

# IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on  
Humanitarian Technology

## NEWSLETTER

November 2019

### Note from the Chair



Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

This month started on a high note for me with a presentation at the IEEE-HKN Student Leadership Conference held at Tufts University in Boston. Sharing about SIGHT project funding with the Chapter presidents in attendance generated a lot of interest as all HKN members have community service requirements as part of the program. I see this as a natural partnership opportunity, and expect to see project proposals from these new partners in 2020!

One of the accomplishments I am most excited about this year is the new jointly-funded model we designed as a way to partner with IEEE Societies on sustainable development projects. The SIGHT Projects Committee held a closed Call for Proposals in October for Society SIGHT Groups, and decided to provide funding for four projects together with each Society:

1. LoRaWAN Enabled Remote Solar Photovoltaic Energy Monitoring System with the **Microwave Theory and Techniques Society**
2. Automated and Sustainable Drip Irrigation System in Rural Nicaragua with the **Electron Devices Society**

3. Deployment of a Wireless Communication System for Catastrophic Emergencies with the **Antennas and Propagation Society**
4. High Impedance Fault (HIF) Detection Project For Saving Lives with the **Industry Applications Society**

I was thrilled to see a high level of commitment and engagement from these Society partners, and look forward to building on this strong foundation to partner with more Societies in 2020.

Another significant accomplishment for SIGHT this year is the creation of a fund with the IEEE Foundation. This fund will allow SIGHT to grow its reach and better meet the needs of IEEE members by providing an additional source of income (donations) to fund projects. Please consider making a contribution on **Giving Tuesday** (3 December) - a gift of any amount will make an impact!

This month I am thrilled to feature Dr. Ajay K. Poddar in our “Humans of SIGHT” feature section. Dr. Poddar is a long-standing SIGHT volunteer who has done a fabulous job this year as the Strategic Partnerships Chair. I am very thankful to him for his amazing leadership and contributions to SIGHT

IEEE SIGHT has been on an amazing journey this year - our team of volunteers has set a high bar with new records in the number of project proposals received, projects funded, SIGHT individual membership, and new groups formed. There are many things to celebrate and we want to finish the year with some festivities - the inaugural **SIGHT week celebration**! Below you'll find details about the exciting programs and announcements we have planned for the week of 1 - 8 December. This time has been set aside to provide public visibility on the amazing work being done by SIGHT volunteers around the globe - that's YOU! I strongly encourage you to participate in the activities to make it a truly global, meaningful event for us. I hope to meet you and talk with you during some of the panels and sessions we'll be holding, and look forward to hearing your stories afterwards of how you celebrated.

Sincerely,  
Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan  
*2019 IEEE Sight Chair*

## Featured Stories

### 2019 SIGHT Celebration Week!

The first-ever IEEE SIGHT Celebration Week will be held this year from 1 - 8 December, and we hope you'll celebrate with us! This event, proposed by our SIGHT Chair, is designed to foster a spirit of community for the global SIGHT network, increase awareness of IEEE SIGHT within IEEE, and celebrate the impact SIGHT volunteers and groups have made in 2019.

As a SIGHT member, we ask that you join us in celebration by either organizing an event such as a workshop, webinar viewing, or another one of the **suggested activities**, or helping to spread the word by sharing the related posts on SIGHT's **Facebook**, **Instagram**, or **Twitter**! Be sure to check in every day because we have **activities planned such as webinars, panels, photo contests, and giveaways** to celebrate throughout the week. Remember to please post any related activities on social media using the hashtag **#SIGHTWeek2019**.

Also, for the first time ever, SIGHT will be participating in Giving Tuesday on 3 December. Consider celebrating on this day by making your contribution to IEEE SIGHT through the IEEE Foundation at <https://give.ieeefoundation.org/sight>. Through your efforts, SIGHT can have an even greater impact in 2020 and beyond as a catalyst for change within IEEE and in underserved communities around the globe.

Be sure to see the Calendar of Events below so you don't miss any of the exciting activities. We look forward to hearing from you next week!

## **HAC & SIGHT leadership at the November Board of Directors meeting series**



From 21 - 24 November, Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Chair Kartik Kulkarni and SIGHT Chair Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan met with SIGHT partners and supporters at the IEEE Board of Directors meeting series in Boston. They met with partners from IEEE Societies, IEEE Standards, Regional leaders, and the other **IEEE Humanitarian & Philanthropic partner programs** others to discuss areas for collaboration, SIGHT's progress this year, and how to strengthen the roadmap for 2020.



