



IES 2020 Chapter Activities in Review

Happy New Year to all members of the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society (IES)! The year 2020 was a great challenge for everybody around the world. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the IES took proactive measures through virtual platforms to

embrace conferences, workshops, and technical activities. It is exciting that, under the leadership of Dr. Yousef Ibrahim, IES Chapters are growing in multiple locations worldwide despite the downward trend in IEEE membership. I am pleased to report that the IES now has 88 Chapters, the most ever. The Society promotes the safety and well-being of its members as a

top priority. In 2020, Chapter meetings were conducted online. It is my mission, in my capacity as membership champion, to sustain membership. Several schemes were promoted to encourage Chapters' progress, namely, the IES Best Chapter Award, IES Support to Chapters Local Activities (SCLA), and IES Inter-Chapter Paper Competition.

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FIGURE 1 – Dr. Victor Huang (front row, fourth from left) attended the SloT IEEE P2668 inauguration. (Source: <https://www.hkstp.org/press-room/hkstp-hosts-conference-on-sensors-and-iot-siot-standard-for-smart-city-to-promote-industry-wide-siot-applications-1/>)

The Best Chapter Award evaluates technical activities and membership growth during the preceding year. In 2020, the IES-IEEE Power Electronics Society (PELS) Poland Joint Chapter won the award for its contributions to Chapter event organization. SCLA grants were established to facilitate Chapters' local technical activities focused on high-quality professional sharing. It is encouraging to see that more Chapters have shown interest in securing the funding. I am pleased to report that there were 19 applicants in 2020, a notable increase from nine in 2019. To maximize the benefits of grant funding for our members, more inter-Chapter activities are encouraged.

The IES Inter-Chapter Paper Competition provides a platform for professionals from Chapters around the world to share their insights into and experiences with the latest technologies and applications. Out of numerous novel and creative projects, my congratulations go to the author of the 2020 paper "Dynamic Geofencing and Localization

for COVID-19 Quarantine," from the IES/IEEE Power & Energy Society/IEEE Industrial Applications Society/PELS Hong Kong Joint Chapter.

In the current era of rapid smart city development, the IES Standards Technical Committee works to develop standards to promote Internet of Things (IoT)/Industrial IoT/cyber-physical system harmonization. The standards involve IEEE 1451.X, IEEE P2668, IEEE P2660, IEEE P2805, and others. In particular, the IEEE P2668 IoT Maturity Index was inaugurated and explored during the Sensors and IoT (SIoT) Standard for Smart City and Inauguration of IEEE P2668 IoT Maturity Index conference in Hong Kong in August 2019. Dr. Victor Huang, chair of the IES Standards Committee, attended that event (Figure 1), which attracted more than 300 experts and scholars to discuss and exchange their views. Establishing these standards facilitates a safe, reliable, and mature industrial electronics progression. I highly encourage more IES Chapters and members to participate in standards

development. Furthermore, the IES Standards Technical Committee supported multiple technical conferences about cutting-edge technologies, including the 2019 and 2020 Wireless Symposiums, which focused on smart city and IoT development in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, and the 2020 IES International Electronics Symposium, where themes included smart city building blocks and embracing smart cities through the IoT.

It is my goal to organize more activities to cultivate inter-Chapter bonding and communication. It would be beneficial if members actively participated in IES activities and shared knowledge from their domains. Through the direction of the IES Chapters Committee, led by Prof. Ibrahim, and with support from IES Society President Terry Martin, the IES strives to support and serve Society members. I am confident that the IES will continue to efficiently coordinate members and Chapters and to deliver advanced knowledge and up-to-date developments in industrial electronics. Stay well and safe! 🌟



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