

# IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on  
Humanitarian Technology

## NEWSLETTER

January 2020

### Note from the Chair



Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

Happy New Year! I'm delighted to continue in my role as a member of the Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) and SIGHT Steering Committee (SSC) Chair in 2020, to deliver high impact initiatives serving the needs of SIGHT groups and volunteers across the globe in the sustainable development space. Last year was an amazing journey of historic growth across the board, which you can read about in our [December newsletter](#). This year we are very motivated to set new performance benchmarks. To support this vision, we will be creating novel initiatives that will enable us to strengthen and expand the SIGHT program at a grassroots level.

I am very happy to announce the 2020 SIGHT Steering Committee members (see below). Each one of these individuals brings experience, commitment, and passion to their roles. Thank you all for your willingness to serve in SIGHT leadership roles and work towards making this program continuously more impactful.

This year, 2020 SSC will be striving to accomplish the following strategic goals:

1. Develop and strengthen partnerships with IEEE technical Societies, industry organizations, and global leaders in the sustainable development space to create new opportunities for our members
2. Introduce initiatives to promote the sustainability of existing SIGHT groups and accelerate the growth of SIGHT on a global scale
3. Deliver educational content to strengthen SIGHT volunteers' professional skills and equip them with the knowledge necessary to facilitate sustainable development initiatives at a grassroots level
4. Advance the metric collection efforts for SIGHT funded projects, including an evaluation framework to assess outcomes and long-term impact
5. Foster cross-regional collaboration among SIGHT groups and expand networking opportunities for SIGHT volunteers
6. Enrich volunteer experience by creating avenues to interface with the SSC leadership in a regular cadence.
7. Host the first-ever SIGHT Day celebration on 28 April 2020
8. Advance fundraising efforts to expand SIGHT's reach as a catalyst for change within IEEE and in underserved communities around the globe

I'd like to thank the 2019 SSC, the volunteers on the Subcommittees, SIGHT Group Chairs, SIGHT project teams, and the staff members for their wonderful efforts last year. Working together across all fronts allowed us to make truly significant progress in 2019, building a strong foundation upon which to expand this year. I also thank the IEEE Board of Directors and the 2020 IEEE HAC leadership for providing me with this opportunity to continue working with you. Together in collaboration we can make 2020 a memorable year for SIGHT, and continue reaching your local communities most in need with technological, sustainable solutions.

Please write to me at [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org) with any questions or requests.

Sincerely,  
Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan  
*2019-2020 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee Chair*

## Featured Stories

### **2020 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee**

Please join us in welcoming the 2020 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee:

## 2020 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee



Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan, Chair, IEEE SIGHT



Daniel Lottis, Past Chair, IEEE SIGHT



Simay Akar, Chair, Communications Committee



Fernando Guarin, Chair, Education Committee



Darwin Jose Raju, Chair, Operations Committee



Karen Panetta, Chair, Projects Committee



Pritpal Singh, Chair, Ad-hoc on Assessment Training



Khanjan Mehta, Chair, Ad-hoc on Metrics Framework & Evaluation



Ajay Poddar, Chair, Ad-hoc on Strategic Partnerships

**IEEE SIGHT**  
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Humanitarian Technology



Please join us in welcoming the 2020 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee:

- Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan, Chair, IEEE SIGHT
- Daniel Lottis, Past Chair, IEEE SIGHT
- Simay Akar, Chair, Communications Subcommittee
- Fernando Guarin, Chair, Education Subcommittee
- Darwin Jose Raju, Chair, Operations Subcommittee
- Karen Panetta, Chair, Projects Subcommittee
- Pritpal Singh, Chair, Ad-hoc on Assessment Training
- Khanjan Mehta, Chair, Ad-hoc on Metrics Framework and Evaluation
- Ajay Poddar, Chair, Ad-hoc on Strategic Partnerships

We are excited to start 2020 with such a well-prepared and experienced team, and look forward to the guidance and direction these volunteers will provide. For more on the Steering Committee's academic, professional, and volunteer backgrounds, visit the [SIGHT website](#). You can also view the 2020 Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) on the [HAC website](#).

### IEEE HAC & SIGHT at Upcoming Regional Meetings

IEEE HAC Chair Kartik Kulkarni will be attending the IEEE Region 9 and IEEE Region 10 meetings in March in order to share about HAC & SIGHT, their funding opportunities, an overview of the tools HAC provides IEEE volunteers to assess project impact, and how to get involved with HAC's assessment initiatives.

### IEEE HAC & SIGHT at the IEEE Rising Stars 2020 Conference



The IEEE Rising Stars Conference is designed to inform, excite, enthuse, and enlighten the top engineering Students and Young Professionals within IEEE. This year, HAC hosted a panel featuring experts and thought leaders on the humanitarian technology topics that are local to needs in the United States and Canada. For insights into how technology and IEEE members can help, we recommend watching the **recording of the session**. Throughout the event, many attendees visited the SIGHT table to learn more about the programs.

## SIGHT Funded Project update - “Illumination of Parque Escuela 36”



The Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaíso (PUCV) SIGHT group in Chile completed their project of installing solar LED street lamps in an underserved community’s small park. They also instructed community leaders on the importance of renewable energy and trained them in basic equipment maintenance. On 28 December, the neighborhood board (of the community) held an anniversary celebration where most of the residents saw the illumination equipment operating for the first time. For more pictures, click **[here](#)**.

**Form an IEEE SIGHT Group**



The SIGHT Project Call for Proposals has not yet been finalized for this year; however, it will be announced soon with the first deadline likely in March. As a reminder, all project proposals must be submitted by existing SIGHT Groups. If you would like to submit a proposal but do not belong to a Group, please visit the [HAC & SIGHT online funding portal](#) to review the requirements and submit a petition form.

Questions? Write to [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org).

## Engineering for Change - accepting applications for their 2020 Fellowship

**Engineering for Change** (E4C), of which IEEE is a founding organization, specializes in Engineering for Global Development with a global community of 1,000,000+ that believes engineering can change the world. Every year they host the **E4C Research Fellowship**, a workforce development program in social innovation to build engineering capacity and prepare local talent to solve local and global challenges and create knowledge as a public good. If you are an engineering student and/or early-career engineer specializing in global development, you can find the application form [here](#).

### SIGHT Group Spotlight

## The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) SIGHT Group



This Student Branch group from Kenya hosted their launch event on 6 December with five invited speakers who shared about their journeys in the humanitarian space of their careers and encouraged attendees to give back to society.

Of the fifty people who attended, twenty-three decided to join the group, bringing their total membership to thirty-eight! Congratulations JKUAT SIGHT!

### 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

- 12 - 17 February - **IEEE Board of Directors Meeting Series** in Orlando, Florida
- 26 February - SIGHT workshop at the **Latin American Electron Devices Conference**, a flagship conference of the Electron Devices Society
- 7 - 8 March - IEEE HAC & SIGHT at the IEEE Region 10 meeting in Vietnam
- 8 March - **International Women's Day**
- 12 - 14 March - IEEE HAC & SIGHT at the IEEE Region 9 meeting in Perú
- 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](mailto: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.

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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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