

# IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on  
Humanitarian Technology

## NEWSLETTER

September 2019

### Note from the Chair



Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

As I mentioned last month, SIGHT held its last open Call for Proposals and received 29 proposals from SIGHT groups all over the world. This brings the total number of proposals received this year to 68 - the most in SIGHT history. We're on track this year to set new benchmarks for other growth metrics as well - number of new SIGHT groups, number of SIGHT members, and number of funded proposals. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with these activities. I deeply appreciate all you are doing to reach underserved communities with technological solutions that will have a long-term, positive impact.

On another project-related note, this year SIGHT is piloting a closed Call for Proposals for some Society SIGHT groups to submit project proposals as candidates for joint funding. This model will help SIGHT establish a strong, mutually beneficial relationship with these Societies, and provide a foundation to explore new partnerships in 2020 and beyond.

The joint-funding of projects isn't the only new initiative SIGHT has been working on - we're also introducing the first ever IEEE SIGHT Awards and SIGHT week! The Steering Committee and I made the Awards a priority in order to recognize those who are making phenomenal contributions to the

SIGHT program. Award recipients will be announced during SIGHT week, which will be held the first week in December to celebrate SIGHT's accomplishments, volunteers, and impact.

For all those interested, I warmly invite you to consider applying to be on the 2020 SIGHT Steering Committee or one of its Subcommittees. Without volunteers, the SIGHT program would not exist! Please review the section below for information on how to apply; can confirm that it would be an invaluable, memorable experience.

Finally, for those of you that are IEEE Society members, I hope to "see" you during my upcoming **"Ask the Chair Session - Intro to SIGHT for Societies."** I'll be talking about how SIGHT opportunities can specifically benefit Society members and our win-win partnership model. the International Workshop and Ideation Camp hosted by IEEE Germany Section SIGHT, and the most recent projects to be awarded SIGHT funding.

Sincerely,  
Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan  
*2019 IEEE SIGHT Chair*

## Featured Stories

### NEW! 2019 IEEE SIGHT Awards

This year, the SIGHT Steering Committee (SSC) is piloting **two program awards** in order to recognize individuals and groups that have made outstanding contributions to IEEE SIGHT and a local underserved community. The SIGHT Volunteer of the Year award and SIGHT Group of the Year Award will be conferred upon recipients who have made a long-term, positive impact in the partner community and her or his SIGHT group, exhibiting constant dedication and commitment to furthering the IEEE SIGHT mission. Have someone in mind for the SIGHT Volunteer of the Year Award? Review the criteria, fill out the **Nomination Form**, and submit by 4 November. Self-nominations are permitted. The recipient of the SIGHT Group of the Year Award will be selected based upon the information provided in the annual Group survey (see following section).

### 2019 Annual SIGHT Group Survey

Upon formation, each IEEE SIGHT group agrees to submit an annual report of their activities to remain in good standing. **This report** will be distributed as a survey to allow SIGHT group Chairs to submit their activities and provide feedback about the program. Chairs will receive an invitation to participate by mid-October, and should submit their responses by 10 November. Responses will be used to streamline processes, strengthen communication, and identify the first SIGHT Group of the Year Award recipient!

## 2020 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee Nomination Form

SIGHT is looking for passionate volunteers eager to expand SIGHT's reach and further its mission. On Tuesday, 1 October, IEEE SIGHT begins accepting applicants for its 2020 SIGHT Steering Committee and related subcommittees. The 2020 Committee will consist of:

- 2020 IEEE SIGHT Chair - appointed by the IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Chair
- IEEE SIGHT Immediate Past Chair (*not accepting applicants for this position*)
- Projects & Assessment Chair
- Operations Chair
- Education Chair
- Communications Chair

Position descriptions for the four open roles on the 2020 SSC can be found in the [Call for Applicants](#). Please apply using the [SSC Application Form](#) before 30 October 2019.

## “Ask the Chair” Session #3 - Intro to SIGHT for Societies

Are you an IEEE Society member? Join us this 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.

## 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 on celebrating? Check out [past IEEE events](#) or see the [IEEE Day-in-a-Box Event Kit](#) for ideas.

## Join IEEE and IEEE SIGHT

Become a part of the world's largest technical association - join IEEE today and get member benefits through December 2020 - that's three free months! Don't forget to add SIGHT Membership when you join or renew!

### SIGHT Group Spotlight

#### Universidad Catolica de Colombia SIGHT



We're happy to introduce you to a very new group, recently created by the IEEE Universidad Catolica de Colombia Student Branch. The group will focus on sustainable development through urban agriculture, social entrepreneurship, urban landscaping, and use of energy resources. Welcome to the SIGHT community!

#### 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

- 28 September: **“Ask the Chair - Intro to SIGHT for Societies”**
- 1 October: **IEEE Day**

- 30 October: Application deadline for the **2020 SIGHT Steering Committee or Subcommittees**
- 4 November: Nomination deadline for the **IEEE SIGHT Volunteer of the Year Award**
- 10 November: SIGHT Group annual survey submission deadline
- 1-7 December: SIGHT Celebration Week - more information coming soon!

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

Add SIGHT to your IEEE membership - it's free and open to non-members as well. Benefits include the monthly newsletter, first notice of HAC & SIGHT funding opportunities, and increased connectivity with the SIGHT Steering Committee, staff, and volunteer network.

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**.

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