Chapter Chair Kit

Farid Melgani
Chapters Committee Chair

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Welcome!

- First, on behalf of the AdCom, a warm welcome on board the volunteering ship of the GRSS community, and thanks in anticipation for the availability and time you will devote for the benefit of our local members!

- This brief presentation aims at providing basic but important information to lead in the best way your Chapter.

- Remember that in case of any doubt or problem, you may always contact the Chair of the Chapters Committee.

- Have a nice reading time!

GRSS at a Glance

- The Society was first known as the Geoscience Electronics Group, formed in 1962.

- It then became the Geoscience Electronics Society in January 1978.

- In 1980, the name of the Society was changed to the Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS) to more accurately reflect the broad scope of its interests and activities.

- Currently, it totals 3500+ members across the world.

- The structure of the GRSS Administrative Committee can be found at this link:

http://www.grss-ieee.org/community/adcom/

60+ Chapters

GRSS Ambassadors

- GRSS Ambassadors were nominated by the AdCom in some countries where the minimum number of GRSS members to trigger a Chapter petition is not yet reached.

- Current Ambassadors are:
  - **Egypt**: Mohammed Salem (mohammed.salem@guc.edu.eg)
  - **Iceland**: Jakob Sigurdsson (jakobs@hi.is)
  - **Iraq**: Ayad Fadhil (amfadhil@gmail.com)
  - **Israel**: Stanley Rotman (srotman@bgu.ac.il)
  - **Kenya**: Hunja Waithaka (hunja@eng.jkuat.ac.ke)
  - **Morocco**: Kamal Labbassi (labbassi@ucd.ac.ma)
  - **Lebanon**: Elias Nassar (enassar@ndu.edu.lb)
  - **Oman**: Andy Kwarteng (kwarteng@squ.edu.om)
  - **Thailand**: Chinnawat Surussavadee (pop@alum.mit.edu)
  - **Tunisia**: Riadh Abdelfattah (riadh.abdelfattah@supcom.tn)

Conferences Sponsored by GRSS

- The flagship conference of GRSS is IGARSS (International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium).

- It is held annually in locations selected according a three-year cycle in the Americas, Europe or Africa, Asia or Australia.

- Numerous other conferences are sponsored by GRSS. A list is provided at this link:

  http://www.grss-ieee.org/grss-sponsored-small-and-specialty-conferences/

Chapter Duties and Benefits

- **Reporting to GRSS**
- **Reporting to MGA**
- **Access to annual GRSS grants (up to $3000)**
- **Access to Distinguished Lecturers Program**
- **Access to GRSS special initiatives (Caravans, ChapNets…)**
- **Interact with GRSS Technical Committees**
- **Digital resources**
- **Best Chapter Award**

Reporting

- Two <u>different and independent</u> kinds of reporting are continuously needed from each Chapter Chair:
  - **Reporting to GRSS**
  - **Reporting to MGA Department (see next slide)**
- At the end of every year, GRSS asks for a report of the activities performed during that year.
- This report is important for GRSS to monitor its Chapters but also for the Chapters <u>for being eligible to request a grant</u> for the activities of the successive year.
- A template is sent for such purpose every year by the Chapters Committee Chair.
- <u>Again, it is very important not to confuse between the annual report for GRSS and the L31 reports for IEEE MGA (see next slide) as they are not connected to each other, being parts of different monitoring processes.</u>

MGA Department

- In order to maintain viability and to ensure that all Chapters are meeting the needs of their members, each Chapter is also required by the Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Board to submit annual reports of the following:

  - Meeting Activity (Online L-31 Form)

  - New Officers and Officer Changes

  - Financial Reporting via NetSuite

- <u>Remember that in case of non reporting or low reporting of meeting activities (less than 2 meetings/year for three successive years), the MGA can dissolve your Chapter.</u>

- For more information:

https://www.ieee.org/societies_communities/geo_activities/required_reporting/index.html

Annual GRSS Grants

- Every year, GRSS launches a call for funding activities of its Chapters.

- The maximum grant amount is typically $3000.

- The grant is subject to the submission of a proposal of activities and related budget for the considered year.

- The grant is not accessible for Chapters which did not submit a report of their activities of the previous year to the Chair of the Chapters Committee.

- Indicative dates of the call:
  - Start: mid-November of each year (20XX)
  - Deadline: mid-January of 20XX+1

Distinguished Lecturer Program

- The DL program aims at providing Chapters with access to a catalogue of Distinguished Lecturers, with no extra cost for the Chapters.

- After contacting a Distinguished Lecturer and agreement is reached on the details of the visit, the Chapter Chair needs to submit an application form to the DL Program Chair for approval.

- Support for a Distinguished Lecturer is up to $1500 per domestic trip and to $3000 for a trip between continents.

- For more information:

  http://www.grss-ieee.org/education/distinguished-lecturers/

Special Initiatives

- GRSS regularly fires up special initiatives for tightening further the links between Chapters and their local contexts (members, centers, industries, administration, school…) as well as international realities (other Chapters, institutions, organizations…).

- The Chapters Committee Chair provides communications with all information revolving around such initiatives (e.g., ChapNet initiative) as soon as they are approved by the AdCom.

GRSS Technical Committees

- Activities of Technical Committees include networking, organization of thematic workshops, education of young professionals, special sessions at IGARSS.

- Current TCs are:
  - Earth Science Informatics
  - Frequency Allocations in Remote Sensing
  - Instrumentation and Future Technologies
  - Image Analysis and Data Fusion
  - Geoscience Spaceborne Imaging Spectroscopy
  - Modeling in Remote Sensing
  - Standards for Earth Observation

- More can be found at:

http://www.grss-ieee.org/community/technical-committees/

◆IEEE

Digital Resources

- IEEE and GRSS put at disposal of the Chapters and members a wide spectrum of digital resources, including:
  - vTools (email members, meeting forms, officer reporting, member surveys, member voting) [IEEE]
  - Website hosting [IEEE]
  - Producing videos/webinars [IEEE]
  - Datasets, tutorials, documents, code library [GRSS]
  - Free access to GoToWebinar facility (for video/audio conferencing/meeting) [GRSS]
  - Posting news in the GRSS website [GRSS]

- For more info, visit:

    http://www.grss-ieee.org/

    http://www.grss-ieee.org/community/chapters/chapter-resources/

Best Chapter Award

- When sending its annual report to GRSS, a Chapter can ask to run for the Best Chapter Award of the year, just by ticking a dedicated box in the report template.

- The reports of the Award candidates are evaluated by a Selection Committee composed of the Chapters Committee Chair and the Special Awards Chair on the basis of the following criteria: 1) technical seminars, 2) other technical activities, 3) education/outreach, 4) professional development, 5) involvement with GRSS/IGARSS, 6) membership development, 7) fundraising, 8) membership diversity, and 9) web presence.

- On the basis of the recommendations from the Selection Committee, the AdCom in its March meeting decides the winner.

- The Award consists of a check of $1500 and a certificate. It is conferred during the Chapter Chairs Dinner organized during IGARSS.

Contact Persons

- Chapters Committee Chair: Farid Melgani (melgani@disi.unitn.it)

- DL Program: David Le Vine (d.levine@ieee.com)

- Webmaster: Leland Pierce (lep@umich.edu)