

# IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on  
Humanitarian Technology

## NEWSLETTER

March 2020

### Note from the Chair



Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

I realize that all of you have been affected in some way by the ongoing global health situation. Many of you are directly or indirectly engaged in the fight against COVID-19 and its effects on research, infrastructure, communications, and more. We hope that you, your family, and your community are, and stay, healthy as you follow all federal, state, and local government health and safety guidelines. As of now, the SIGHT Projects Subcommittee has been working with SIGHT groups conducting projects to provide support, and extend grant award timelines as needed. If you are working on a technological solution to address the current situation, write to us at [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org) to let us know about your efforts.

During this time when many of us are transitioning to new learning and work settings, I encourage those who are able to participate in the IEEE **Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Education Forum**. The forum accompanies HAC and SIGHT's free online **educational curriculum**, "Humanitarian Technology and Sustainable Development at IEEE," which can be found on the **IEEE Learning Network (ILN)**. If you belong to a SIGHT group or are interested in submitting a proposal for funding in the

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

IEEE HAC & SIGHT are pleased to announce their free, online curriculum to be offered on the **IEEE Learning Network (ILN)**. The curriculum equips participants with a basic understanding of humanitarian technology and sustainable development, outlines the need for holistic analysis of existing systems, instructs on the principles of community engagement, and covers the role of appropriate technology in sustainable development.

The curriculum includes four modules (with at least two more to be added in the near future!):

1. **Introduction to Sustainable Development**
2. **Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Humanitarian and Sustainable Development Activities**
3. **Community Engagement in Sustainable Development Projects**
4. **Humanitarian Technology for Sustainable Development**

Tailored for busy IEEE members, each module should take only 20 - 30 minutes to complete. Courses may be taken individually at any time, but the HAC Education Committee will be leading virtual classes over the next several weeks. If you would like to participate and are an IEEE member or on staff, join the **IEEE HAC Education Forum**. This is a dedicated, interactive space to explore and discuss the topics further with peers and skilled IEEE volunteers.

## Inaugural IEEE SIGHT Day!



The first-ever **IEEE SIGHT Day** will be held on 28 April, the date the initial SIGHT group petition was submitted in 2012. Activities are planned from 25 April - 2 May, so there will be multiple opportunities to take part. Due to the current global situation and related complications caused by COVID-19, we strongly encourage members to plan virtual activities and make good use of the professional education resources that both HAC & SIGHT have developed. There are many options for a virtual training event to build your SIGHT group's capacity such as a workshop, webinar viewing, or online course! If you would like to host a virtual event but lack a platform to do so, please write to us at [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org) with your request. Be sure to follow SIGHT on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on daily activities and opportunities to celebrate. Contribute to our online community celebration by

posting with the hashtag **#SIGHTDay2020**.

Another way to celebrate is by **donating** to IEEE SIGHT through the IEEE Foundation. With your support, SIGHT can better meet the growing interest among IEEE members to conduct projects that address challenges in underserved communities around the globe.

## **SIGHT Projects Call for Proposals - Update**

IEEE SIGHT held its first Call for Proposals with a submission deadline of 16 March. A total of twenty proposals were received from eight countries, four IEEE Regions, and fifteen SIGHT Groups. The SIGHT Projects Subcommittee will be determining which projects to fund over the course of the next month. Thank you to all teams who submitted a proposal and to others who helped us publicize this opportunity.

## **SIGHT Funded Project - Update from IEEE SIGHT on Society, Environment, and Agriculture (SEA)**

The IEEE SIGHT SEA group is currently conducting a project to grow awareness of technology-supported farming, alternate crops, and practices for rehabilitation of the area affected by the Gaja Cyclone in Tamil Nadu, India. The project team held three workshops for approximately 150 of the delta farmers, and now twenty of the attendees have started cultivating cash crops. The team also expects that more women-oriented farming techniques will be adopted, as housewives who were not previously interested in farming are trying it on a small scale to supplement their family's income.

## **IEEE 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan**

The **IEEE Strategic Plan** is a vital part of the ongoing evolution of IEEE. The Plan provides a clear picture of IEEE as an organization, the goals our community is pursuing, and the initiatives that will move IEEE forward in the coming years.

## **THE IEEE APP: Your global gateway to IEEE**

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## IEEE Nitte Mahalinga Adyanthaya Memorial Institute of Technology (NMAMIT) Student Branch SIGHT Group

The NMAMIT SIGHT group will be working within the IEEE Bangalore Section to address the needs of those living in fishing communities along the Mangalore coastal region in India.

### Newly-Formed SIGHT Groups - Welcome to the SIGHT Community!

- Amrita School of Engineering Bangalore SIGHT - *India, Region 10*
- G H Patel College of Engineering and Tech SIGHT - *India, Region 10*

### 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 Virtual Events

- April - Volunteer Month. Thank you to all those volunteering with IEEE, HAC, and SIGHT; we appreciate what you do!
- 28 April - Inaugural IEEE SIGHT Day!

Visit the SIGHT [calendar](#) to learn about more upcoming HAC & SIGHT humanitarian technology events and activities

### Support IEEE SIGHT

Donating to IEEE SIGHT through the IEEE Foundation means that you help provide a way for SIGHT to meet the needs of more IEEE volunteers, engage members through meaningful projects, and affect long-lasting impact in communities in need of technological solutions to development challenges. If you would like to maximize your impact and fundraise on SIGHT's behalf, please write to [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org).

### Become a SIGHT Member

Add SIGHT to your IEEE membership - it's free and open to

### Join a SIGHT Group

Professional and university SIGHT groups around the globe are

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

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**.

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