

Bringing young professionals into the IEC community



Join a programme that puts young professionals at the centre of international standardization and conformity assessment.

Since its launch in 2010, the IEC Young Professionals Programme offers a platform for the next generation of experts to contribute to standardization and conformity assessment and bring a new perspective to the IEC community.

A programme designed by young professionals for young professionals, it is an opportunity to impact the work of the IEC.

Each year, the IEC YP Programme brings together a group of young professionals to learn more about how they can contribute to standardization and conformity assessment. The programme officially starts during the IEC YP workshop and continues with online activities throughout the year.

“Young professionals should be aware that they can make an impact on the standardization forum. The old-age mentality of standardization is reserved for experienced professionals nearing retirement needs to be eliminated.”

— IEC YP Beer Opatsuwan,
Australia



YPs have the opportunity to actively contribute to yearly projects as well as attend a series of online sessions focused on the development of leadership skills and the exploration of key topics in the field of electrotechnology led by IEC experts. Topics addressed have included energy efficiency, 5G EMF safety, worldwide regulatory regimes and smart cities.

IEC Young Professionals are encouraged to continue their engagement in standardization and conformity assessment at the international and national levels by contributing to the technical work of the IEC and the IEC National Committees. IEC YPs are regularly invited to participate in IEC groups and dedicated YP activities as well as provide input on how the IEC can attract the next generation of experts and leaders.

“I would definitely recommend employers to send their YPs to this workshop. It is a great platform where YPs can express their ideas and learn about IEC work. I will use what I learnt to help our customers which will ultimately contribute to increasing my organization’s market share.” – IEC YP Juan Li, China

In April 2018, Stina Wallström was elected President of Svensk Elstandard (SEK), the IEC National Committee of Sweden. In this position, Wallström is responsible for guiding the National Committee and leading its involvement in international fora.

“Aside from being a wonderful experience where new friendships and contacts were formed with other YPs from all over the world, I learned a lot about the IEC. This information is of great importance to me in my role as SEK Chair.

When I participated in the programme, my already high expectations were surpassed. The programme is well thought out and wide-ranging. When you complete the programme, you have, as expected, a firm knowledge about the world and functioning of the IEC. But over and above that, you also get ample opportunities to form a network of peers from all over the world to whom you can turn to for advice and new business opportunities. The IEC also makes sure that you get to meet and interact with experienced and influential experts within the IEC system to further broaden your professional network.”



Benefits of the IEC YP Programme

The IEC YP Programme offers

- An important networking platform at the international level. As part of the IEC community, participants cultivate long-term relationships with other experts working in the same field.
- A unique opportunity to help shape standardization and conformity assessment work. It is a gateway for further involvement in national and international activities.
- Exposure to new ideas and the opportunity to share unique perspectives.
- New insight into standardization and conformity assessment and the impact they have on technology.

“The programme provided me with a professional network in my field and gave me a better understanding of standards. In my work, I think differently because I am aware of standards. Now I am involved in standardization work which offers my company another opportunity to be involved with the National Committee.”

— IEC YP Jacob Lynge,
Denmark

Joining the IEC YP Programme

Each year, the IEC seeks new participants – engineers, managers and technicians – involved in the field of electro-technology to join the IEC YP Programme.

Participants are selected by IEC National Committees to represent their country at the IEC YP workshop. The selection process is determined by the IEC National Committees and may vary by country.

Making an impact

With the tools and knowledge acquired through the IEC YP Programme, many participants have continued their involvement in standardization and conformity assessment work at the national and international levels.

Since 2010, the IEC YP Programme has welcomed over 600 participants from all over the world of which nearly 50% continue to participate in IEC work. Several IEC YPs have taken on management roles in technical committees, served on various IEC management boards and been awarded the prestigious IEC 1906 Award.

IEC YP workshop

Through its flagship YP workshop held each year alongside the IEC General Meeting, the IEC introduces a group of highly motivated young professionals into its community.

The IEC YP workshop offers participants the opportunity to see the IEC in action and meet experts from all over the world in order to better understand the importance of contributing to international standardization and conformity assessment.

In addition to the workshop sessions tailored for the YPs, participants are also invited to observe IEC management and technical meetings, share their thoughts in interactive breakout sessions and meet the leadership team from their respective IEC National Committee. IEC YPs are also invited to visit an industrial site which has included an electric power substation and a consumer electronics manufacturing site.

After the completion of the workshop, YPs continue their involvement in the programme through a series of online projects and sessions. They are also encouraged to deepen their involvement in standardization and conformity assessment work at the international and/or national levels.

