IEEE SIGHT
Linking IEEE to Communities

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IEEE SIGHT

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Overview

- The Background
- Objectives
- IEEE SIGHT
- What to do next
The Background

- In 2005 / 06 IEEE started seeing rising interest in “Humanitarian Activities”
- A program named “HTC - Humanitarian Technology Challenge” was started by IEEE & UN Foundation
  - HTC was based on three challenges
    - Reliable Electricity
    - Reliable Communications
    - Medical Records
  - The HTC project was completed in 2011.
    - Two very successful projects funded by HTC
      - Electrification project by PES (in Haiti)
      - Communication project by R7-HIC (in Peru)
IEEE Board Decisions (2011)

- Defined the Goals of “Humanitarian Activities”
- Appointed the HAHC with a term until 2014
- Allocated a budget for Humanitarian Activities (Until then a part of NIC)
- Decided to form an Affinity Group for broad-basing Humanitarian Activities, later called SIGHT
IEEE’s Humanitarian goals are:

To enable activities geared toward improving the quality of life for under-served populations through:

• Supporting the development, testing and dissemination of technology, augmenting the quality of target populations

• Enabling the development of technology policy and business models that support affordable, scalable and sustainable applications of technological solutions

• Increasing awareness of technology professionals of the applied potential their work has to improve the standard of living for under-served populations

• Participating in fund raising efforts

• Collaborating with organizations to develop and implement long term pertinent plans
How will we do this?
Humanitarian Initiatives in IEEE

Several spontaneous initiatives worldwide
Tsunami Response:

IEEE Kerala Section (R10) volunteers provided technology support for relief and rehabilitation during the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.
Equinox & BBOXX

Engineers and students from the Imperial College London (e.quinox) provide electrical power in power deficient areas in Africa.
IEEE All India Young Engineers’ Humanitarian Challenge
www.humanitarian.org.in
EPICS in IEEE

Engineering Projects for Community Service enables IEEE university Student Branches and local high school students, to work with nonprofit organizations to build solutions in four key areas:

1. Access & Abilities
2. Environment
3. Education & Outreach
4. Human Services
Enabling Energy Solutions:
A large and far-reaching IEEE program is CSI, Community Solutions Initiative. CSI is a not-for-profit volunteer group of the IEEE Power and Energy Society.
Increasing Awareness:

E4C, Engineering for Change, is an amazing, exciting program and Web site, where engineers, social scientists and local governments can collaborate, learn, develop and solve global challenges.

**Mission:** Improve the quality of life

**Approach:** Provide a collaborative forum

**Founding Organizations:** ASME, IEEE, Engineers Without Borders-USA

**Join the Conversation:**
www.engineersforchange.org
Conferences – Kerala Feb 2010
Conferences
Forming Partnerships
Strengthening and Enabling IEEE to Pursue More Expansive Goals
IEEE is in talks with a number of influential and global organizations to form partnerships that will advance our mission.
IEEE is engaging with

- UNESCO: Building Peace in the minds of men and women
- Engineers Without Borders
- World Bank: Working for a World Free of Poverty
- Society of Women Engineers: Aspire. Advance. Achieve
- ASCE: American Society of Civil Engineers
Partnerships

• Humanitarian
  – UNESCO
  – NGOs

• Engineering
  – ASME
  – Engineers without Borders
  – ASCE

• Funding Agencies
  – World Bank
  – ADB etc.
Participating

How can we be a part of the positive change?
SIGHT - Origins

- HTC projects were limited to very few members of IEEE
- There was a need to be broad base and accessible to all members of IEEE
- In 2011 the Humanitarian Ad-Hoc Committee suggested formation of “SIGHT or Special Interest Groups on Humanitarian Technology”
- In June 2011, the IEEE board passed a resolution forming SIGHT
SIGHT - Objectives

- To promote IEEE’s Mission on Humanitarian Activities.
- To Broad-base Humanitarian Activities in IEEE
- To enhance Member Engagement and Member Value through meaningful contributions
- To provide a platform for IEEE members interested in Humanitarian Activities to join together in their efforts.
- To coordinate with other like minded agencies and dovetail with their programs
- To provide extended knowledge-sharing through an Open Source approach to engineering solutions
SIGHT - Formation

- SIX or more members
- Sponsored by IEEE OU (Section / Society / Region)
- Application sent to the HAHC
- An IEEE OU may sponsor any number of SIGHTs
- Any IEEE OU that sponsors SIGHTs may have a volunteer to coordinate the SIGHTs
- The petition to form SIGHTs may be sent to the concerned IEEE OU and after their approval it may be forwarded to HAHC.
A SIGHT may engage in activities aligned to the mission of Humanitarian Activities set by IEEE.

SIGHTs are encouraged to partner with NGOs, Governments, UN Agencies and others to undertake projects promoting its objectives.

A SIGHT project may request for funding from IEEE or use IEEE’s good offices to procure funding for the project.

R10 has especially supportive, with Deepak Mathur, the HTC Co-ordinator, having an approved budget.
SIGHT - Projects

- SIGHT projects are only limited by the imagination of its members
- Projects are usually targeted at improving the Quality of Life of the underserved
- Examples could be:
  - Distributed generation of energy
  - Education & Health interventions
  - Inclusive Development for the challenged
  - Disaster Management
  - Frugal Engineering
  - Ecological and CC innovations
How SIGHT is different

- SIGHT is the first 'organic' initiative in IEEE for members to contribute to communities
- A multistakeholder approach that permits SIGHTs to work with communities, NGOs, multilaterals and Governments
- Oriented towards knowledge sharing among each other and tapping IEEE's formidable technological competencies
- While SIGHT is presently in its pilot phase, it is designed to be a longer-term mechanism once it takes off
What to do next...

- Inform members (both professional and students) about SIGHT
- Designate a SIGHT Facilitator in the OU
- Encourage discussions on local problems around the Section and Student Branches
- Form SIGHTs where there is sufficient interest, and take up projects through them
- While funds are still a constraint, some funds are available for part-funding of good projects
- Share your experiences with the larger community!