

IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on
Humanitarian Technology

NEWSLETTER

May 2020

Note from the Chair



Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

Thank you to all the volunteers and partners who supported the first SIGHT Day held last month on 28 April. I was truly delighted to see how it brought people together and demonstrated the spirit of SIGHT volunteerism even during these challenging times and difficulties that we are all facing.

In addition to the activities that were offered by IEEE SIGHT for SIGHT Day, many SIGHT Groups organized and hosted virtual events, webinars, awareness campaigns, and other activities to help us celebrate. In total, there were at least 50 activities held with more than 2,800 participants from nine of the ten IEEE Regions! This clearly showcases the global SIGHT network of volunteers, and the interest across IEEE in engaging in sustainable development activities. If you are a SIGHT Group Chair and have not yet reported on your group's activities for SIGHT Day, please complete this [brief survey](#) to let us know what they were.

I have been very encouraged by the response among SIGHT volunteers and throughout IEEE to the IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) and SIGHT Special Call for Proposals related to COVID-19. Both HAC and SIGHT feel that this is a critically important program and have prioritized

this opportunity for IEEE members to apply their skills to challenges related to the pandemic. So far, funding of nearly US\$100,000 has been awarded to twenty-four projects from thirteen countries. Congratulations to all the project teams who are now implementing initiatives to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 in their local communities!

As you may know, IEEE SIGHT Projects held a Call for Proposals earlier this year on 16 March. Of the twenty proposals submitted from fifteen different SIGHT Groups, three have been offered funding. Depending on each group's location, some of the projects will commence in the coming months once it is safe for the project team to do so. I invite you to continue reading for more details on the three proposals.

Finally, don't miss the next upcoming SIGHT Webinar, "User-Centered Solar Energy" from the Education Subcommittee on 04 June. [Register here](#) ahead of time!

Thank you all again for continuing to invest your time and efforts in IEEE SIGHT-related activities. What you are doing makes a long-term impact!

Best wishes for your safety and health,
Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan
2019 - 2020 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee Chair

Featured Stories

[Special Call for Proposals in Response to COVID-19 - Last Days to Submit a Proposal](#)

COVID-19
SPECIAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS

IEEE HAC & IEEE SIGHT Projects



LESS THAN ONE WEEK LEFT!
Deadline 01 June 2020

 **IEEE**
Humanitarian Activities
Committee

 **IEEE SIGHT**
Special Interest Group on
Humanitarian Technology

Find all the details at:
hac.ieee.org/funding-opportunities/covid-19-projects

If you are an active IEEE volunteer with a plan to implement a project in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, consider applying for the HAC & SIGHT Special Call for Proposals offered through 01 June 2020. Both the HAC & SIGHT Projects Committees are committed to providing resources to volunteers making an impact during this pressing situation. Please see the [HAC website](#) for the Call for Proposals, required application information, and how to apply. Projects that have been approved for funding are listed on the [HAC website](#) with a brief description of each one.

SIGHT Projects



Three project proposals from the first SIGHT Call for Proposals have been approved by the SIGHT Projects Subcommittee. One of the proposals, “COVID-19 Infection Prevention: An Interactive Digital Training Tool,” will be implemented by the IEEE San Diego SIGHT Group. As its name suggests, this project will provide school children with a self-learning platform that will utilize different methods to instruct on COVID-19 virus infection prevention practices.

The other two proposals approved are “Pendamping Bunda - An Integrated Postnatal Care eHealth Program,” submitted by the IEEE Indonesia Section SIGHT Group and “Braille Laboratory for Teaching-Learning,” from the IEEE Ecuador Section SIGHT Group. Implementation of these projects will begin as soon as the project teams are able to do so safely.

Please note that the regular IEEE SIGHT Project Calls for Proposals scheduled for 18 May and 17 August are postponed for the time being. This decision was made in order to protect the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, and the community members they partner with, until a time when local and national guidelines allow for in-person community engagement and project implementation. See the official statement from HAC & SIGHT Projects Committees [here](#).

Update on SIGHT-Funded Project - “Smart Classroom Among the Woods”



This project is being conducted by the IEEE Viswajyothi College of Engineering and Technology (VJCET) SIGHT Group based in Kerala, India and consists of equipping a rural school with a consistent source of electricity. Students installed a two kilowatt off-grid solar power plant on the roof of the school, wired the building, fixed light bulbs and a ceiling fan, and more. They also provided a laptop, projector, and audio system to further enhance the school's learning environment. Be sure to watch their [project video](#) for a glimpse into their process.

Note: These activities took place before the stay-at-home orders went into effect in India.

Upcoming SIGHT Webinar - User-Centered Solar Energy

The next SIGHT Webinar will be on user-centered approaches to engineering design that can be applied successfully to the development of solar energy projects to benefit communities. It will be held on 04 June at 11:00am EDT with engineering and social science researchers from the Quantum Energy and Sustainable Solar Technologies (QESST) Engineering Research Center.

Register today!

Don't forget to visit the SIGHT [Virtual Classroom](#) to view some of the recently held SIGHT Webinars, such as "[Biotechnology for Humanitarian Projects](#)," at a time convenient for you.

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SIGHT Group Spotlight

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

- NSS College of Engineering SIGHT - *India, Region 10*
- Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ) SIGHT - *Brazil, Region 9*

Get Involved - Join The Community

Upcoming Virtual Events

- 01 June - Deadline to submit a proposal for the **HAC & SIGHT Call for Proposals related to COVID-19**
- 04 June - **IEEE SIGHT Webinar - User-Centered Solar Energy**

Visit the SIGHT **calendar** to learn about more upcoming HAC & SIGHT humanitarian technology events and activities (all virtual for the time being).

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. Funds donated at this time can be used to provide crucial financial support to COVID-19 related projects being conducted all over the world by IEEE members.

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

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