

The Student Activities committee is one of the ASHRAE Chapter's main committees. The committee is responsible to build relations with educational institutions within the Chapter's geographical region. The committee arranges presentations to introduce the students to ASHRAE's mission. These encourage them to join ASHRAE at younger age and form local Student Sections within their institutions. It is intended they can reap major benefits from the Society as early as the age of 16.

Our Qatar committee succeeded in building constructive professional relations with Qatar University (College of Engineering), The College of the North Atlantic and Qatar Foundation (Texas A&M University). During the past two years, presentations on ASHRAE were made to their students. The committee also worked with the Chapter's Board of Governors to offer students access to some of the Chapter events at 20% to 30% of the cost to other attendees.

The Committee aims to establish minimum of one Student Section, in one of these institutions. We are facing a problem of low student numbers as well as the need to educate the students about the building services field. They have very little or no knowledge about this field during their study years.

Though the local ASHRAE Chapter operates in different committees, it functions as one unit. There is synergy between committees. Our major success in the Student Activity Committee is the relationships that we built with institutions and their willingness to support the Chapter's mission by making their campus' facilities available to the Chapter to conduct some of our technical events.

The advantages of joining ASHRAE as student member are too many to be listed here. However, in my view, the most important advantage is "NETWORKING". In today's competitive market, knowledge is important. Yet knowing the market leaders within the region is important. ASHRAE Chapter is a perfect platform for students to meet other young engineers and industry professionals.