to the student branches and YP, it is rewarding for both the young professionals and the Section.

C.6 Problems anticipated and suggestions for solutions, if any

- None.

PART D - GOALS AND PLANS

D.1 Continuation of project/activity in progress and their implementation plans

We will continue to make the best use of our new Section website for running the Section. It is also a platform for information exchange and section management. We will also help to kick off the activities of newly formed Fiji Subsection, and give more support to YP, WIE, and the two existing student branches.

D.2 Goals and Future Plans

We developed our new Section Strategic plan (2019-2023). A summary of the main goals are shown below:

The strategic planning session for the IEEE NZ North section for the year 2019-2023 was organised on 21st July 2018 from 9 am to 5 pm at Newmarket campus, The University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand. The event was attended by around 15 people, which included 12 participants from New Zealand and 3 participants from Fiji subsection. The event was organised by Prof. Nirmal Nair and Dr. Ho Seok Ahn, and facilitated by Prof. Nirmal Nair and Dr. Latha Murugesan. An effective feedback and knowledge on strategic planning was inculcated to the participants by Prof. Peter from AUT during the event. The discussion during the workshop was around the six main focus areas, which included (1) Leadership, Visibility and Recognition, (2) Conferences & Workshops, (3) Bidding for R10 & IEEE global events, (4) Student, Women in Engineering and Teachers-in-Service Program, (5) Chapter rejuvenation and regular committee refresh, (6) Engagement with other NZ and international learned societies and affinity groups (IET, ENZ etc.). The outcome of this workshop is

a strategic planning document, which includes the list of strategies, events and conferences, which will be considered during the year 2019-2023. With Fiji subsection in place, the vision, mission and goals of the IEEE NZ North section has also been updated during this workshop.

D.3 Any innovative ideas to make IEEE more creative and value added for sustaining the membership retention and recruitment goals.

Provide more tangible benefits to members comparable to those experienced by American members. Discounts on conferences fees for members definitely help, but not all conference organizers are happy to give decent discounts, it would be great if the IEEE Headquarter can offer some subsidy. We believe that IEEE should reach out to 'middle school' i.e. students in the 7 to 12 year age group. A large portion of this section of the student body makes a decision to keep away from the 'geeky' or 'boyish' professions. Naturally, they need to make a well-informed decision. Our underlying assumption is that some students make this decision of following a path – other than STEM – simply because of an incomplete or erroneous understanding of 'Engineering'. IEEE needs to champion Engineering (Electrical Engineering) to ensure we motivate the very young minds to look at Engineering positively.

D.4. Business Plan for Sustainable Growth and Financial Stability.