

# IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on  
Humanitarian Technology

## NEWSLETTER

November 2018



### Note from the Chair

This has been a busy year for IEEE SIGHT. We've experienced multiple changes at the Steering Committee and staff level. Not all the changes were foreseen. Although players have come and gone, we are still the same team making good progress and achieving noteworthy results. Local and regional volunteers - who make up the majority of the team - have excelled.

I'm encouraged by the recent addition of a key player: Julianna Pichardo, our new staff lead for SIGHT. This newsletter is just one of her many accomplishments since joining IEEE and SIGHT. The staff lead for SIGHT provides key support to the Steering Committee, and handles much of the day-to-day communication with SIGHT volunteers and groups worldwide. The long-term nature of this role's commitment to SIGHT is one of its most valuable aspects, improving the retention of key knowledge from year to year as volunteer leaders come and go.

This issue of the newsletter includes a number of encouraging reports. Be sure to read the summary of projects funded in 2018, noting the link to projects from prior years. As an example of a newly-launched 2018 project, see the article about the Ecuador team. You can also learn how some of our leaders represented SIGHT at events in Region 9 and the IEEE Board of Directors series in Vancouver, Canada. Last but not least, give serious consideration to accepting our invitation to feature your group in the newsletter. In fact, you are challenged to send in a submission for the December issue!

**Daniel Lottis**  
*Chair, IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee*

## Featured Stories

### IEEE SIGHT 2018 Funded Projects

After careful deliberation of the variety of submissions from four proposal calls, the **IEEE SIGHT Projects & Assessments Subcommittee** has decided which ones will receive funding in 2018. Of the 50 proposals received from 24 countries, the Committee has selected 10 projects to be funded. They include initiatives to install lighting for a playground in Chile, implement an intelligent animal attack prevention system for crop protection in India, provide three rural communities in Guatemala with potable water via a solar-powered submersible pump and filter in the local well - and others!

Unfortunately, due to the level of competition and finite resources available, it is not possible to provide financial support for all the proposals received. If your proposal was not

selected for funding, we warmly encourage you to apply again in the future.

All the projects that have been selected to receive funding can be found [here](#), or see where fellow SIGHT members will be working around the world on this [map](#).

## SIGHT group project kicks off in Ecuador!

The 900 inhabitants of the community of Cerritos de Los Morrenos in Ecuador live in an isolated island community without access to the electrical grid. A SIGHT team from the Ecuador section (pictured at left) will be evaluating solar panels that were installed 8 years ago in 78 houses. However, most of the systems no longer work due to lack of maintenance and knowledge of the community on how to operate the system.

The project will rehabilitate the solar home systems and train the local community to operate and maintain them. At the end of October, the group traveled to Cerritos to verify the equipment state in every PV installation, complete surveys with 20 families, and analyze the lighting circuit to be powered. Next they will be selecting which batteries they will use for the project.



## IEEE SIGHT Leadership Workshop at CONCAPAN



A workshop was held for IEEE section leaders and others interested in SIGHT at the IEEE CONCAPAN conference held in San Salvador, El Salvador on 9 November 2018. The IEEE CONCAPAN conference is a regional conference that includes the Central American countries and Panama. The workshop was organized by Mario Baquedano from Honduras, and included presentations on: Examples of Humanitarian projects; Planning a Humanitarian Project (including engaging with communities, project co-creation, and planning for project sustainability); Project Execution and Project Management; Monitoring and Evaluation; and Guidance on Preparing a Successful SIGHT Proposal. While Pritpal ("Pali") Singh, IEEE

SIGHT Education Committee chair, oversaw the workshop, Rosa Mejia and Mario Aleman, two very experienced SIGHT volunteers also provided extensive input. Additionally, Pia Torres from Argentina and Andres Marconi, an anthropologist from Chile (who is working on solar energy projects in communities in Chile with Dr. Rodrigo Palma) gave important and valuable perspectives.

The workshop was very interactive with lots of questions and engagement from the participants. The feedback from the participants was very positive and several plan to prepare and submit SIGHT proposals for consideration in the upcoming year.

## HAC Workshop at R10 HTC 2018 in Sri Lanka



## IEEE R10 Humanitarian Technology Conference 2018

6th – 8th December 2018

Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, Colombo, Sri Lanka

<http://r10htc2018.com/>

On 6 December 2018, The IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) will be hosting a workshop at the **Humanitarian Technology Conference in Sri Lanka**. IEEE R10 HTC is a premier annual cross disciplinary conference that will bring together technologists, engineers, scientists, investors, representatives from NGOs, governments, academia, and industry. From 2:45pm - 6:05pm, HAC Chair Paul Cunningham will be presenting on **Technology and Innovation for the UN SDGs**, focusing on the role of engineering in development and providing example initiatives toward sustainable development goals. If you are interested in attending, fill out the registration form [here](#).

## IEEE SIGHT featured at "Discovering IEEE" Session

At this month's IEEE Board of Directors Meeting Series, IEEE SIGHT was the featured topic of the "Discovering IEEE" session hosted by Gloria Jefferies. This session was designed for the companions of the volunteers attending the Series and other interested individuals. On November 16, 2018, Anis Ben Arfi from the Southern Alberta Section SIGHT provided a first-hand account of the amazing projects his group has been doing in both Canada and Guatemala.

Hear from Anis directly with this [livestream](#) of his presentation.



## HTA Webinar on Improving Energy Access in Rural Areas

On 18 November, the R10 Humanitarian Technology Activities hosted a webinar on **Improving Energy Access in Rural Areas - An IEEE SIGHT Case Study**. Using an example of a successful energy access project in rural Sindh, Pakistan, Hassaan Idrees (Assistant Manager at K-Electric) and Parkash Lohana (Coordinator, IEEE R10 Humanitarian Activities) will focus on how project feasibility is assessed, how project proposals and IEEE SIGHT applications are completed, and how sustainability can be ensured at a grassroots level.

Access the webinar [here](#) to discover the linkage between understanding communities and problem solving for sustainable development.

## New IEEE SIGHT staff lead - introducing Julianna Pichardo

On November 5th, Julianna Pichardo joined the Humanitarian Activities team at IEEE after returning to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic. While in the DR, she worked with Esperanza International, a microfinance nonprofit dedicated to poverty alleviation and interacted with diverse stakeholders, from board members to local program staff to donors to micro-

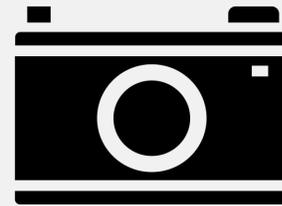


entrepreneurs on the ground to increase long-term impact for 10,000+ clients.

Julianna is looking forward to supporting SIGHT groups and getting to know members, volunteers and supporters around the globe. If you'd like to see Julianna's introduction to the group, visit the [IEEE SIGHT Facebook](#) and check out this [video](#).

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

Would you like to introduce your IEEE SIGHT group to the global SIGHT network? We would love to meet you! Please send a video or pictures of your group to include in the year-end December 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 SIGHT project(s) to either [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org), or to **Julianna Pichardo** via Facebook message!



Feel free to include a story from your group's experience, or web links for people to find more information on your projects.



## Want More? Visit SIGHT's Site!

IEEE SIGHT's web site 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 current

SIGHT events [In The News](#). If you are looking for career development resources and new ideas, visit our [Digital Classroom](#) for webinars and more.

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

## 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

### 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](#)

SIGHT groups if appropriate.  
[Submit request](#)

## 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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