

Region 9 IEEE Entrepreneurship Ambassadors' Program

Guidelines to become an ambassador, to call for pitches, and to apply for the awards.

The IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship has successfully implemented the Ambassadors' Program to instill essential skills such as negotiation, networking, and organizing skills such as event planning and execution among young professionals and entrepreneurship spirit among event-participating students and entrepreneurs. R8 started this initiative in 2018 and has seen massive engagement and momentum. After four editions of the Entrepreneurship Week, more than 70 events were organized, and 130+ ambassadors, with the fifth Entrepreneurship Week 2023/24 coming soon.

IEEE Entrepreneurship is exploring replicating the R8 Ambassador program in other regions. The IEEE Region 9 Entrepreneurship Committee is up to taking the challenge. We are pleased to announce the Region 9 Ambassadors Program for IEEE Young Professionals and IEEE student members who want to develop and strengthen their management and organizational acumen.

Welcome Message

Dear ambassadors, on behalf of the IEEE R9 Entrepreneurship Committee, we welcome you to our community and your Entrepreneurship Event Organization journey! The program foundations incorporate various backgrounds of industry, academia, and entrepreneurial domains sourced across different IEEE Region 9 subunits by experienced professionals such as CEOs, senior managers, startup initiators and founders, professors, and more.

We understand that local entrepreneurship ecosystems broadly vary on many factors. Therefore, the local ecosystem participants are often the only ones to have deeper insights into how these ecosystems work and how to approach them. Knowing this, we are starting a call for Ambassadors in 2024 for the first time in R9 and asking you to join us. Throughout the events you will organize between July and September, you will have the guidance of an experienced mentor. In October and November, events and ambassadors are evaluated by an IEEE committee, and awards are presented later on.

At this point, please review the document below, wonder about your motivation to join, and stay open to learning. Applications for 2024 are open until July 31st, 2024. However, apply promptly (first in, first out).

Why to participate

Among the several reasons for you to participate, we would like to highlight some:

- Build your essential skills, such as negotiation, networking, and organizing skills, such as event planning and execution.

- Contribute to instilling the entrepreneurship spirit among your local and IEEE community and growing local entrepreneurship activities.
- Create, encourage, and support local (country and regional) entrepreneurship communities within IEEE.
- Strengthen your entrepreneurship knowledge and skills by creating learning opportunities for aspiring or early-stage entrepreneurs within the IEEE community to pursue their business project journey.
- Nurture mentorship opportunities by connecting aspiring or early-stage entrepreneurs within your IEEE community to IEEE and non-IEEE mentors in entrepreneurship.
- Create and grow your network by creating a local (country and regional) entrepreneurship, innovation, and investment network, which the R9 Entrepreneurship Committee can support you in extending and reaching to aspiring or early-stage entrepreneurs within the IEEE community.
- Push to action through competition by creating your local competition platform/pitching to identify and encourage new ideas and startups to emerge from within the IEEE community.

Program Overview

The Region 9 IEEE Entrepreneurship Ambassadors Program was launched in March 2024 during the Region 9 meeting, with the call for ambassadors, students, and young professionals from different countries.

Applications to become ambassadors are open year-round until July, with approvals on a rolling basis, ensuring that programs are executed before October. Applicants must be IEEE members associated with an affinity group, chapter, or student branch. Selected ambassadors receive a single gate approval for events within 1-2 weeks, along with guidelines, responsibilities, and resources. Ambassadors can update their event applications as needed.

Each ambassador or ambassador group is assigned a mentor from the R9 Entrepreneurship team for guidance and support in planning and executing events, with progress monitored through calls and emails. Events must be reported using Vtools.

In October and November, events and ambassadors are evaluated by an IEEE committee based on organization, scale, and impact. Awards include recognition within IEEE, and monetary rewards are presented later on.

How to Become an Ambassador

To become an ambassador, the applicant needs to

- Be an IEEE member and be affiliated with an IEEE affinity group, chapter, or student branch.

- Send regular information on event-related contacts to the IEEE R9 Entrepreneurship Committee, whether participants, incubators, companies, investors, tech transfer officers, etc., for future local or regional events and program continuity.
- Be interested in organizing entrepreneurship events without being an entrepreneur.
- A plus is if the applicant has previous experience in coordinating events and entrepreneurship, whether a course or has attended an existing program or workshop. However, prior experience is optional.
- Be willing to network and connect with the startup community.

The open call for applications to become ambassadors is open throughout the year until July, with approvals of events on a rolling basis (first in, first out). Timelines must be reviewed so that programs can be conducted before September.

Link to apply: [Apply now!](#)

How to carry out events and activities

Events can be anything from a panel discussion to an innovation challenge. The IEEE R9 Entrepreneurship Committee regards an innovation challenge as an event providing a rounded opportunity for the Ambassadors.

Events that include a pitching competition with local entrepreneurial projects and start-ups need to generate one-pagers as a requisite. Upon evaluation by judges, ideas or startups that win your local pitch competition may have the opportunity to showcase their one-pagers on the IEEE Entrepreneurship website, participate in future pitch competitions, and be offered a place to participate in an IEEE Entrepreneurship Summit or IEEE flagship event. Given IEEE's mission, our theme should revolve around Sustainable Engineering and its Impact on Technology and Entrepreneurship.

- **Ambassadors' Event Selection:**
 - Ambassadors must submit an event application immediately - single approval gate.
 - Once submitted, ambassadors should receive approval or rejection within 1-2 weeks. Approved events must be reported using Vtools.
 - In addition to approval, ambassadors should receive guidelines for organizing events, their ambassador responsibilities, and resources.
 - Ambassadors can update their event application (change dates, speakers, prizes, etc.).
 - Call for ambassadors and events is open to ambassadors organizing a new or existing event that fits under the IEEE Entrepreneurship objectives.
- **Specific guidelines for innovation challenges include:**
 - Innovation challenges provided by a company, an incubator/accelerator, a non-profit, or a local government that can provide sponsorship are better.

- Innovation challenges must tackle a pressing problem confronted by a company, an incubator/accelerator, a non-profit, or a local government.
- Innovation challenges include a final pitch competition.
- Additional events around the innovation challenge may include a panel of entrepreneurs' success stories and specific themes workshops (pitching, finding investment, marketing, etc.)
- An endorsement letter from the Section Chair is welcome.
- Submitting post-event records, such as video pitches and pictures, is desirable.

Link to apply: [Apply now!](#)

More information: [Landing page](#)