

# IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on  
Humanitarian Technology

## NEWSLETTER

March 2019



### Note from the Chair

Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

I'm excited to give an update on the SIGHT Steering Committee's progress in March. The Committee had its first teleconference call, during which every member actively participated in formulating the strategic plan to achieve the 2019 program goals. We were all encouraged by the ten new applications for SIGHT groups, nineteen projects proposals from thirteen different SIGHT groups received for the year's first Call for

Proposals, and the 721 new individual members in February - a record high number since the beginning of individual membership. The Steering Committee is happy to be a part of an engaged and motivated network, and reminds you to pass along the word about SIGHT to your fellow IEEE volunteers.

Please join with me in welcoming a special addition to the 2019 SIGHT Steering Committee, Dr. Ajay Poddar. Dr. Poddar will serve as the Chair for the **Ad-hoc Strategic Partnerships Committee**, organized to strengthen relationships with local Sections, key volunteer leaders, and IEEE's technical societies to ensure prevailing partnership for long-term impact. This Committee will focus on collaborating, engaging and initiating partnership with internal IEEE programs, external humanitarian technology organizations, and industries to sustain and safeguard SIGHT's vision. I look forward to seeing all that Dr. Poddar and his committee will accomplish this year.

A new initiative that I am very excited to introduce to you is the first **"Ask the Chair" Session**. This program has been designed as a forum for IEEE SIGHT members, followers, and fans with an intentional, interactive space to ask the SIGHT Chair for advice relating to sustainable development projects. See the section below for more information about our first 2019 session on **Sunday, 28 April at 10:00am EDT** and how you can join - I look forward to talking with you then!

We are eager to learn about events and activities around the world, like those featured in this month's edition. HAC committee members attended IEEE regional meetings, SIGHT groups celebrated International Women's Day, while another group organized a student volunteer activity at a home for individuals with physical disabilities. Remember to reach out and let us know what you and your SIGHT group are doing! Write to us at [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org) for support, resources, or just to say hello.

Sincerely,  
Sampath Veeraraghavan

## Featured Stories

## Ask the Chair, Session 1 - Sunday 28 April at 10:00am EDT



Are you unsure what the IEEE SIGHT program is, or how it fits in to the larger IEEE humanitarian framework? Perhaps you are an individual member or belong to a SIGHT group, but still have questions about how you can get further involved, HAC & SIGHT funding opportunities, or what resources to use to construct a strong project proposal.

Join us on Sunday 28 April at 10:00am EDT for a special forum, **Ask the Chair, Session 1**. This will be a 2-hour intentional, interactive conversation held via Webex, designed so YOU can ask the SIGHT Chair for advice and suggestions relating to sustainable development projects. IEEE members, SIGHT members, or others who are interested are all welcome to join!

We politely request that you submit your questions for Sampath ahead of time [here](#). Are you a SIGHT group Chair? We are offering four special 15-minute time slots at the end of the session so you can ask specific questions relating to your group. If interested, please **reserve your spot** and let us know what you would like to discuss.

## 2019 IEEE SIGHT New Ad-hoc Subcommittee - Strategic Partnerships

The **2019 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee** has added another member this year - **Dr. Ajay Poddar** as Chair of the Ad-hoc Strategic Partnerships Subcommittee. Ajay K. Poddar works with Synergy Microwave Corp. in NJ as a Chief Scientist, is a Professor at Oradea University Romania, and a Guest Lecturer at the Technical University of Munich, Germany. A very active IEEE volunteer, Dr. Poddar is currently serving as a Region Coordinator and AdCom Member for IEEE MTT and AP Societies, AP-S Distinguished Lecturer Program, and AP-S New Direction Committee in addition to being a SSC member. For more on his academic, professional, and volunteer background, visit the **SIGHT website**.



