IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology

NEWSLETTER

February 2019

Note from the Chair

Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

Greetings!

I'm delighted to share that February has been an eventful month for SIGHT Steering Committee. We received an overwhelming number of applications (~90) this year for SIGHT committee nominations which speaks very high of volunteer interest to participate in SIGHT activities.

Please join with me in welcoming the 2019 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee. Each of the SSC members has a strong professional background and exhibits a solid track record in successfully contributing to various IEEE global initiatives.

Our incoming team will focus on achieving the following strategic goals in 2019: (a) establish and strengthen strategic partnerships with IEEE operational entities (Society, Section and Regions) (b) rejuvenate inactive SIGHT groups and accelerate presence of SIGHT groups globally (c) Introduce metric framework to show the impact and value SIGHT groups are creating on the ground, and (d) foster cross-regional collaboration among SIGHT groups and expand networking opportunities for SIGHT volunteers. In addition, we are working to introduce IEEE SIGHT Day to raise public awareness and visibility about the impactful work being carried out by SIGHT volunteers globally.

We presented our 2019 SIGHT strategic road map at the recently concluded HAC meeting, as well as during the IEEE BoD meeting series, and it was well received. This year, HAC and SIGHT are working together on two major efforts: (1) pilot "Social Return on Investment" to systematically assess and measure the social impact our projects are delivering and (2) prototype a unified data platform that can be leveraged by all IEEE stakeholders involved in the sustainable development space. I believe such a system will benefit our volunteers to gain insight into on-going local projects and would encourage their active engagement. This platform will also enable collective impact visualization and sharing of best practices & lessons learned among IEEE volunteers.

I strongly encourage SIGHT groups to share your stories to publish in our newsletter. Please reach us at **sight@ieee.org** for any support.

Sincerely,
Sampath Veeraraghavan

Featured Stories

2019 IEEE SIGHT Committee

Please join us in welcoming the **2019 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee**:

- Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan, *Chair, IEEE SIGHT*
- Daniel Lottis*, Past Chair, IEEE SIGHT*
- Celia Shahnaz, *Chair, Communications Committee*
- Pritpal Singh, *Chair, Education Committee*
- Darwin Jose Raju, *Chair, Operations Committee*
- Karen Panetta, *Chair, Projects Committee*

We look forward to their guidance and direction throughout the year, and are thankful for all the time they have already invested in advancing the SIGHT program. We will be featuring one of the members and their Committee's vision and goals for 2019 in subsequent editions. For more on the Steering Committee's academic, professional, and volunteer backgrounds, visit the **SIGHT website**.

IEEE HAC & SIGHT 2019 Calls for Proposals - Application Deadlines

The IEEE HAC & SIGHT Committees have determined the application deadlines for the remaining 2019 Calls for Proposals.

- **IEEE HAC Projects:** 01 April, 15 July, 09 September (only if funds remain)
- **IEEE HAC Events**: 25 March, 20 May, 19 August
- **IEEE SIGHT Projects:** 15 April 2019, 15 August 2019
- **IEEE HAC Conference Participation Program**: 27 Mar, 24 Apr, 29 May, 26 June, 31 July, 28 Aug, 25 Sept, 30 Oct

Both the HAC & SIGHT Projects Committees will be reviewing their respective application forms over the course of the next month, but once it has been finalized we will provide the links to the updated documents. For more details, visit the **HAC website**.

Decisions on applications from the first SIGHT Projects Call for Proposals will be communicated by 29 March 2019.

If your group has a great idea, but needs support to develop a proposal, visit the **SIGHT website** for a variety of resources (books, articles, classes, and **webinars**) on the theory behind sustainable development, the principles of human-centered design, working with community members, and more.

IEEE HAC in-person meeting

The IEEE HAC had its in-person annual meeting on 9 - 10 February in Newark, NJ. Members reviewed progress made in 2018 and discussed the goals and vision for 2019. In addition to the 8 Subcommittee Chairs, Chair, and Past Chair, there were 3 liaisons and staff support present. A list of those involved with the 2019 HAC can be found on the **HAC website**.

Thank you to all the participants who traveled from 5 different countries and 5 US States to attend the meeting!

For a couple more pictures from the meeting, visit the **SIGHT Facebook group page.**

IEEE HAC & SIGHT at the February IEEE Board of Directors Series

Pictured here at the February IEEE Board of Directors Series: Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan, *IEEE SIGHT Chair*, Jim Jefferies, *Past IEEE President*, Kartik Kulkarni, *IEEE HAC Chair*, and Holly Schneider Brown, *Director of Public Imperatives and Corporate Development*.

