

IT'S ALL ABOUT QUALITY

Merriam Webster dictionary defines *Quality* as “a high level of value or excellence”. *Quality* is not easily “measured” with common methods of measurement and has no unit associated with it. However, one knows *Quality* when one comes in contact with it! I have a poster hanging on the wall in my laboratory which simply states “Things of quality have no fear of time” (author unknown). I hung the poster strategically so that as my



students walk in they get a glimpse of it, and to reinforce *Quality* in all aspects of their academic, research and personal endeavors. We must not be afraid of *Quality* - must embrace it, strive for it and achieve it in every

thing we do for our Society and its members. *Quality* is only achieved through diligence, hard work, perseverance and the desire to want it. When I was appointed as the editor-in-chief of our Transactions (TIM), we faced a number of challenges. I knew then that if we strived to achieve *Quality*, we would successfully address and overcome all of those challenges, and we did.

Last year the AdCom approved our first ever Strategic Plan (SP). You may find it on the Society website (<http://www.ieee-ims.org>) under “About IMS”. Our Vision is to “*Be the premier international professional Society in the Instrumentation and Measurement (I&M) fields*”. Our Mission is to:

- Provide the most *comprehensive* and *high-quality* services to our members and related professionals.
- Serve as the professional *incubator* for the *growth* of all (particularly younger) members.
- Be in the *forefront* of future I&M technological advances.

This working document also lays out specific Plans and Metrics for each of the standing Committees of the Society. In drafting the SP, we insisted on incorporating realistic, yet definite benchmarks to monitor and measure our progress - after all we should be able to *measure* this! We will evaluate and scrutinize our progress and update the SP, during our annual “Society Strategic Planning Meeting”.

As a Society we have accomplished much in the past few years and continue to do so. I wish to share a few of the more critical issues we are currently working on:

- Ensure the overall well-being and success of the Magazine to remain an effective conduit between the Society and its members.
- Engage all members, particularly our younger members and provide an effective “incubator” to help them succeed in their chosen careers.

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- The Conference Committee is working on a plan to transform all of our Society-sponsored conferences to “reviewed” conferences where instead of submitting an extended abstract, full proceedings papers will have to be submitted and reviewed for acceptance. We believe in the long-term this critical change will add more value and *quality* to our conferences and will attract more *high-quality* papers.
- Industrial members form the largest membership group in our Society. We have been proactively encouraging our industrial members to be more involved and engaged in the Society in order to provide them with more support when needed, and also to benefit from their wisdom and experiences in promoting the Mission of the Society. We

understand some of the limitations they face compared to our academic members. Consequently, our newly established Industry Liaison (Mr. Max Cortner) is working with others in the Membership Committee to facilitate and encourage more involvement by our industrial members.

- I&M is a diverse Society in all respects and we celebrate and emphasize activities that involve and engage *all* of our members from all backgrounds and regions. In the past few years we have organized programs to better promote involvement by our various membership constituencies through the Annual Graduate Student and Women in I&M Panel Discussions at I2MTC, facilitating involvement of members from regions 9 and 10, to name a few.
- For the past two years we have put great emphasis on different standing Committees working integrally as our Mission requires close interaction among these Committees.
- We have to revise, revamp, stimulate and engage our Technical Committees (TCs) and ensure that they do serve the purpose for which they were established and that they remain active and continually engage their members. We look at TCs as a critical resource for technical know-how, member recognition (e.g., qualified Fellow, Keithley and other Society Award nominations), organizing conference special sessions, etc.

IEEE budgeting process and guidelines are not always easy to understand and follow, especially in preparing the preliminary budget and understanding whether sufficient revenues can be expected to support new initiatives. However, under the leadership of our past VP Finance (Dr. R. Dyer) and the current treasure (Mr. F. Reyes) we have created a Best Practice in the way we perform our annual

budgeting process and keep regular tab on our expenditure and revenues.

Owing to this best practice we have been able to invest in and initiate new educational initiatives devoted to our youngest members. We are now proud to boast that the IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) awarded the I&M Society the 2013 IEEE Educational Activities Board Society/Council Professional Development Award *"for offering comprehensive educational initiatives in the field of instrumentation and measurement to meet the life-long learning needs of its members"*. This award was given in recognition of the I&M Society's exceptional achievements in professional development activities and is given to Societies or Councils whose contributions to continuing education and professional development are outstanding as evidenced by their *quality, comprehensiveness, innovation or impact*.

We certainly have come a long way, but we still have a lot to travel, and we need your help in achieving even more. The AdCom is here to help you and facilitate processes that bring tangible, useful and high-*quality* services to our members. Please keep in touch; you are the Society and we need to hear from you as to how we are doing and what we can do more and better. I look forward to working with the AdCom, all of our members and the IEEE to continue bringing *quality* to all aspects of our Society.

Cheers

Reza