IEEE Canada IHTC 2015 — International Humanitarian Tech. Conference

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Photo: Jaime Bruner, Inveneo.

Photo: U.S. National Park Service

Student Design Contest

In avalanche rescue, every second counts. Fortunately new technology is making it possible to more quickly locate those in trouble. This year's student competition is to design add-on modules for a low-cost, open-source radar imaging system for snow avalanche search and rescue operations. The design is freely available from the MIT Open Course Ware Program under the popular Creative Commons licensing. Prototypes to be ready by the IHTC2015 conference time.

The theme of the IHTC 2015 will be "supporting communities toward resilience" with emphasis on policies, practices, and technologies aimed at building resilient communities. The conference will focus on two key areas: humanitarian applications of technologies in disaster mitigation, relief, and recovery; and empowering communities (including aboriginal/indigenous peoples) to overcome adversity and achieve sustainable development. Objectives include understanding critical community needs and issues such as disaster management, sustainable development, capacity building, and self-sufficiency. A particular focus will be on social innovation and collaborative solution design, with an emphasis on open source technology.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The technical program committee invites you to submit a 200-300 word abstract of a paper in any of the following track areas:

1. Technologies to assist in disaster mitigation, relief, and recovery
2. Humanitarian supply chains in preparedness, response, and rehabilitation for aid and relief
3. Connectivity and communications technologies
4. Psycho-social factors facilitating the effective use of technology
5. Technologies for water and sanitation
6. Forensic technologies for disaster and relief operations
7. Mobile health (mHealth), medical technology, and telemedicine
8. Social media for building resilience
9. Data and personal security technologies for humanitarian and development applications
10. Off-grid power, renewable energy, and resilient power grids
11. Humanitarian and/or sustainable engineering programs, educational technologies, course materials, and curricula
12. Community engagement and social and economic factors in humanitarian engineering
13. Food security, micro-farming, and urban agriculture

High-quality papers will be submitted to the IEEE *Xplore* Digital Library.

Submission: PDF-format can be uploaded to **http://www.bytematters.com/veda/ihtc.aspx**. Detailed information on paper format and submission procedure can be found on the conference website.

WHY ATTEND?

★ To gain awareness of the need for technology in humanitarian and sustainable development contexts

★ To better understand the developmental, social and cultural contexts into which technologies may be applied and learn from the associated challenges, successes and failures in trying to integrate technology into these contexts.

★ To learn how to successfully develop and apply novel approaches to solve humanitarian challenges or support humanitarian initiatives;

★ To have an opportunity to establish relations with similar minded colleagues;

★ To collaborate in the creation of a mechanism for supporting peer-review of Open Source humanitarian solutions to continue beyond the conference;

★ To have an opportunity to get engaged in the HIC/SIGHT community, or similar programs from EPICS, TISP and WIE;

★ To gain the skills and knowledge to initiate or participate in any humanitarian activity (solution or initiative).

★ To gain the insight of experienced and influential people in the humanitarian field.

The target audience for the conference includes researchers, practitioners and students in the fields of disaster relief, sustainability, human development, education, STEM fields and management sciences as well as interested professionals and anyone wanting to contribute their talents on the humanitarian and sustainable development fields.

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for Abstract Submission **Feb. 28, 2015**	4-page IEEE format Full Paper Due **Mar. 31, 2015**
Notification of Abstract Acceptance **Mar. 9, 2015**	Reviewers' Feedback to Authors **Apr. 20, 2015**

For detailed up-to-date information, visit the IHTC2015 Conference web site:

IEEE Canada

http://www.ihtc.ieee.ca

IEEE Ottawa Section

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