

# IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on  
Humanitarian Technology

## NEWSLETTER

August 2019

### Note from the Chair



Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

This month held a highlight not only from my time as SIGHT Chair, but also from the many years of my IEEE volunteer career. Last week, I attended the IEEE Power & Energy Society & Industry Applications Society PowerAfrica Conference in Nigeria where Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Chair Kartik Kulkarni and I presented on the importance of including impact assessment in sustainable development projects. We used examples of Social Return on Investment (SROI) analyses conducted for HAC & SIGHT projects, and presented several ways in which IEEE members can get involved with conducting assessment. It was a pleasure to meet with key stakeholders on the African continent, local Section leaders, and important program representatives from all over the world as we talked about growing SIGHT's support for their planned humanitarian-technology activities.

I'm also excited about the 29 project proposals we received during our last open Call for Proposals of the year. I will be working with the Projects Subcommittee to determine which proposals are ready to be funded, and which can be strengthened for a future round. Thanks to all who submitted a project; your creative ideas and motivation to impact your communities are inspiring!

As always, I continue to be impressed with all that SIGHT groups are accomplishing. Please reach out to us with any questions or requests for support.

Sincerely,  
Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan  
2019 IEEE SIGHT Chair

## Featured Stories

### IEEE PES & IAS PowerAfrica Conference



HAC Chair Kartik Kulkarni and SIGHT Chair Sampath Veeraraghavan attended the IEEE PES & IAS PowerAfrica Conference from 20 – 23 August in Abuja, Nigeria. Mr. Kulkarni organized a panel on “Impact Assessment: Design and Diagnostic” in which Mr. Veeraraghavan participated, along with HAC & SIGHT Project Leader Mr. Lwanga Herbert and Founder & Executive Director of Africa Development Promise Ms. Monica LaBiche Brown. Visit the [SIGHT blog](#) for more.

### IEEE SIGHT Call for Proposals #3 - Summary of Submissions

SIGHT held its last open Call for Proposals of the year in August. Twenty-nine project proposals were received from 15 different countries and five IEEE Regions. In total, applicants from 27 SIGHT groups requested US\$360,793. Please allow three to four weeks for the Projects Subcommittee members to review and make their funding decisions. To see proposals that have been funded so far this year, an [updated list](#) has been uploaded to the HAC website.

## ICCCMLA 2019 Organizes Humanitarian Technology Project Design Workshop



On the first day of the International Conference on Cybernetics, Cognition and Machine Learning Applications (ICCCMLA) 2019, Dr. Shaikh Fattah, HAC Education Chair, conducted a humanitarian technology project design workshop focusing on sustainable development and Social Return on Investment (SROI) for the forty professional and student participants. See the [SIGHT blog](#) for an overview and some of the ideas discussed.

## Celebrate IEEE Day!



IEEE Day honors the roles IEEE members play in their local communities, and their work toward the vision of advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. This year's celebration on 1 October 2019 will be the 10th time commemorating this historic event! How do you plan to celebrate? Check out [past IEEE events](#) or see the [IEEE Day-in-a-Box Event Kit](#) for ideas.

## Next Session of “Ask the Chair” - Date Changed

Join us on Saturday, 28 September at 10:00am EDT for the next “Ask the Chair” session with SIGHT Chair Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan. This time the theme will be “[Intro to SIGHT for Societies](#).” Did you miss the earlier sessions? Visit the SIGHT [Digital Classroom](#) to listen to audio clips on specific topics.

## SIGHT Group Spotlight

### New Jersey Coast Section SIGHT



Globally, people with hearing loss and deafness experience disparate treatment and a limited ability to participate in many settings. Accommodation technology solutions are expensive, developed in silos, complicated, not interoperable with mainstream technologies, and often do not overcome hearing-related obstacles. The NJ Coast Section SIGHT group focuses on low-cost open source sustainable solutions using mainstream communications technologies. For more about this group and their project, visit the [SIGHT blog](#). *(Not all group members are pictured.)*

### Newly-Formed SIGHT Groups - Welcome to the SIGHT Community!

- Universidad Tecnica del Norte (UTN) SIGHT - *Ecuador, Region 9*
- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) SIGHT - *Kenya, Region 8*
- All India Shri Shivaji Mem Soc Inst of Info Tech (AISSMS IOIT) SIGHT - *India, Region 10*
- United Kingdom & Ireland Section SIGHT - *United Kingdom, Region 8*
- Universidad Santo Tomas - Tunja SIGHT - *Colombia, Region 9*
- A.D. Patel Institute of Technology (ADPIT) SIGHT - *India, Region 10*
- Indian Institute of Information Tech-Allahabad (IIITA) SIGHT - *India, Region 10*
- Nitte Mahalinga Adyanthaya Memorial Inst of Tech (NMAMIT) SIGHT - *India, Region 10*

## Feature Your Group in the IEEE SIGHT Newsletter

Would you like to introduce your IEEE SIGHT group to the global network? We would love to meet you! Send video or pictures of your group to [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org).

## Get Involved - Join The Community

### Upcoming Events

- 7-8 September: **Grand Finale of IEEE YESIST12 (Youth Endeavours For Social Innovation Using Sustainable Technology)**
- 25 September: **IEEE HAC Conference Participation Program Submission Deadline**
- 18 September: **Ask the Chair, Session #3 – Intro to SIGHT for Societies**
- Coming in September: SIGHT Subcommittee Nominations
- 1 October: **IEEE 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](mailto:sight@ieee.org), or tag us @IEEEESIGHT.

### Become a SIGHT Member

Membership is free and open to everyone who wants to engage in sustainable development. Benefits include the newsletter with the latest updates on IEEE humanitarian activities; first notice of HAC & SIGHT funding opportunities; and increased connectivity with the SIGHT Steering Committee (SSC), SIGHT staff, and the large network of volunteers.

SIGHT MEMBERSHIP

### Join a SIGHT Group

Professional and university SIGHT groups around the globe are partnering with communities and local organizations to work together on sustainable development projects - **find your closest group!** If a SIGHT group does not exist in your area, visit the **SIGHT Toolkit** to learn how to create a new one.

JOIN 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](mailto:sight@ieee.org).

[Join Our Mailing List](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#)



[Visit Our Blog](#)