

# IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on  
Humanitarian Technology

## NEWSLETTER

October 2019

### Note from the Chair



Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

Last month I shared that SIGHT has received more project proposals this year than any other. I'm excited to let you know that the program has exhibited bar-raising growth in other aspects as well such as membership. SIGHT began the year with 4,098 members and as of 25 October membership has more than doubled to 8,756 members. Another area of growth would be in the funded projects. Of the 29 proposals submitted during the third Call for Proposals, SIGHT provided funding of US\$34,743 for six of them in five countries and three Regions. With the evaluations of the projects submitted from Society partners for the fourth closed Call for Proposals underway, I fully expect that we will set new benchmarks in the amount of funding provided and number of projects funded this year.

I encourage you to continue reading this month's newsletter. Something I am thrilled to have reinstated by our Communications Subcommittee is the "Humans of SIGHT" feature. This is designed as a platform to showcase some of the amazing work conducted by volunteers. This month, we interviewed long-time SIGHT & Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) volunteer Nirupama Prakash Kumar to learn more about her experience

with both committees. You'll also learn more about the first ever SIGHT Awards - be sure to submit your nominations for Volunteer of the Year before 4 November!

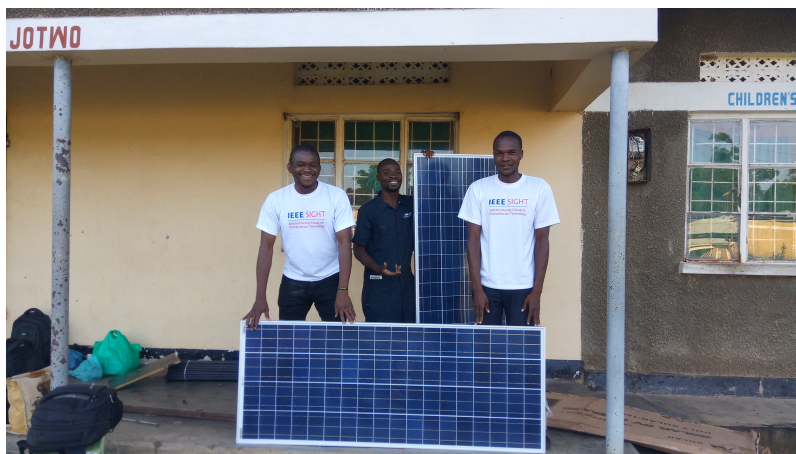
In September, I had the honor of (virtually) presenting SIGHT during the **YESIST12 2019** Grand Finale in Thailand, the culmination of a global competition based around the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Teams this year focused on the theme, "Preparing For Future: Sustainable Transformative Technologies." You can read about the winning innovations on **our blog**. My next presentation will be at the upcoming HKN Student Leadership Conference on 2 November in Boston. Please let me know if you will be attending! The workshop will include an overview of the program and specific ways in which HKN and SIGHT can work towards stronger collaboration in 2020. November will also bring the next Education Subcommittee webinar on **Project Management** - a topic I would highly recommend for all SIGHT Groups. Finally, I'm looking forward to the SIGHT week celebration in the beginning of December. We will be sending out a separate email in November on how we will be recognizing SIGHT volunteer efforts and how you can help grow awareness of the program!

I want to conclude by saying that the growth and new initiatives we are piloting this year would not be possible without YOUR dedication and commitment. Thank you for all your contributions to SIGHT.

Sincerely,  
Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan  
*2019 IEEE Sight Chair*

## Featured Stories

### SIGHT Funded Project in Uganda



This year, the IEEE Uganda Section SIGHT group received SIGHT funding to install solar (PV) technology at the Mukujju Health Center IV to improve its services for the benefit of the local community members. After installing the equipment, team conducted an interview with the management of the health

center to capture their thoughts on how the project is progressing. See the [SIGHT blog](#) for their responses and more fun pictures.

## Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Funded Project in Bolivia



IEEE volunteers are achieving last-mile internet connectivity in rural Bolivian communities through a HAC funded project called CamachoNet. By connecting health centers, the main hospital, and community schools, and providing community hotspots, the project helps combat Bolivia's maternal mortality rate (one of the highest in the hemisphere) and improves educational and economic opportunities. Read the full article by the project team's leader, Martin Murillo, on the [SIGHT blog](#).

## Social Return on Investment Workshop in Ecuador



A workshop on Social Return on Investment (SROI) was led in Guayaquil, Ecuador by Niru Prakash Kumar, HAC Projects Committee Chair, Mario Aleman, HAC Assessment Committee Member, and Dr. Pritpal ("Pali") Singh, SIGHT Education Subcommittee Chair. Participants learned how to calculate SROI and visited a SIGHT project to put what they learned into practice. You can read the story on the [SIGHT blog](#); more pictures are on the [Facebook group](#).

## NEW! 2019 IEEE SIGHT Awards

This year, the SIGHT Steering Committee (SSC) is piloting **two program awards** to recognize individuals and groups that have made outstanding contributions to IEEE SIGHT and a local underserved community. Have you worked with a SIGHT volunteer who is committed to furthering the SIGHT mission? **Nominate** them for the SIGHT Volunteer of the Year Award by **4 November!** Self-nominations are permitted. The SIGHT Group of the Year Award recipient will be selected based upon the information received in the annual Group Report (following section).

## 2019 Annual SIGHT Group Report

Upon formation, each IEEE SIGHT group agrees to submit an annual report of their activities to remain in good standing. SIGHT group Chairs should have received an email from IEEE Strategic Research with a link to the report, which should be submitted by **10 November**. If you are a SIGHT Chair and did not receive the email, please write to [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org). Responses will be used to streamline processes, strengthen communication, and select the first SIGHT Group of the Year!

## New Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Website!

HAC is pleased to report that its **new website** is live! The Committee invites SIGHT members to review the site and provide feedback. Suggestions will be used to make edits before the end of the year. Please share your thoughts with HAC by filling out the **feedback form**.

## SIGHT Webinars!

If you weren't able to attend the last Education Subcommittee Webinar, **"Financial Planning and Budgeting for Humanitarian Projects,"** you can listen to the recording. Panelists Karen Panetta, Khanjan Mehta, and Pritpal Singh shared practical advice on how to create a project budget, plan ahead for frequently encountered challenges, what types of expenses SIGHT cannot cover, and other topics. The Education Subcommittee also invites you to join them for the next webinar, **"Introduction to Project Management for Humanitarian Projects."**

## Humans of IEEE SIGHT



Doing good with my technical knowledge is what motivated me and continues to motivate me to work with IEEE SIGHT...SIGHT, IEEE Smart Village and



HAC have helped me find that passion in life, and continue to help provide avenues for that passion.”

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### **Nirupama Prakash Kumar**

Be sure to read the rest of the **interview** with Nirupama Prakash Kumar, 2019 HAC Projects Committee Chair and one of the first SIGHT Committee members!

## **SIGHT Group Spotlight**

### **Ecuador Section SIGHT & Asunción National University SIGHT members**



Members of the Ecuador Section SIGHT and the Asuncion National University SIGHT attended the SROI workshop earlier this month in Ecuador. They are pictured next to a solar panel installation that is part of an ongoing SIGHT-funded project.

### **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**



- 2 November: Sight presentation at the **HKN Student Leadership Conference**
- 4 November: Nomination deadline for the **IEEE SIGHT Volunteer of the Year Award**
- 10 November: SIGHT Group annual report submission deadline
- 11 November: SIGHT Webinar **“Introduction to Project Management for Humanitarian Projects”**
- 12-14 November: IEEE Region 10 Humanitarian Technology Conference
- 1-8 December: SIGHT Celebration Week - (Separate email will be sent in November)

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 **@IEEESIGHT**.

## 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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