## IEEE-HKN Student Leadership Conference



On 2 November, SIGHT Chair Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan presented on SIGHT at the IEEE-HKN Student Leadership Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. The session, "Leveraging Technology for Sustainable Development with IEEE SIGHT," was attended by approximately 25 Chapter presidents and covered topics such as what kinds of projects SIGHT supports and how to apply for SIGHT project funding. More photos can be found on the [Facebook group](#).





## IEEE Region 10 Humanitarian Technology Conference (R10 HTC)

The R10 HTC was hosted by IEEE Indonesia Section from 12 - 14 November with the theme of “Advancing Sustainable Green Technologies for Humanities.” Both HAC & SIGHT volunteer leaders were present - Satish Babu, HAC Partnership Chair, provided a keynote; HAC Communications Chair Supavadee Aramvith presented on HAC & SIGHT activities and projects; Shaikh Fattah, HAC Education Chair, led an interactive workshop on how to frame a humanitarian project and do SROI computation; and during the Women in Engineering Forum Celia Shahnaz, IEEE SIGHT Communications Chair, spoke on Social Projects in Biomedical Engineering Implementation.

## SIGHT Workshop at the 5th Hellenic Student and Young Professional (HSYP) Congress



During the HSYP Congress in Greece, Fairouz Fattoum from Tunisia Section SIGHT presented on behalf of IEEE R8 SIGHT and conducted a workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals (#6 - clean water and sanitation and #7 - affordable and clean energy) that she has worked on through her IEEE volunteering. The workshop, “Design your Humanitarian Activity,” included an overview of IEEE R8 SIGHT activities, instructions on organizing a SIGHT workshop, how to write a proposal, and how to conduct successful SIGHT projects and activities.

## HAC Chair Kartik Kulkarni at G-STIC Conference



HAC Chair Kartik Kulkarni spoke on measuring social impact at the **GSTIC : Global Sustainable Technology & Innovation Conference** in Brussels on 20 November. IEEE was well-represented at the event with both HAC and IEEE Entrepreneurship volunteers as presenters.

## Humans of IEEE SIGHT



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Advancing technology also has the possibility to destroy our Planet Earth if not used appropriately. In my opinion, IEEE SIGHT is a road map that enables volunteering forces to work together to arrive at a sustainable approach for advancing technology to make our planet a better place to live in for all of us. And, I am very fortunate to be a volunteer of IEEE SIGHT”

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**Dr. Ajay Poddar**

We invite you to read the **rest of the interview** with Dr. Ajay Poddar, 2019 SIGHT Strategic Partnerships Subcommittee Chair to learn more about his SIGHT journey, how it has dovetailed with his professional career, and what opportunities he sees in SIGHT's future.

## SIGHT Group Spotlight

**Viswajyothi college of Engineering and Technology,  
Vazhakulam (VJCET) Student Branch SIGHT**



This SIGHT Group was recently awarded funding for their project, “Smart Classroom Among the Woods” which is designed to make education more accessible to children in an underserved community in Kerala. It will ensure equitable and quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities by upgrading the tribal settlement school to a smart classroom. The group is led by its Counselor, Assistant Professor Mr. Anish M. Jose, and Chair, Mr. Albin Paul.

### 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

- 1 December: Photo contest opens! Send your submissions to [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org).
- 2 December at 9:00am EST - **Panel with SIGHT Project team leaders** who will share their respective experiences conducting SIGHT projects and answer questions from attendees.
- 2 December at 10:00am EST - **Twitter** chat session led by the SIGHT Communications Committee.
- 3 December - Giving Tuesday - **make an impact** by supporting SIGHT financially!
- 4 December at 10:30am EST - **Panel with members of the SIGHT Steering Committee**. Panelists will share their experiences with SIGHT, what their Subcommittees have accomplished in 2019, and respond to questions from attendees.

- 5 December - Promotional kit giveaway for first five SIGHT Group Chairs that complete the **volunteer engagement survey**. The official start time will be announced on the **SIGHT Facebook group**.
- 6 December - "**Ask the Chair**" session with SIGHT Chair Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan.
- 6 December: Promotional kit giveaway for first 5 SIGHT Group Chairs that complete the **volunteer engagement survey**. The official start time will be announced on the **SIGHT Facebook group**.
- 8 December - First ever SIGHT Volunteer of the Year and Group of the Year Award recipients will be announced!

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 @IEEEESIGHT.

## 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**.

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