## MySIGHT4Rehab group members collaborate in a humanitarian engagement activity



As a collaboration between the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) Student Chapter, Department of Mechatronics and Biomedical Engineering (DMBE), Medical and Health Sciences Society, UTAR, and IEEE-MySIGHT4Rehab group, a Humanitarian Engagement activity was held in Cheras, Malaysia on 10 March. Student volunteers organized an interactive science demonstration, coloring, and origami making sessions for residents from the Home of Special People, which houses individuals with physical disabilities. Read more on the **SIGHT blog!**

## IEEE HAC & SIGHT at Regional Meetings

IEEE HAC has been active in 2019, attending Regional meetings (R4/R6, R10, R9, & R8) to present about HAC & SIGHT initiatives, funding opportunities, and the importance and benefits of incorporating impact analysis in humanitarian technology projects. The methodology of social return on investment (SROI) was presented as an example that HAC is piloting with a select number of past projects this year.

Each Committee member shared how exciting it was to attend the meetings to talk about how HAC & SIGHT have supported the Region in its humanitarian activities and share goals for continued growth in 2019. If you will be attending one of the upcoming Region meetings, we encourage you to attend the informative session on HAC & SIGHT. If you are interested in reviewing the information presented, let us know at [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org).



## IEEE HAC & SIGHT Upcoming Application Deadlines for Funding Opportunities



Remember to keep the IEEE HAC & SIGHT 2019 application deadlines in mind if you are looking for funding sources for your sustainable development activities.

- **IEEE HAC Projects:** 01 April, 15 July, 09 September (only if funds remain)
- **IEEE HAC Events:** 20 May, 19 August
- **IEEE SIGHT Projects:** 22 April, 15 August
- **IEEE HAC Conference Participation Program:** 24 Apr, 29 May, 26 June, 31 July, 28 Aug, 25 Sept, 30 Oct

Visit the [HAC website](#) to review the each program's Call for Proposals and for step-by-step instructions on how to apply.

**NOTE:** Decisions on applications from the first SIGHT Projects Call for Proposals will be communicated by 2 April 2019.

## Renew your IEEE Membership

Did your IEEE membership expire in February? Renew your memberships to continue developing your career, accessing essential networking opportunities, and receiving other exclusive IEEE benefits. When you renew, don't forget to add

your IEEE SIGHT membership too - it's no additional charge and available to both IEEE and non-IEEE members. We encourage you to renew your membership for 2019 if you have not already done so to continue:

- Receiving the IEEE SIGHT monthly newsletter that provides the latest updates on the IEEE humanitarian projects and activities
- Being among the first to know of HAC & SIGHT funding opportunities
- Benefiting from increased connectivity with the SIGHT Steering Committee (SSC), SIGHT staff, and the large network of volunteers

# IEEE SIGHT

## Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology

Join IEEE SIGHT

## SIGHT Group Spotlight

### SIGHT group members celebrate International Women's Day 2019



## International

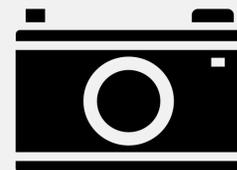
#BalanceForBetter



International Women's Day was celebrated on 8 March to call for a gender-balanced world and promote equal rights and responsibilities for men and women in society. Some of our SIGHT groups shared pictures of their members in the #BalanceforBetter theme - on the left are members of **SIGHT UFJF** in Minas Gerais, Brazil and on the right we have some of the **SIGHT Colombia** team. Thanks for sharing!

### Feature Your Group in the IEEE SIGHT Newsletter!

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](mailto:sight@ieee.org), or **Julianna Pichardo** via Facebook message!



Get Involved

## Upcoming Events

- 28 - 30 March: HAC Projects in National Meeting for Student Branches - Peru Section
- 9 - 10 April: 4th Nigeria Energy Forum ([website](#))
- 28 April: first "Ask the Chair" forum with SIGHT Chair Sampath
- 23 June: International Women in Engineering Day! ([website](#))

Visit the [SIGHT website events calendar](#) to find an upcoming HAC & SIGHT humanitarian technology event near you! If you attend an conference, or meet with a fellow SIGHT member, send us a picture at [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org), or tag us [@IEESIGHT](#).

## 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](mailto:sight@ieee.org).

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