

IEEE Student Branch Leuven visit to Bavaria

Between the 3rd and 10th of September 2011 the IEEE student Branch Leuven had its annual trip. The destination of this year's trip was Bavaria – Germany, where we could visit companies, universities and other student branches in the region. During the trip we could have many interesting technical visits as well as social and cultural events.

The trip started with the travel to Bavaria on Saturday, the 3rd of September. The day was reserved to arrive at our housing for that week. The housing was situated 35km southeast of Munich and was a real engineer's – house. The house was in the middle of woods (as can be seen on the picture) and did not have any connection to a public grid (in terms of electricity, water or communication).

The water supply was given by the own well. For warm water one solar panel was installed. The electricity was provided by solar panels supplying with 24V DC for illumination. For 230V applications a diesel generator had to be used, which could also supply an additional water boiler for warm water.

On the second day of the trip we could get a nice introduction in the nature of Bavaria on a hiking trip, which was very challenging on temperatures up to 27°C. Nevertheless, when we arrived at the top, we could award ourselves with a round of cold German beer. We also did not forget to make commercial for IEEE on 1500 meters (see pictures).

On Monday the 5th of September we visited the Munich and could get a nice impression of the old city center. In the afternoon we were welcome at the Technical University of Munich, where we could get a guided tour through the university facilities. After the tour, we have been hosted by Prof. Kreupl and the Department of Hybrid Systems on Silicium, where we could get inside information in their actual research.

The following day we had a highly technical day by visiting Siemens facilities. The first part of the visit was in Nürnberg, where we could visit the Siemens Transformer factory, where large power, HVDC and phase shifter transformers up to several hundred MVA are produced. In the afternoon we had the possibility to visit Siemens PTI in Erlangen, where we could get technical presentation involving interesting projects they are working on.

On Wednesday the 7th of September, we could have a highly pleasant technical visit at the Hofbrauhaus in Munich, one of the most traditional breweries in Munich.



After a round of delicious beer and traditional white sausages, in the afternoon we could visit the technical museum of Munich, one of the most impressive technical museums in Europe. In the evening we have been hosted by the IEEE Student Branch of Munich, where we could discuss activities and socialize with each other in the beautiful atmosphere of the Augustiner Braustuben.



On Thursday we could visit the BMW factory in Regensburg, where we could get insides in the world of automotive production. We could visit the whole production line, seeing a car getting alive starting from a piece of steel. After the impressive visit, we could also have a cultural part by the visit of the old city center of Regensburg.

On Friday the 9th we were welcome in Passau, where we have been hosted by the IEEE Student Branch Passau the whole day. There we also had the pleasure to meet the student branches from Munich and Linz. First we could get a guided tour through the University of Passau, followed by a nice boat – tour on the Danube, the Ills and the Inn rivers. The day in Passau was concluded by a visit of the autumn-fest of Passau, where we could socialize and get to know musical and cultural insides to Bavaria.



The last day of the trip was the travel back to Leuven, recapitulating the beautiful memories we had of that week. On this occasion we want to thank Martina Spreng, for organizing our afternoon at the Technical University of Munich, Prof. Kreupl and the Department of Hybrid Systems on Silicium for the nice presentations, Mathias Tebruegge for the interesting tour through Siemens Transformers and Jody Verboomen for the organization of the visits to Siemens and for the presentations in Erlangen. We also want specially to thank to Gerald Anleitner for organizing the tour through the BMW factory in Regensburg and helping to get in touch with the student branch in Munich. Last but not least we want to thank the student branches of Munich, Passau and Linz for the nice hosting, especially Eva Lang for the organization of the beautiful day in Passau.