

# IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on  
Humanitarian Technology

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017



### Note from the Chair

I'm excited to start this new year as the new Chair of SIGHT's Steering Committee, thank you all for this opportunity. I am humbled by your decision and I plan to serve graciously. You all have inspired me over the years and I hope to return the favor as SIGHT continues to grow and do good work around the world.

*Timothy Lee*  
*Chair, IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee*

## Featured Stories

### Welcome to SIGHT's New 2017 Steering Committee Members

Please welcome SIGHT's new Steering Committee members.

- Projects - Sampath Veeraghavan
- Education - Pritpal Singh
- Engagement - Simay Akar
- Communications - Celia Shahnaz
- Operations - Oscar Javier Rodriguez Riveros
- Communities of Practice (co-chaired) - Glenn McKnight & Vineeth Vijayaraghavan
- 2017 SIGHT Chair - Tim Lee
- Past Chair - Kartik Kulkarni



Former and current SIGHT Chairs: In 2015, Tim Lee, as President of the

### Introducing Tim Lee, SIGHT's New Steering Committee Chair

What I have been impressed with at SIGHT, led by former Chair Kartik Kulkarni, is the focus on the needs identified by local people. SIGHT's guiding principle was not to impose a Western high-tech solution, but to act with cultural sensitivity to take local ideas and to help people to transform them into solutions that will not be abandoned after we leave.

IEEE MTT-S, recognized Kartik Kulkarni for his role as SIGHT Chair.

I would like to grow SIGHT particularly in Region 8 and 9. In Region 8, there are great needs in North Africa and the Middle East. In

R9, Latin America, there are compelling needs as well.

**Read Tim Lee's Introduction and Vision for SIGHT**



SIGHT in Bangladesh is working with a local manufacturer called Beevatech and BRAC University to develop solar-powered rickshaws.

microgrid to provide electricity for street lights and for use in households and businesses. Researchers are now developing a universal charge controller and a charging station intended for disaster zones.

Please see the meeting minutes for full coverage.

**IEEE SIGHT Communities of Practice (CoP) Incubation Meeting in Bangladesh**

## Solar Rickshaws and PV Microgrids Top the Discussion in Bangladesh

Engineers are implementing new infrastructure, research and design projects in Bangladesh. Experts from IEEE SIGHT and Smart Village met with The Control & Applications Research Centre of BRAC University and Bangladeshi government and business representatives last month to lay plans.

Smart Village deploys arrays of photovoltaic panels, batteries, lights and other peripherals to off-grid communities. The arrays serve as a

## The Institute Reports on SIGHT

The Institute published an article about SIGHT that explains our mission to members who have not yet heard of us.

From the article:

*What about IEEE members who want to start a project in their community but lack the funds and resources to do so? That's where the IEEE Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology (SIGHT)-comes in. The program helps connect members who want to volunteer and educates them through free training and*

*webinars on how to develop humanitarian projects.*

See the article at The Institute:

**IEEE SIGHT Supports Nearly 100 Humanitarian Technology Groups**

## Excuses, Optimism, and Complexity: Navigating Impact Measurement in Social Innovation | E4C Webinar

There's a debate among global development



practitioners about what can be measured, what can't, and why. This week, Engineering for Change teams with two impact measurement experts to present a webinar that explores the question.

Measurement, they say, is a parallel process for social innovation, one that accelerates learning throughout the design and implementation processes. Join the conversation Thursday to learn how measurement of social change work is

surprisingly possible.

**Engineering for Change | The Australian Centre for Social Innovation**  
Thursday, January 26th | 4pm EDT | Free registration: <http://conta.cc/2jGBOIB>



## IEEE SIGHT's Web Site Is Live

IEEE SIGHT is pleased to announce that our Web site is live. You will find case studies, an interactive map of SIGHTs worldwide, testimonials, a blog, calendar and more.

[sight.ieee.org](http://sight.ieee.org)

## More Stories

To read more stories, see our [Blog](#). For features of IEEE SIGHT in the news, see [In The News](#).

# Get Involved - Find Resources

## Become a SIGHT Member

Membership is free and open to all individuals who want to engage in sustainable development. Your membership benefits include the monthly SIGHT newsletter, as well as SIGHT announcements.

[SIGHT Membership](#)

## Become a Community Partner

We are in search of committed community partners with a distinct technology challenge who want to access engineering and technical resources. Requests from prospective community partners are reviewed monthly and paired with local SIGHT groups if appropriate.

[Submit request](#)

## Find a SIGHT

Professional and University SIGHT groups around the globe are partnering with communities and local organizations to leverage for sustainable development.

[Find a Group](#)

## Start a SIGHT

If a SIGHT group does not exist in your area, click below to access the SIGHT Toolkit, a custom resource for those who wish to create a new SIGHT for their community or understand what is involved in creating a new SIGHT.

[Start a SIGHT](#)

# Connect With Us

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