

IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on
Humanitarian Technology

NEWSLETTER

January 2019



Note from the Chair

Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

Greetings! Happy New Year to you all.

I'm delighted to connect with you through the SIGHT newsletter. As the 2019 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee (SSC) Chair, I'm humbled and honored to serve you all this year. My story with IEEE started as a student involved in developing software solutions to assist children with autism in India. Over the years, I have been actively engaged in several IEEE humanitarian-based initiatives. I commenced my volunteering journey with IEEE SIGHT as a reviewer for the Projects Committee in 2014 and eventually led the Projects Committee from 2015 - 2017. On the personal front, this volunteering journey with SIGHT has strong alignment with my passion to serve the under-represented community through technological innovations.

In my view, volunteers are the pillars of the SIGHT global operations and are the force behind driving local, or "feet-on-the-ground" initiatives. Without you, the story of SIGHT progress and growth is not complete. Serving the needs of the SIGHT groups and volunteers will be the core mission of my incoming team in 2019.

This year we plan to introduce a program to increase the interaction between SIGHT groups and SSC leadership. The motivation behind this effort is to provide a platform for SIGHT groups to connect directly with the SIGHT global leaders and seek guidance on topics of interest related to SIGHT activities. I believe such an interaction will motivate volunteers at grassroots level and convey the vision of SSC more effectively.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank the 2018 SSC, all of the Subcommittee members, SIGHT volunteers, and staff team for their wonderful efforts and support in 2018. Special thanks to Dr. Daniel Lottis, 2018 IEEE SSC chair and staff leaders Julianna Pichardo and Holly Schneider Brown for their outstanding service.

I thank the IEEE BoD and 2019 IEEE HAC leadership for providing me with this opportunity to work with you. We are here to serve you and together as a team I look forward to the journey of raising the bar for SIGHT's performance this year.

Please reach us at sight@ieee.org for any support.

Best,

Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan
Chair, IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee

For more on Sampath's academic, professional, and volunteer background, visit the [SIGHT website](#) to read his bio.

2019 IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee



The **IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC)** has announced its 2019 members:

- Kartik Kulkarni, *Chair, HAC*
- Paul Cunningham, *Immediate Past Chair, HAC*
- Simay Akar, *Chair, Assessment Committee*
- Supavadee Aramvith, *Chair, Communications Committee*
- Satish Babu, *Chair, Partnerships Committee*
- Jim Conrad, *Chair, Events Committee*
- Shaikh Fattah, *Chair, Education Committee*
- Elizabeth Johnston, *Chair, Ad Hoc on Platform for Engagement and Metrics*
- Nirupama Prakash Kumar, *Chair, Projects Committee*
- Sampath Veeraraghavan, *Chair, IEEE SIGHT*

We are very pleased to welcome both new and familiar faces to the Committee, and look forward to accomplishing more sustainable development activities under their experienced leadership.

Project Update on IEEE SIGHT Project Comapa Well

One of the ten projects selected to receive funding in 2018 was submitted by the **Universidad de San Carlos (USAC) SIGHT** in Guatemala. This project is taking place in a small community called "El Pinito." Residents of this rural, mountainous area in Guatemala close to the border with El Salvador have limited options for potable water, so this SIGHT group is designing and installing a submersible, solar-powered pump.



The group's goal is to impact approximately 810 people from 3 different communities, improving their quality of life, and preventing diseases due to the consumption of non-potable water. Throughout the course of the project, the team has been intentional about including members of the communities and encouraging their active participation. The last weekend in January, the team visited the site in order to begin the final phase of the project - installation.

For more pictures and future updates, be sure to follow the [SIGHT Facebook page](#).



R9 Solar Community Initiative Summit



The **R9 Solar Community Initiative Summit** was held during the IEEE Conference in Central America & Panama (CONCAPAN) in San Salvador, El Salvador from 7 - 9 November, 2018.

As one of IEEE HAC's funded events of 2018, the summit was a global initiative to encourage a large network of IEEE and non-IEEE volunteers to find

appropriate technologies and practices for a sustainable development. The agenda covered challenges imposed by the integration of solar solutions in Latin America from a technical, environmental and social viewpoint.

Visit the [SIGHT blog](#) for more description of the event and the [R9 Solar Community website](#) to learn more about the project.

First Call for Proposals of 2019



IEEE SIGHT's first call for proposals ended on 28 January, 2019. Did you miss the opportunity to submit your group's project? Don't worry! There will be other funding opportunities throughout the year that we will publicize through the SIGHT newsletter and social media platforms.

If your group has a great idea, but needs support to develop a comprehensive proposal, visit the [SIGHT website](#) for a variety of resources (books, articles, classes, and [webinars](#)) on the theory behind sustainable development, the principles of human-centered design, working with community members, and more.

2018 Year-End IEEE SIGHT Group survey

Each SIGHT group must submit an annual report of their activities to remain in good standing. This is not only a way to strengthen the relationship with the SIGHT Steering Committee, but also increases a group's credibility when submitting proposals for funding, and provides the opportunity to share the work your group has accomplished with the global SIGHT community.

In order to improve ease of use, the report has been converted into a survey. If you are a SIGHT group Chair, please review your email for a link to the survey, or let us know at sight@ieee.org if you did not receive one.

All responses are confidential. They will be used in aggregate to streamline processes, strengthen communication, and expand IEEE SIGHT in 2019. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Meet the University of Dhaka IEEE SIGHT



This month, we are pleased to introduce one of the newest IEEE SIGHTs - the **IEEE University of Dhaka student branch group!**

These students came together out of a wish to work with the underserved and underprivileged communities of our country, especially in rural areas.

The group's planned activities for the first year focus on fostering the creativity of

incoming first-year students at the university through a platform that allows them to apply their ideas to real-life problems. They hope to guide and mentor them to build innovative, feasible, and sustainable projects in the ICT, robotics, and assistive technology sectors to meet the needs of their local community.

Get Involved

International Women's Day - 8 March 2019

Let's celebrate **International Women's Day** together! During the first week of March, we will feature some of the women of IEEE SIGHT in honor of International Women's Day - a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

This year's campaign theme is: #BalanceforBetter. We would love to see pictures of you or your SIGHT group in the #BalanceforBetter pose (**check it out on the IWD website**) and share them as our way of emphasizing the vital importance of a gender-balanced world.



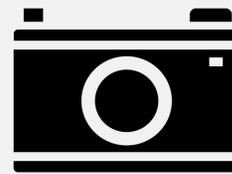
Send your pictures and any encouraging message you would like to share with the SIGHT community to Julianna Pichardo at j.pichardo@ieee.org.

© Photograph: Avel Shah / EyeEm, www.internationalwomensday.com

Call for Pictures - Feature Your Group on the Newsletter or IEEE SIGHT website!

Would you like to introduce your IEEE SIGHT group to the SIGHT network? We would love to meet you! Please send video or pictures of your group to include in the newsletter, on the **IEEE SIGHT Facebook group**, or on our website as a blog post. Send a picture and a brief description of your

group and project(s) to either sight@ieee.org, or Julianna Pichardo via Facebook message!



Want More? Visit SIGHT's Site!



and more.

IEEE SIGHT's website is the place to find case studies, an interactive map of SIGHTs worldwide, testimonials, our blog, learning resources, calendar and more. For more stories, see our **Blog**, or learn about upcoming SIGHT events **In The News**. If you are looking for career development resources and new ideas, visit our **Digital Classroom** for webinars

Join the Community - 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 work together on for sustainable development projects.

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 the process.

Start a SIGHT

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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