

IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on
Humanitarian Technology

NEWSLETTER

July 2020

Note from the Chair



Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

Hope you are safe and healthy. I'm very excited to share the results of the first-ever joint IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) and SIGHT Special Call for Proposals related to COVID-19. We received 112 qualified proposals from 29 Countries in 5 IEEE Regions and approved support for 73 proposals from 25 countries. I'm truly delighted to see this outcome and the tremendous response from SIGHT volunteers across the globe towards the joint COVID proposal call. In 2019, SIGHT doubled the number of proposals received and supported since its inception; now we have established a new growth benchmark with this joint effort accelerating SIGHT projects growth by at least 5X times to date.

To sustain this momentum, we have established five Communities of Practice (CoPs) on the following thematic areas: Medical Devices, ICT, Food Security, Infection Control Devices, and PPE/Community Sensitization. The goal of these CoPs is to bring in projects by thematic area to increase impact, member engagement and professional development. Each CoP will facilitate active information sharing among projects in that thematic area, provide guidance when needed, establish

key metrics, and share collective learnings for effective replication and scaling.

Other exciting news is SIGHT will be launching the “SIGHT global summit” program digitally in Q3 2020. The goal of this program is to provide a global platform virtually for SIGHT volunteers to showcase their impactful work, share their experience, and seek direct guidance from SIGHT executive leadership. We will share more details on the next joint call for proposals and SIGHT global summit program in our next newsletter.

Recently, I had the opportunity to promote SIGHT among hundreds of students in unique programs such as IEEE YESIST12 and **Lehigh University's Mountaintop Initiative**. We also organized the first SIGHT town-hall in Australia where I had the pleasure to meet with grassroots leaders and discussed regional strategies to accelerate SIGHT growth in local sections and universities.

I'm thrilled to welcome the members of the newly formed “IEEE Columbus Section SIGHT” to the global SIGHT community. I'm excited to see the launch of the SIGHT funded project “Smart Classroom Among the Woods” in Kerala, India. Also, I highly encourage you to participate in the **IEEE HAC Events** revised call for proposal which is open until 1 September 2020. Volunteers are the pillars of the SIGHT program; we would love to highlight your stories in our newsletter. Please continue to share your updates with us at sight@ieee.org

Thank you all again for continuing to invest your time and efforts in IEEE SIGHT-related activities. What you are doing makes a long-term impact!

Best wishes for your safety and health,
Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan
2019 - 2020 *IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee Chair*

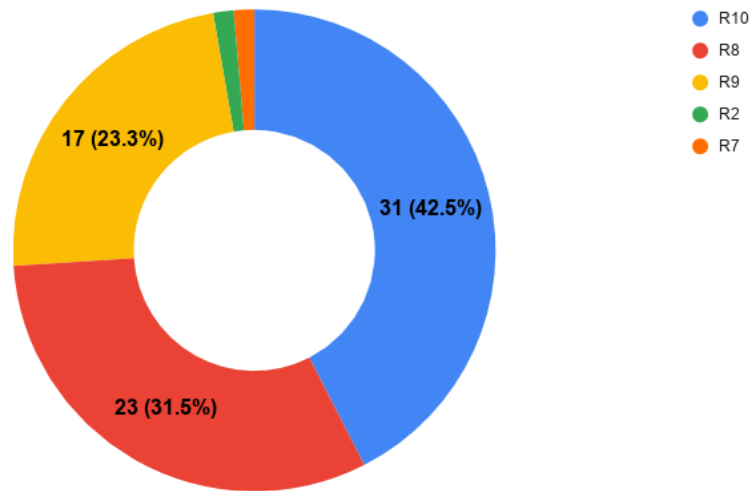
Featured Stories

Results of HAC/SIGHT COVID Projects Call for Proposals

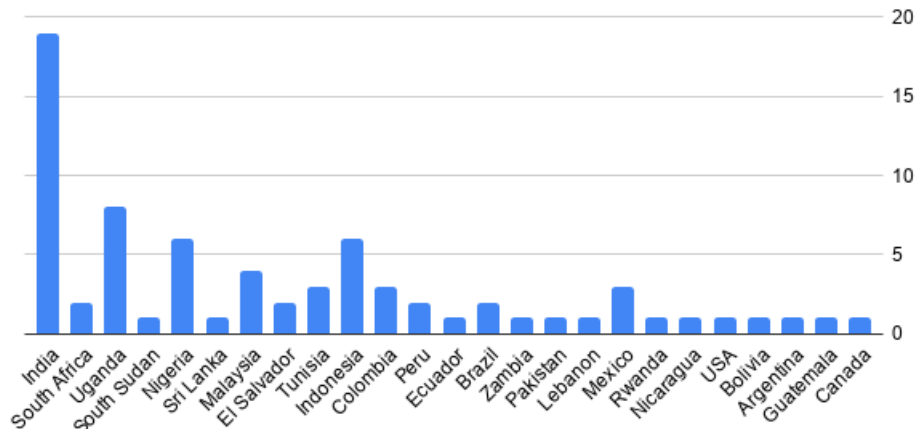


Projects that have been funded by the HAC/SIGHT COVID call for proposals will be able to use the above insignia.

