

IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on
Humanitarian Technology

NEWSLETTER

June 2019

Note from the Chair



Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate some of the program's accomplishments in these first six months of 2019 with all of you. Through the leadership, dedication, and hard work of the Steering Committee, SIGHT has:

- Added **3,085** new members (as of 20 June)
- Grown our total membership to **6,931** (as of 20 June) - a new high number for SIGHT, our members live in all 10 IEEE regions and 96 different countries.
- Approved the formation of **13** new SIGHT groups in 9 different countries, bringing the total number of SIGHT groups to 130
- Received and evaluated **39** project proposals
- Awarded **US\$24,673** in funding to four SIGHT sustainable development projects

I am very thankful for each volunteer behind these statistics. The time and effort invested in partnering with underserved communities and local organizations to leverage technology for sustainable development is incredibly motivating! Please know that myself and the rest of the Steering Committee are here to support you in your endeavors - **contact us** with any

questions!

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our June webinar presenters - Sue Bevan Baggott, Mario Aleman, Rosa Mejía, and Khanjan Mehta - for providing informative and useful content to complement the design of a sustainable development project. If you weren't able to join, visit the [Digital Classroom](#) to view the recordings.

June provided the chance to make great strides in program partnerships. On 4 June, I spoke to about 100 IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) Chapter Chairs at the International Microwave Symposium (IMS) to present ways for MTT-S and SIGHT to collaborate. And from 20 - 23 June, I joined Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Chair Kartik Kulkarni at the Board of Directors meeting series, where we spoke with volunteers from the Industry Applications Society (IAS), Electron Devices Society (EDS), Women in Engineering (WIE), Eta Kappa Nu (IEEE-HKN), Region leaders, and many others! Coming up in a couple of weeks, on 11 July, Kartik Kulkarni and I will speak with the Antennas and Propagation Society (AP-S) Chapter Chairs at their [2019 International Symposium](#). Speaking of Regional leaders, IEEE Region 10 (R10) Director Akinori Nishihara spoke with Celia Shahnaz, SIGHT Communications Chair, during the IEEE R10 Technical Symposium in Bangladesh to encourage IEEE members to join SIGHT - [listen to his message here](#).

I'm also happy to share that we have scheduled two more Ask the Chair sessions, which will be roundtable discussions focused on learning more about forming SIGHT groups and constructing strong project proposals. [Session #2](#) will be held on 27 July and is open to everyone. [Session #3](#) will be on 17 August and will be specifically for IEEE Society members. We hope to have you attend one or both!

Sincerely,
Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan

Featured Stories

[MTT-S and SIGHT at the International Microwave Symposium \(IMS\) in Boston](#)



On 4 June, SIGHT Chair Sampath Veeraraghavan presented a keynote talk on “IEEE SIGHT - Global Partnership Strategy to Drive Sustainable Development Projects” at the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) Chapter Chair meeting held during the IMS conference. He covered the role of engineers in the sustainable development space, SIGHT’s 2019 global strategy, HAC & SIGHT funding opportunities, partnership avenues between MTT-S and SIGHT and more. The session was informative and well attended by about 100 global delegates; visit the [SIGHT blog](#) for the whole story.

SIGHT Education Subcommittee June Webinars - Constructing a Strong SIGHT Project Proposal and Sustainable Operating Models for SIGHT Projects

The Education Subcommittee organized two webinars in June, offering SIGHT groups advice on writing a SIGHT project proposal (this webinar was in Spanish) and proactively building long-term sustainability into the project lifecycle. Both sessions were recorded and posted to the [Digital Classroom](#) on the website for all groups who are planning and implementing projects.

HAC and SIGHT Chairs at IEEE June Board of Directors Series



The Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) and SIGHT Chairs shared about this year's progress, discussed new initiatives for 2019, brainstormed potential partnerships, and exchanged ideas with key volunteers from a variety of other IEEE programs and entities.

SIGHT Group Petitions - New Submission Process

As of 1 July, the SIGHT Operations Subcommittee will be accepting SIGHT group petitions via the HAC & SIGHT **online funding portal** used by HAC's other funding programs. Pending petitions do not need to resubmit, but all new petitions should be submitted through the portal. Applications in word or PDF format will not be accepted after 31 July.

HAC Projects Funding - New Application Process



HAC Projects has launched a new process to apply for funding - those interested can create an account on the **online funding portal**. Remember

to submit before the next deadline: 15 July. Please note that as of June, each of HAC's funding programs manages its application process via the portal. Visit the [HAC website](#) for details and the individual Calls for Proposals.

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.

Call for Papers for “Humanitarian Technologies for Sustainable Development”

A special session, supported by IEEE HAC Events, will take place at TENCON 2019 in Kerala, India to promote technological innovations to solve humanitarian challenges. The event's organizers invite people who develop and implement technologies promoting human welfare and community development to submit papers via the [TENCON website](#) before 30 June.

SIGHT Group Spotlight

Southern Alberta Section SIGHT



In May, a group of eleven engineering students and a professor from the University of Calgary travelled to Peru to install a solar electricity system in an off-grid community - their SIGHT-funded project. The student team partnered with Light Up The World (LUTW), a Canadian non-profit organization focused on the principle that access to energy changes lives.

Careful design and consultation with community leaders was conducted to determine the readiness of the community to successfully integrate the

technology. Then the team installed solar panels together with some of the residents and IEEE members from Peru to incorporate the vital local knowledge and perspective. Congratulations!

Newly-Formed SIGHT groups!

Please join us in welcoming some new SIGHT Groups:

- The Interdisciplinary Professional Unit in Engineering and Advanced Technologies - National Polytechnic Institute (UPIITA - IPN) SIGHT - *Mexico, Region 9*
- Sambhram Institute of Technology SIGHT - *India, Region 10*
- Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information & Communications Technology (DAIICT) SIGHT - *India, Region 10*
- Dayananda Sagar University SIGHT - *India, Region 10*

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, or Julianna Pichardo via Facebook message!

Get Involved - Join The Community

Upcoming Events

- 15 July: **IEEE HAC Project Application Deadline – Call #3**
- 16 - 18 July: **International SIGHT workshop and Ideation Camp on Technical Support in Refugee Crises**
- 27 July: **Ask the Chair, Session #2 - The Basics of IEEE SIGHT**
- 31 July: **IEEE 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, 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.

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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