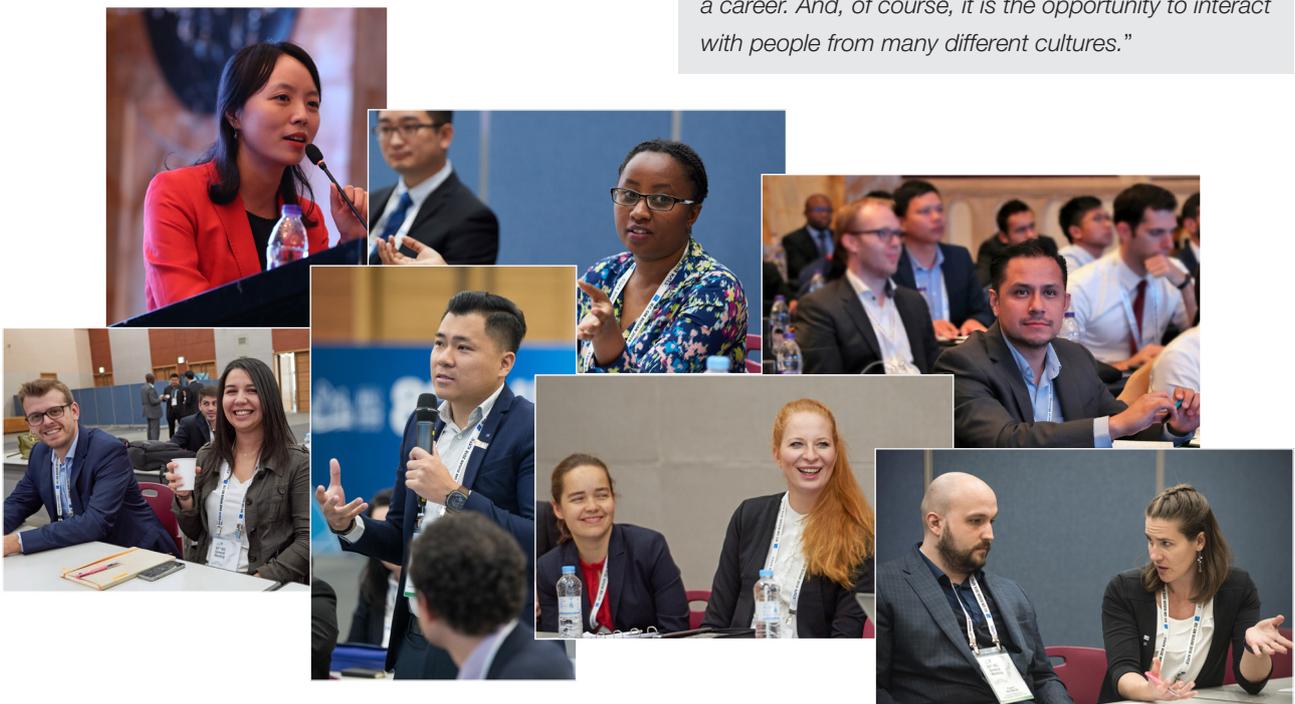
“The workshop significantly improved my knowledge in the IEC process and the workings of international stakeholders and National Committees. Along with other factors, it resulted in my promotion within my company internally and has improved my ability to contribute at a national level within the National Committee I am involved with.” – IEC YP Olivia Brennan, Ireland.

In 2020, the IEC elected Juan Rosales to serve as a member of the IEC Council Board. He is also President of ANCE, the leading association for standardization and conformity assessment in Mexico and the youngest president in the association’s history. In his success as a national and international leader in standardization and conformity assessment, Rosales credits the IEC YP Programme as a key factor in shaping his career.

“Being part of the IEC Young Professionals Programme 2010 in Seattle has been one of most remarkable experiences in my professional life. Going back nine years, I was part of a testing lab for laundry equipment. However, after being selected as one of the three YP Leaders, new opportunities arose.

I received an invitation from the IEC National Committee of Mexico to share my experience and ideas for a programme in Mexico which, after several years, has become a strong platform for involving new generations. I also had the opportunity to present my perspective of the YP Programme in regional forums such as CANENA and the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) as well as at many IEC events. These opportunities provided me with a platform on which to build a career as an expert in standardization and conformity assessment, not only at the local level but also at the international level. Being selected to be a part of the IEC family has provided me with a strong sense of confidence throughout these years.

The YP Programme provides a perfect starting point for the next generation – the fundamental basis – to build a career. And, of course, it is the opportunity to interact with people from many different cultures.”



YP Leaders

Each year, three YP Leaders are selected among participants attending the IEC YP workshop to serve as the IEC YP ambassadors within the IEC community. YP Leaders are also responsible for implementing projects that can benefit the IEC community. Past projects have included the design of the *Standard in a day Bootcamp*, promoting cultural and geographical diversity through a YP outreach programme and developing a collection of business case studies.

