

# IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on  
Humanitarian Technology

## NEWSLETTER

May 2019

### Note from the Chair



SAMPATHKUMAR  
VEERARAGHAVAN  
*Chair, IEEE SIGHT*

Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

I want to start by sharing how much I enjoyed talking with a number of you during the first Ask the Chair Session on 28 April. Participants from seven different countries and three Regions joined in a round-table conversation about SIGHT and sustainable development projects. People asked great questions, like “How do we get community residents to trust us and realize that we have good intentions, while ensuring that the trust doesn’t turn into dependency?” and requested more materials to strengthen effective proposal writing skills. As a response, the SIGHT Education Subcommittee will be offering two upcoming webinars on how to design strong project proposals. For those of you who weren’t able to join the Ask the Chair Session, we encourage you to **listen to the recordings** (broken down by theme) and hope that you will be able to participate in the next session!

This month I also attended the SIGHT Steering Committee in-person meeting, and I am so excited to share the major initiatives that were approved for 2019:

- Pilot of IEEE SIGHT Day
- SIGHT group activity fund
- SIGHT group and individual awards

The details of each of these new programs are still being finalized, but we will publish a complete description of each one by 15 July, so keep an eye out on the SIGHT website and social media platforms for more information.

On 4 June, I will be presenting on SIGHT at the IEEE MTT-S (Microwave Theory and Techniques Society) Chapter Chair Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. If you live in the area, don't miss the opportunity to join for the workshop on the impactful work SIGHT volunteers are driving globally.

Finally, I am thrilled to welcome Khanjan Mehta, an expert in the social development space, as the newly appointed Chair of the Ad-hoc Committee on Metric Framework. This Subcommittee will be determining a set of holistic metrics to measure and showcase SIGHT's success and standardize the collection of data across SIGHT Subcommittees.

Sincerely,  
Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan

## Featured Stories

### SIGHT Steering Committee In-person Meeting



We greatly appreciate the time the SIGHT Steering Committee and Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Chair Kartik Kulkarni took to attend (physically and virtually) the in-person meeting this weekend. It was an engaging time with many new ideas being proposed and discussed, and invaluable contributions made to the year's plans.

### SIGHT Education Subcommittee Webinar - Identifying Insights



The Education Subcommittee kicked off their 2019 webinar series with Sue Baggott's very informative presentation on Discovering Stakeholder Insights to Strengthen SIGHT Projects on 14 May. The session included an interview to demonstrate the techniques presented along with case studies, insights, and observations to contextualize the approach to real-world situations. We highly recommend **this webinar** for everyone planning projects and other activities.

### **Introduction of Khanjan Mehta as Chair of Ad-hoc Committee on Metric Framework**



**Khanjan Mehta** is the inaugural Vice Provost for Creative Inquiry and Director of the Mountaintop Initiative at Lehigh University. Mehta champions the creation of learning environments and ecosystems where students,

faculty, and external partners come together to increase their capacities for independent inquiry, take intellectual risks and learn from failure, recognize problems and opportunities, and effect constructive and sustainable change. We are honored to have him join the **2019 SIGHT Steering Committee**.

## HAC & SIGHT Funded Projects and Events

Congratulations to all the volunteers that have submitted projects for funding this year. Both the HAC and SIGHT Committees have been encouraged and motivated by the strong proposals received. To see what proposals have been awarded funding, see the updated lists (**HAC Projects**, **HAC Events**, and **SIGHT Projects**) on the **HAC website**.

## IEEE HAC Workshop on Renewable Energy Installations



The IEEE UCET (The Islamia University Bahawalpur) Student Branch organized a workshop on “Training Volunteers on Renewable Energy Installation” in collaboration with HAC as part of the third IEEE Bahawalpur Subsection Student/Young Professional/Women in Engineering Congress (BSSYWC’19). See the **SIGHT blog** entry for pictures and a brief description.

## HAC Funding Opportunities - New Application Process

HAC has launched a new application process for two of its funding opportunities programs - Events and the Conference Participation Program (CPP). Create an account on the **online funding portal** and submit your application before the next deadlines: 26 June for CPP and 19 August for Events. Visit the **HAC website** for requirements and more details.

## 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

#### Universidad Tecnologica de Panama SIGHT



The leadership group of the very recently-formed Universidad Tecnologica de Panama (Technological University of Panama) SIGHT group. Welcome to the global SIGHT community!

#### Newly formed SIGHT groups!

Please join us in welcoming some new SIGHT Groups:

- Lovely Professional University SIGHT - *India, Region 10*
- Universidad Tecnologica de Panama SIGHT - *Panama, Region 9*
- Universidad Politécnica Salesiana-Cuenca SIGHT - *Ecuador, Region 9*

As a note for those who are planning to organize a group, the SIGHT Operations Committee is now reviewing applications at the end of each month due to the growing number of petitions.

## 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](mailto:sight@ieee.org), or Julianna Pichardo via Facebook message!

## Get Involved - Join The Community

### Upcoming Events

- 20- 23 June: **IEEE XVI RNR & VII RNYP 2019** (National Student Branch Meeting & National Young Professionals Meeting in Brazil) with HAC & SIGHT workshop and Humanitarian Entrepreneur Competition
- 23 June: **International Women in Engineering Day!**
- 26 June: **HAC Conference Participation Program Submission Deadline**

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 @IEEE SIGHT.

### 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.

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## 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).

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