

IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on
Humanitarian Technology

NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Note from the Chair



Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

I'm excited to share this year-end closing message. This has been a phenomenal year for SIGHT across the board! We've delivered record-breaking growth in terms of membership development, partnerships, groups, and project proposals received and funded. In the "Key Highlights" section below, you can see a table that shows the increasing expansion of the program over the past three years. Under my leadership, we launched a significant number of strategic initiatives for the first time in SIGHT's history, resulting in ground-breaking performance and key milestones reached.

Thank you to everyone who promoted and joined the inaugural SIGHT Week Celebration! We had a terrific response from members across the globe. One of my favorite parts was sharing the videos from the SIGHT program supporters and pictures posted by volunteers. If you aren't a member already, join the **SIGHT Facebook group** to see all the content published. During the week, we announced the recipients of the first-ever **IEEE SIGHT Awards**! Congratulations to the 2019 SIGHT Volunteer of the Year Lwanga Herbert and the 2019 SIGHT Group of the Year IEEE Ecuador

Section SIGHT. Thank you for living out the SIGHT mission and bringing meaningful change to your local communities.

Another major win for SIGHT this year is the partnerships that have been established and strengthened. Currently underway are five pilot projects, conducted with funding from SIGHT and either an IEEE Society or program. I'm thrilled about this new model for collaboration and look forward to replicating with more IEEE entities in 2020 and beyond.

Finally, to close my note, the reason that IEEE SIGHT was able to achieve its historic performance this year was because of the support of all of our volunteers at the grassroots level. You continue to inspire me on a daily basis! I am indebted to the SIGHT Steering Committee members for their stellar performance and commitment to achieving the vision I had for this year. Thank you for your dedication to SIGHT and our volunteers! I would also like to thank the staff team - Holly, Julianna, and Betsy - for being a pillar of support for the program. And finally, I take this opportunity to thank the IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC), the IEEE Board of Directors, and the IEEE Nomination and Appointments Committee for entrusting me with the IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee Chair position in 2019. I'm very excited and proud of all that has been accomplished this year, and look forward to even more ground-breaking work for SIGHT in 2020!

I wish you all a happy and prosperous new year!

Sincerely,
Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan
2019 IEEE SIGHT Chair

Featured Stories

Key Highlights From 2019

This year, thanks to the guidance of the SIGHT Steering Committee and the hard work of its individual volunteers, SIGHT set new high records for the program in the following areas:

Performance Indicator	2017	2018	2019
Total number of SIGHT members	4,871 (31 December 2017)	6,917 (31 December 2018)	9,752 (15 December 2019)
New SIGHT members	3,789 (31 December 2017)	4,346 (31 December 2018)	5,863 (15 December 2019)
New SIGHT Groups created	12	23	31
Project Proposals Received	62	53	74
Project Proposals Funded	14	10	21
Funding Awarded	\$98,730	\$100,990 US	\$134,143 US

Significant initiatives were introduced for the first time in SIGHT history:

1. “Ask the Chair” Sessions with the IEEE SIGHT Chair - Four were held with 47 participants from fifteen countries and five Regions.
2. Volunteer recognition - IEEE SIGHT Awards for Volunteer and Group of the Year
3. Joint-funding model with other IEEE entities - currently, four projects with IEEE Society partners are underway, and one other with EPICS in IEEE has been approved
4. Education Subcommittee Competition Pilot for eight student SIGHT Groups
5. Africa Summit - held with members of the Africa Council, local Section leaders, and HAC & SIGHT volunteers during the 2019 IEEE PES/IAS PowerAfrica Conference
6. SIGHT Week Celebration and 2020 SIGHT Day Announcement - see details below
7. SIGHT Fund with the IEEE Foundation and participation in the IEEE Giving Tuesday campaign - nearly US\$2,000 raised for the program!

Finally, the program achieved the following “firsts”:

1. First SIGHT groups in the United Kingdom & Ireland (UK & Ireland Section SIGHT), Turkey (Turkey Section SIGHT), Venezuela (Universidad del Zulia SIGHT) and Region 1 (New Jersey Coast Section)
2. SIGHT funded several proposals from countries that had not received funding for projects prior: Jordan, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom
3. The first SIGHT Webinar to be held in Spanish - “**Constructing a Strong SIGHT Proposal**”
4. HAC and SIGHT Education Committees partnered to create the first IEEE humanitarian and sustainable development eLearning curriculum, now available on the new **IEEE Learning Network (ILN)**.