“Without the IEC Young Professionals Programme, I would never have come to my current (and ever evolving) understanding of the role of standards and conformity assessment in sustainability, safety, and global trade. I wouldn’t have the global perspective or insights provided by my colleagues on politics and trends around the world, and while I always knew that international collaboration was important, I now realize it is integral to solving any complex and wide-reaching challenge.” – 2018 YP Leader, Carrie Schmaus, United States.

YP contribution to IEC work in 5G

With the development of 5G two years earlier than anticipated, IEC Technical Committee 106 needed to fast-track the testing methods needed to assess human exposure to 5G. With the help of a young engineer to lead the project, IEC TC 106 published a technical report in record time.

“We benefited from dynamic leadership, harnessing available knowledge and a can-do attitude. YPs will ask questions that no one will have thought of. Volunteering is a great way to get involved.”

Words that come to mind: wanting to learn and make a difference, energy and enthusiasm. We want you to be the leaders in 10 years. I see a lot of YPs working in 5G and expect to see them leading 6G.”

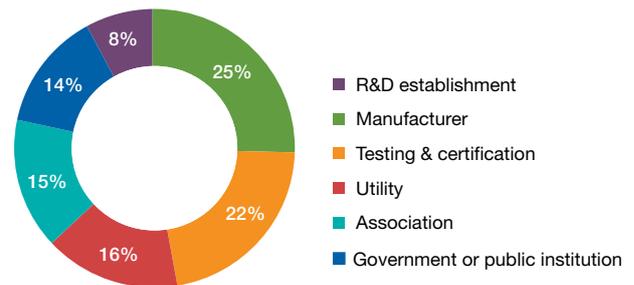
— Chair of IEC TC 106, Mike Wood

Participants’ profile

Since its launch in 2010, the IEC YP Programme has welcomed more than 600 high-flyers hand-picked through a competitive selection process to represent their National Committee .

Business sectors

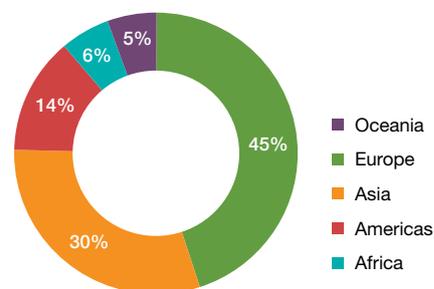
IEC YPs represent a variety of business sectors, such as manufacturing (25%), testing & certification (22%) and utilities (16%).



Business sectors (2010-2019)

Geographical diversity

All geographical regions are represented in the IEC YP Programme with participants from 52 IEC National Committees.



Geographical representation (2010-2019)

Gender representation

The current gender representation between males and females is 76% and 24% respectively. However, the gender gap is narrowing as female participation in the IEC YP Programme increases.



Gender representation (2010-2019)

About the IEC

Key figures

173

members and affiliates

>200

technical committees

20 000

experts from industry, test and research labs, government, academia and consumer groups

>10 000

international standards published

4

global conformity assessment systems

>1 million

conformity assessment certificates issued

>100

years of expertise

The IEC, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, is the world's leading publisher of international standards for electrical and electronic technologies. It is a global, independent, not-for-profit, membership organization (funded by membership fees and sales). The IEC includes 173 countries that represent 99% of world population and energy generation.

The IEC provides a worldwide, neutral and independent platform where 20 000 experts from the private and public sectors cooperate to develop state-of-the-art, globally relevant IEC International Standards. These form the basis for testing and certification, and support economic development, protecting people and the environment.

IEC work impacts around 20% of global trade (in value) and looks at aspects such as safety, interoperability, performance and other essential requirements for a vast range of technology areas, including energy, manufacturing, transportation, healthcare, homes, buildings or cities.

The IEC administers four conformity assessment systems and provides a standardized approach to the testing and certification of components, products, systems, as well as the competence of persons.

IEC work is essential for safety, quality and risk management. It helps make cities smarter, supports universal energy access and improves energy efficiency of devices and systems. It allows industry to consistently build better products, helps governments ensure long-term viability of infrastructure investments and reassures investors and insurers.



A global network of 173 countries that covers 99% of world population and electricity generation



Offers an affiliate country programme to encourage developing countries to get involved in the IEC free of charge



Develops international standards and runs four conformity assessment systems to verify that electronic and electrical products work safely and as they are intended to



IEC International Standards represent a global consensus of state-of-the-art know-how and expertise



A not-for-profit organization enabling global trade and universal electricity access

Further information

For further information, please visit the IEC website at www.iec.ch. In the “Who we are” section, you can contact your local IEC National Committee directly. Alternatively, please contact the IEC Central Office in Geneva, Switzerland or the nearest IEC Regional Centre.

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