

WHY ATTEND?

- ★ To learn about advanced interdisciplinary problems across a broad spectrum of technical fields.
- ★ To gain insights into the latest emerging technologies.
- ★ To attend various symposia/tracks offering expertise.
- ★ To hear high-profile speakers who will address the most pressing issues in the above fields of interest.
- ★ To hear interesting and informative papers and presentations.
- ★ To network and establish strategic partnerships with the best and brightest of your profession in academia, industry and government
- ★ Interesting social/partner programs.
- ★ Explore shopping and entertaining opportunities in Montreal.
- ★ Opportunity to earn Continuing Education Units.

POURQUOI PARTICIPER?

- ★ Pour en savoir plus sur certains problèmes interdisciplinaires complexes.
- ★ Pour mieux comprendre les technologies émergentes.
- ★ Pour faire le plein de connaissances dans les nombreux symposiums offerts.
- ★ Pour entendre des conférenciers de renom parler des enjeux critiques de leur domaine.
- ★ Pour l'intérêt et la pertinence des présentations et articles proposés.
- ★ Pour faire du réseautage et des partenariats stratégiques avec des chefs de file issus de tous les milieux.
- ★ Pour les programmes partenaires et sociaux
- ★ Pour profiter des attraits commerciaux et touristiques de Montréal.
- ★ Pour les unités de formation permanente.

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for Abstract Submission	March 30, 2014
Notification of Abstract Acceptance	April 5, 2014
4-page IEEE format Full Paper Due	April 25, 2014
Reviewers' Feedback to Authors	May 1, 2014
Camera-Ready Papers and Copyright Forms Due	May 5, 2014

DATES À RETENIR

Dépôt du résumé	30 mars 2014
Avis d'acceptation du résumé	5 avril 2014
Dépôt de l'article de 4 pages (format IEEE)	25 avril 2014
Rétroaction des lecteurs critiques	1er mai 2014
Dépôt de l'article final et des formulaires sur les droits d'auteur	5 mai 2014

For detailed up-to-date information, visit the IHTC2014 Conference web site:
<http://www.ihtc.ieee.ca>

Pour des renseignements à jour et détaillés, rendez-vous sur le site
Web de l'IHTC 2014 : <http://www.ihtc.ieee.ca>

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SUPPORT FOR SECTION AND STUDENT BRANCH INITIATIVES Region 7 sets SIGHT on humanitarian efforts

Improving the lives of all people through technology has long been IEEE's mission. But now it's easier for members to engage in community projects that specifically benefit the underserved and the underprivileged.

The IEEE Humanitarian Ad Hoc Committee has initiated a program called the Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology (SIGHT), aimed at creating opportunities for members to devote their talents to humanitarian work.

Most regions have ad hoc humanitarian activities. "IEEE Canada is unique in the sense that from the beginning we decided to create a standing committee for a humanitarian program at the regional level," says Alfredo Herrera, a volunteer on the IEEE SIGHT steering committee, and an Ottawa Section member.

SIGHT provides a structure for members to organize with their local section or student branch to work on humanitarian projects. They can apply to form a SIGHT and gain support and funding from IEEE.

The program is a significant force for change, says Holly Schneider Brown, program manager of corporate development with IEEE. "We

believe IEEE is a strong potential task force of volunteers for solving community problems."

"The program aims to inspire, enable and connect IEEE members, especially those who want to use their engineering skills to give back to the community, but don't know how to get involved," says Brown.

SIGHT is already operational in 17 countries. Typically, projects involve supporting sustainable technology initiatives that impact energy, healthcare, sanitation and interconnectivity — everything from assistive technologies to solar power and mine clearing.

One project in Chile, for example, introduces children in remote villages to technology through robotic Lego sets. Another provides electricity in Haiti, by donating equipment to communities and helping them create franchises so they can become self-sufficient.

IEEE Canada had an early start in its humanitarian efforts. Dr. Ferial El-Hawary, chair of the IEEE Canada Humanitarian Initiatives Committee, was president when the Region created both its ad hoc and standing committees, the latter being unique to the IEEE as a whole.

"Ferial has made a significant impact in getting these efforts off the ground, and in getting IEEE to be a key player locally and globally. She has made things happen," says Herrera.

To date, SIGHT has been working to create project-focused chapters at the section level, but there are "learning and gestation" stages a group needs to mature through in order to deliver a sustainable solution in lockstep with a community need, says Herrera. "This year, IEEE Canada SIGHT groups will work on growing to maturity."

SIGHT will be offering workshops to interested members; one of these will be at IHTC 2014, along with a workshop on the IEEE Teacher In-Service Program (TISP). Members can also subscribe to the newsletter, join the Facebook page and check out the website ("n" repeated in technology): http://www.ieee.org/special_interest_group_on_humanitarian_technology.html

"These projects come from the grassroots and members are very passionate about them," says Brown. "We're trying to harness their passion and build the program around that." ■

Vawn Himmelsbach