IEEE Region Affiliation of HAC/SIGHT COVID Projects Funded

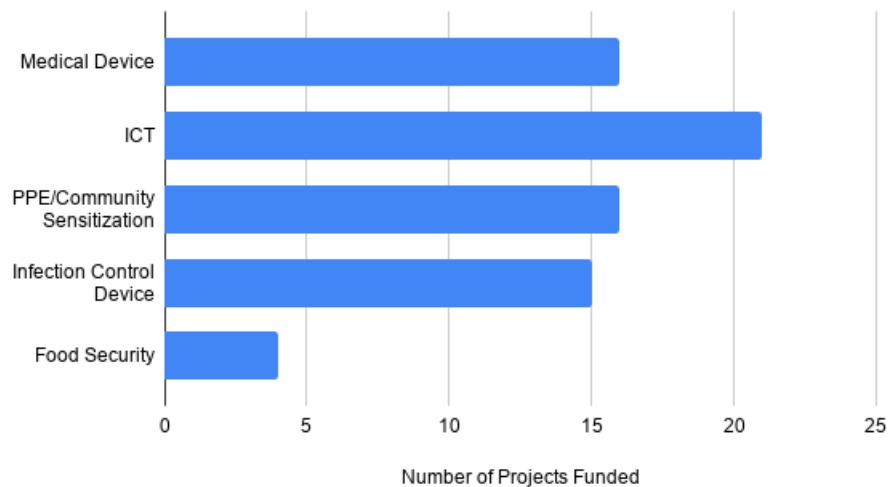


Locations of HAC/SIGHT COVID Funded Projects



Count of Funded Projects by Country

HAC/SIGHT COVID Project Categories



We will have more information to come about the funded projects in future issues of the newsletter.

News from SIGHT Groups

Columbus Section SIGHT - Milo Grogan Fresh Produce Farm Project



Pictured (from left to right) are Amy Gingerich, Executive Director of Cultivate CDC, Maria Lee, FSC, John Schrock, CEO of Roots Up, and Carl Lee IEEE SIGHT organizer. Standing in front of the vacant property that will be turned into the 365 Fresh Produce Farm in Milo-Grogan, Columbus, Ohio.

This project is one of the awardees of the HAC/SIGHT COVID Call for

Proposals. The new IEEE Columbus Section SIGHT is cleaning out an existing blighted building for demolition. The location is perfect to serve the vendors, as well as the population that they are targeting, in a designated food desert with the highest rate of infection from the coronavirus in their county in central Ohio. There are very few stores in this area, and residents, including the elderly, in the Milo Grogan area have to travel great distances on public transportation to get fresh produce. Once demolished, the group will pour a footer to place the shipping containers on and insert prefab racks and shelving. They will build the greenhouse on the top of the infrastructure. The group has many volunteers and looks to organizations and businesses for in-kind donations as needed. The primary collaboration consists of IEEE, Cultivate, and Family Services Council. They are having discussions with local vendors, restaurants, stores to maintain a consistent income stream.

IEEE VJCET SIGHT SB

SIGHT funded project "Smart Classroom Among the Woods" by IEEE VJCET SIGHT SB, implemented in the Kunjipara Tribal Settlement School, Kuttampuzha, has been inaugurated on 17 July 2020, Friday at 11.00 AM.





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SIGHT Group Spotlight

Newly-Formed SIGHT Groups - Welcome to the SIGHT Community!

- IEEE Columbus Section SIGHT, USA, *Region 2*

Get Involved - Join The Community

Upcoming Virtual Events and Deadlines

- 30 August - Ask the Chair Session on "IEEE SIGHT Global Summit"
- 01 September - Deadline for **HAC Events 2020 Revised Call for Proposals**

Visit the SIGHT **calendar** to learn about more upcoming HAC & SIGHT humanitarian technology events and activities (all virtual for the time being).

Support IEEE SIGHT

Donating to IEEE SIGHT through the IEEE Foundation means that you help provide a way for SIGHT to meet the needs of more IEEE volunteers, engage members through meaningful projects, and affect long-lasting impact in communities in need of technological solutions to development challenges. Funds donated at this time can be used to provide crucial financial support to COVID-19 related projects being conducted all over the world by IEEE members.

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.

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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