Announcing the 2020 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee Chair

The HAC Chair Kartik Kulkarni has confirmed the members of the 2020 Committee, and Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan will continue as the IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee Chair! Congratulations Sampath! Together we look forward to SIGHT’s continued advancement in 2020. SIGHT Subcommittee Chairs will be announced in January 2020.

2019 SIGHT Week Celebration

The 2019 **IEEE SIGHT Celebration Week** took place from 1 - 8 December with the aim of fostering a spirit of community for the global SIGHT network, increasing awareness of IEEE SIGHT within IEEE, and celebrating the impact SIGHT volunteers and groups made in 2019.



Activities included a **workshop with past funded project leaders**, a panel with members of the 2019 Steering Committee, a photo and video contest, an **“Ask the Chair” session**, and promotional item giveaways. Sixty-five participants from 24 countries and six regions attended the online events. Additionally, 188 new IEEE SIGHT members were added, which is approximately 31% higher than the weekly average for the quarter.



The first IEEE SIGHT Day was announced, to be held on **28 April 2020**. Also prominently featured was the new SIGHT Fund with the IEEE Foundation and the opportunity to support SIGHT via the IEEE-wide Giving Tuesday campaign.

2019 SIGHT Volunteer of the Year Award Recipient



Mr. Lwanga Herbert is the **2019 IEEE SIGHT Volunteer of the Year!** Mr. Herbert was selected to receive this award due to his outstanding contributions to IEEE SIGHT, including leading a SIGHT-funded project at the Mukujju Health Center; presenting on SIGHT at both the IEEE PES/IAS PowerAfrica Conference and the IEEE RADIO Conference; serving as a member of the SIGHT Operations Subcommittee; and volunteering as a SIGHT project proposal reviewer.

2019 SIGHT Group of the Year Award Recipient



The 2019 **IEEE SIGHT Group of the Year** is the **IEEE Ecuador Section SIGHT Group**! In 2019, this group began two different sustainable development projects, "Rehabilitation of additional solar home systems in Cerrito de Los Morreños, Ecuador" and "Nabón Network Project," conducted workshops, held outreach activities, and hosted a Social Return on Investment workshop funded by the Humanitarian Activities Committee. Congratulations!

SIGHT Week Celebration Photo Contest Winner

The winner of the IEEE SIGHT Week Celebration Photo & Video Contest is the **Al-Balqa Applied University** SIGHT group! The group submitted a fabulous video in Arabic and English to share about SIGHT as a program and what they have been working on this year. You can see their video on the **SIGHT Youtube channel**.

IEEE Membership - Give a Gift Get a Gift

Want to help someone in your life find their professional home in IEEE? Start their 2020 by giving them the **gift of IEEE Membership**. If your gift application is paid by 15 January 2020, you will receive an IEEE branded Arctic Zone® Titan Thermal HP® Copper Tumbler 20oz. See the website for full details. Whether you are giving a gift, renewing your membership, or becoming an IEEE member for the first time, remember to **add a SIGHT membership** too!

SIGHT Group Spotlight

Newly-Formed SIGHT Groups (October - December) - Welcome to the SIGHT Community!

- Universidad del Zulia SIGHT - *Venezuela, Region 9*
- Universidad Andina del Cusco SIGHT - *Perú, Region 9*
- Ballari Institute of Technology & Management SIGHT - *India, Region 10*
- Sarawak Subsection SIGHT - *Malaysia, Region 10*
- Universitas Islam Indonesia SIGHT - *Indonesia, Region 10*
- Visvesvaraya Univ College of Engineering SIGHT - *India, Region 10*
- Universidad del Norte SIGHT - *Colombia, Region 9*
- Escuela Superior Politécnica Del Litoral (ESPOL) SIGHT - *Ecuador, Region 9*
- Centroamericana Univ Jose Simeon Canas SIGHT - *El Salvador, Region 9*

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.

Get Involved - Join The Community

Upcoming Events

- 2 - 4 January - Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Panel at the IEEE Rising Stars Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada
- 12- 17 February - IEEE Board of Directors Meeting Series in Orlando, Florida
- 28 April - Inaugural IEEE SIGHT 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, or tag us @IEEE SIGHT.

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 Our Website!

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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