

IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on
Humanitarian Technology

NEWSLETTER

April 2019

Note from the Chair



Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

Do you also feel that the year has been passing quickly? We are already into the second quarter of 2019, and I'm proud to share some of the most recent developments to date.

The reviews for the first Call for Proposals have been completed, and the SIGHT Projects Committee have chosen to award funding to three projects (keep reading to see what they are!). I would like to say thank you to everyone who submitted a project; we received 19 proposals, all of which were excellent ideas that demonstrate the heart SIGHT volunteers have to support their local communities.

The SIGHT Steering Committee (SSC) will hold its annual in-person meeting on 11 - 12 May in Newark, NJ, USA. Members will review progress made in 2018 and discuss the strategic goals and vision for 2019 to ensure the program continues growing to further empower our members.

I'd like to encourage everyone to watch SIGHT social media ([like our Facebook group](#)) for a notice of the SIGHT Education Subcommittee's upcoming webinar series. There are several exciting webinars being planned for spring and summer that you won't want to miss!

Finally, I am looking forward to the Ask the Chair session on Sunday, 28 April. My goal with starting this program was to be able to talk directly with SIGHT volunteers about their ideas for humanitarian technology projects, any challenges they may be facing, and the dreams they have for their communities. You'll find the link to register below; I hope you'll join us!

Sincerely,
Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan

Featured Stories

Funded IEEE SIGHT project update – Mobile App Training for farmers in Costa Rica



On 27 February 2019, IEEE volunteers and guests conducted the workshop, “Fostering organic agriculture with the support of a technological tool to reduce intermediation” to train farmers on the use of the mobile app. This SIGHT project, awarded funding in 2018, was developed to train farmers and community leaders on the use of a technology-based solution (a mobile app) to mitigate the middleman problem, foster the transition from conventional to organic farming, and provide basic tools to run the farms as (small) businesses. Read the story on the [SIGHT blog](#).

Ask the Chair, Session 1 - Sunday 28 April at 10:00am EDT

Are you unsure of what the IEEE SIGHT program is, or how it fits into the larger IEEE humanitarian framework? Perhaps you are an individual member or belong to a SIGHT group, but still have questions about how to get more involved, HAC & SIGHT funding opportunities, or what resources to use to construct a strong project proposal. Join us on Sunday, **28 April at 10:00am EDT** for a special forum, **Ask the Chair, Session 1**. This is designed so YOU can ask SIGHT Chair Sampath for advice and suggestions relating to

sustainable development projects. All are welcome to join! **Register today**, and remember to **submit any questions** ahead of time.

SIGHT project proposals awarded funding

The SIGHT Projects Committee has decided to award funding to three projects submitted for the first Call for Proposals of 2019.

- Installation of Solar (PV) Technology at Mukujju Health center IV, IEEE Uganda Section SIGHT - *Uganda, Region 8*
- Rehabilitation for sustainable future of Delta farmers, SIGHT on Society, Environment and Agriculture (SIGHT SEA) - *India, Region 10*
- University of Calgary - Light Up the World 2019, Peru, IEEE Southern Alberta Section SIGHT - *Canada & Peru, Regions 7 & 9*

NOTE: There is one additional project being evaluated by the Committee. Keep an eye on the **SIGHT blog** and **SIGHT Facebook** page for an overview of each project (coming soon) and updates throughout the year.

Other funding opportunities and future deadlines

Did you miss the deadline for the latest round of SIGHT project funding? No need to worry! There are more opportunities throughout the year to apply for the funding you need for your sustainable development activity. Please note that there is a new application process to apply for HAC Events funding - visit the **HAC website** for more about how to apply.

IEEE YESIST12 (Youth Endeavors for Social Innovation Using Sustainable Technology)



IEEE YESIST12 (formerly SS12) is an international talent show for students and young professionals to showcase their innovative ideas to solve humanitarian and social issues affecting directly the community around them. For those who are not able to attend the Grand Finale in Thailand (7 - 8 September 2019) in person, consider presenting your projects online via the International Project Competition virtual track. Teams can register online to **submit an abstract**, or to **be an ambassador**.

HAC & SIGHT Interactive Session at IEEE Bangladesh Section meeting



IEEE Bangladesh Section held its Student Branch Executive Committee and Counselors Summit on 29 March in Dhaka. Professor Dr. Celia Shahnaz, IEEE Bangladesh Section Chair and SIGHT Communications Chair, shared about using SIGHT funding opportunities and membership to have an impact on local community through humanitarian technology. Professor Dr. Shaikh Anowarul Fattah, IEEE HAC Education Chair, conducted a session on social impact analysis of humanitarian technology projects, using the Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology as an example. For pictures and details, visit the [SIGHT blog](#).

Nominations to the IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC)

The IEEE Nominations and Appointments Committee is now accepting submissions for the 2020 IEEE HAC positions. The IEEE HAC supports the Board-endorsed vision of IEEE volunteers around the world carrying out and/or supporting impactful humanitarian activities at the local level. Have someone you'd like to nominate? Anyone may submit a nomination; nominators don't need to be IEEE members, but nominees must meet certain qualifications. Review the [Guidelines for Nominating Candidates](#) and [Position Descriptions](#), then fill out the [Nomination Form](#) before the upcoming deadline of **15 June 2019**.

SIGHT Group Spotlight

IEEE SIGHT Ecuador



IEEE SIGHT Ecuador and IEEE Young Professionals Ecuador Section hosted a workshop on IEEE Funding Sources and Tools for Project Development during a workshop for Student Branch leaders in their Section. SIGHT volunteers Andrea Carrión and Ronny Cabrera learned about the tools of social projects in a workshop on Project Management funded by HAC Events. They then shared their acquired knowledge at the student leader event to promote the creation of SIGHT groups and the development of new sustainable development projects in Ecuador.

Newly formed SIGHT groups!

Please join us in welcoming some new SIGHT Groups:

- IEEE New Jersey Coast Section SIGHT - *USA, Region 1*
- IEEE Turkey Section SIGHT - *Turkey, Region 8*
- Universidad de Chile Student Branch SIGHT - *Chile, Region 9*
- University of Engineering & Tech (UET) Student Branch SIGHT - *Pakistan, Region 10*
- Al-Balqa Applied University Student Branch SIGHT - *Jordan, Region 8*
- Symbiosis Institute of Computer Studies and Research (SICSR) SIGHT - *India, Region 10*

If a SIGHT group does not exist in your Section or Student Branch, click [here](#) to learn how to start one.

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 - Join The Community

Upcoming Events

Please join us in welcoming some new SIGHT Groups:

- 28 April: First "**Ask the Chair**" forum with SIGHT Chair Sampath
- 20 May: **IEEE HAC Events Application Deadline** – Call #3
- 29 May: **IEEE HAC Conference Participation Program Submission Deadline**
- 23 June: **International Women in Engineering Day!**

Visit the SIGHT **events calendar** to find an upcoming HAC & SIGHT humanitarian technology event near you! If you attend a conference, or meet up with a fellow SIGHT member, send us a picture at sight@ieee.org, or tag us @IEEEESIGHT.

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](#)

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](#)

Want More? Visit SIGHT's Site!

SIGHT's website is the place to find case studies, testimonials, **our blog**, and **learning resources** like **webinars** on sustainable development and project management.

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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