While at the February Board Series, HAC & SIGHT Chairs presented strategic goals and vision for 2019 to key stakeholders within IEEE's sustainable development ecosystem. The work of the Committee wouldn't be possible without a network of supporters!

Renew your IEEE SIGHT Membership

As an existing IEEE SIGHT member, you may be aware that membership is annual and expired in February for everyone who did not renew. We

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encourage you to renew your membership for 2019 if you have not already done so to continue:

- Receiving the IEEE SIGHT monthly newsletter that provides the latest updates on the IEEE humanitarian projects and activities
- Being among the first to know of HAC & SIGHT funding opportunities
- Benefiting from increased connectivity with the SIGHT Steering Committee (SSC), SIGHT staff, and the large network of volunteers

Join IEEE SIGHT

SIGHT Group Spotlight

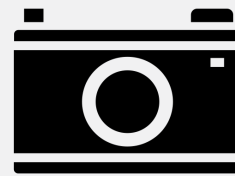### Meet the members from Egypt Section SIGHT

This month we are pleased to introduce the Egypt Section SIGHT group, pictured here at the first IEEE SIGHT Egypt Section meeting of 2019.

Egypt Section SIGHT was awarded funding in 2018 in order to provide a reliable, lower price, clean energy source in an area of Assiut City. The project includes: a renewable energy awareness program in schools, in conjunction with NGO "Brilliant Minds School," a training program for university students to learn how to design PV systems, and the design and installation of a PV system in Assiut City to increase the general standard of living of its inhabitants. The group is led by Chair Mohammad Seif El Din. Follow their **Facebook page** for future updates!

Feature Your Group in the IEEE SIGHT Newsletter!

Would you like to introduce your IEEE SIGHT group to the SIGHT network? We would love to meet you! Please send video or pictures of your group to include in the newsletter, on the **IEEE SIGHT Facebook group**, or on our website as a

blog post. Send a picture and a brief description of your group and project(s) to either **sight@ieee.org**, or **Julianna Pichardo** via Facebook message!

Get Involved

International Women's Day - 8 March 2019

Let's celebrate **International Women's Day** together! During the first week of March, we want to feature some of the women of IEEE SIGHT in honor of International Women's Day - a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

This year's campaign theme is: #BalanceforBetter. We would love to see pictures of you or your entire SIGHT group in the #BalanceforBetter pose (**check it out on the IWD website**) and share them as our way of emphasizing the vital importance of a gender-balanced world.

> Better the balance, better the world.
> #BalanceforBetter #IWD2019
>
> International Women's Day
> internationalwomensday_global

Send your pictures and any encouraging message you would like to share with the SIGHT community to Julianna Pichardo at **j.pichardo@ieee.org**.

© Photograph: Avel Shah / EyeEm, www.internationalwomensday.com

Want More? Visit SIGHT's Site!

IEEE SIGHT
Special Interest Groups on Humanitarian Technology

A global network of IEEE volunteers partnering with underserved communities & local organizations to leverage technology for sustainable development

IEEE SIGHT's website is the place to find case studies, an interactive map of SIGHTs worldwide, testimonials, our blog, learning resources, calendar and more. For more stories, see our **Blog**, or learn about upcoming SIGHT events **In The News.** If you are looking for career development resources and new ideas, visit our **Digital Classroom** for webinars and more.

Join the Community - Find Resources

Become a SIGHT Member

Membership is free and open to all individuals who want to engage in sustainable development. Your membership benefits include the monthly SIGHT newsletter, as well as SIGHT announcements.
SIGHT Membership

Become a Community Partner

We are in search of committed community partners with a distinct technology challenge who want to access engineering and

Find a SIGHT

Professional and University SIGHT groups around the globe are partnering with communities and local organizations to work together on for sustainable development projects.
Find a Group

Start a SIGHT

If a SIGHT group does not exist in your area, click below to access the SIGHT Toolkit, a custom resource for those who wish to

technical resources. Requests from prospective community partners are reviewed monthly and paired with local SIGHT groups if appropriate.
Submit request

create a new SIGHT for their community or understand the process.
Start a SIGHT

Connect With Us

Please let us know what you would like to read about in upcoming SIGHT newsletters. Send your suggestions and ideas to **sight@ieee.org**.

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