Humanitarian Activities Subcommittee   Alexandros Osana

Goals

- The Region 8 Humanitarian Activities Committee is responsible for raising awareness of the IEEE SIGHT programme, overseeing and fostering the development of local SIGHT groups and providing development opportunities to members.
- Success within this operational unit is indicated by the formation of local SIGHT groups and the successful submission of project proposals to the steering committee.
- A second metric of success is the impact of Humanitarian Technology projects to the local community in which they take place. That is also the reason why HuAC's activity must receive continuous attention also from other IEEE units.

Status and Past Contributions

- The number of SIGHT groups in the region has raised from 3 to 7 during the last year, with new groups in Africa (1), Middle East (1) and Europe (2).
- Geographic updates:
  - IEEE UK and Ireland Section SIGHT formation; and drafting of a new project in partnership with UNICEF UK. Proposed an online mobile application to locate emergency facilities for young people in need of emergency aid.
  - IEEE Croatia Section SIGHT group is conducting project called MCER (Missing Children Emergency System). Technical solution is in final stage and now it is prepared for testing.
  - South Africa Section is working of the formation of a Sectional SIGHT Group
  - Tunisia SIGHT group with its project on "Internet Inclusion" has attracted attention of the SIGHT program management team and is evolving in a case study for implementation to many other sections around the world. Members of the SIGHT Steering committee will join the R8 Meeting in Stockholm and discuss with the local r8 SIGHT Coordination team on ways to proceed with this issue.
  - Greece Section SIGHT group has already conducted 3 volunteer education workshops and is now preparing the proposal to be submitted for SIGHT project funding.
  - Nigeria Section has assembled a team to create a SIGHT group, already having conducted research for 3 possible SIGHT projects.
- Committee Activity updates:
- The committee is building a plan to make larger outreach in Region 8, including social media, and through the network of technical chapters related to the projects' main emphasis.
- The R8 SIGHT website is used to update all the news regarding our activities. We are updating resources according to the IEEE Humanitarian Committee (HAC) https://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/humanitarian_activities_committee.html
- Introducing new members of the committee with their tasks and our goal.
- Face-to-face meeting of Alex Osana with SIGHT program Chair, Timothy Lee, in the context of Board of Directors Meeting in New Orleans (February '17). where the two chairs shared the status of SIGHT globally, made suggestions on how to align their actions and how to establish a communication channel to share updates during the whole year.
- A special dedicated sub-division of the committee is dedicated in the Africa Area, seeking and uncovering possibilities and active groups, able to take upon a SIGHT project, given the funding. This division will also approach and foster collaboration with Africa Ad-Hoc committee of Region 8.

SIGHT is a program that can contribute significantly in IEEE membership development, since SIGHT groups are consisted from both IEEE members and non-members. Thus, IEEE's name and culture is promoted through these activities as well as the community impact there is.

Outlook

Our implementation Model is 4 fold:

1) Increase awareness of the SIGHT program and the funding opportunities and thus increase the number of groups and project within Region 8. To that direction, we aim to:
   - Foster closer integration with the student activities committee, young professionals and relevant technical chapters within the Region, in order to promote the formation of active SIGHT groups.
   - Examine the evolution of existing and successful EPICS-in-IEEE programs to SIGHT initiatives in order to qualify for funding to complete more ambitious tasks.
   - Dedicate a media officer who, in communication with SIGHT Steering committee will commit to the online SIGHT promotion and dissemination activities via Social media and eNotice.
   - Participate in IEEE summits in the region and to conduct workshops on how to form and run a SIGHt group
   - Increase awareness of the SIGHT programme within industry, by means of close collaboration with section, chapter and affinity group partnerships.
2) Establish a functional and effective relationship with SIGHT Steering committee to share information and align activities for SIGHT growth. To achieve this:
   - An extensive face-to-face meeting will be held in the following region meeting between a delegation of the Steering committee and r8 HuAC.
   - A digital mechanism of permanent data sharing concerning region 8 will be developed to allow monitoring of existing groups.

- The R8 HuAC will contribute in the evaluation of SIGHT project proposals to uncover difficulties of certain groups and offer custom assistance.

3) Monitor/ assist existing groups, encourage and provide them with tools to proceed in community projects. To do this, we are:
  - Working on program which will recognize quality projects and give them visibility and outreach. Awards & recognition program similar to Exemplary Student Branch Award in SAC are examined.
  - Drafting and continued support of a full package of documentation to describe the SIGHT group formation process specific to Region 8, including reports on completed projects, essential contacts, potential partner organizations and development guidelines.

4) Increase extroversion by initiating discussions and collaboration with other NGOs within Region 8. To manage this, we aim to:
  - Foster collaboration with Regional NGOs, by identified areas of common interest.
  - Foster collaboration with engineering4change and EPICS-in-IEEE

Points of Concern

In order for HuAC to achieve the above goals and implement the given plan, it is required:

- Financial Support to HuAC members to participate in a limited number of events within the region in order to establish healthy SIGHT groups and spread awareness of the nature of this noble IEEE program.
- Collaboration for Promotion of the SIGHT initiative via publicity channels and section chapter chairs, in order to raise awareness of potential programmes to pursue.
- Allowance to establish an Annual Regional Humanitarian Activities Award.