**IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference – GHTC 2012 is a voice amplifier and a forum for hot technological, social, and philosophical debates**

The 2nd annual IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference - GHTC 2012 attracted over 250 attendees to Seattle October 21-24, bringing together individuals from 22 countries who are working to improve the lives of the billions of people around the world living at the bottom of the economic pyramid.

GHTC offers humanitarian workers and technologists across the globe an opportunity to interact, learn and collaborate, to build a community that can, because of these connections, create more efficient and effective humanitarian efforts. The conference was supported by over 35 organizations.

In addition to numerous technical papers, the conference held several tutorials on such topics as "Village Energy Systems" and "Building Affordable Wireless Networks," and  eleven panels on such topics as "Designing for Sustainability", "Societal Impacts and Benefits", and "What Works and What Doesn't".

The conference featured a number of plenary speakers. Gretchen Kalonji, UNESCO, noted that "opportunities for collaboration with the engineering community are huge, not only in the new UNESCO Engineering Initiative, but throughout our efforts in disasters, water, environmental sciences and in education… One of our meta-goals is to mobilize collaboration on scientific topics that require large-scale multinational cooperation."  Gertjian van Stam, LinkNet Zambia, pointed that "the challenge is for technology to be introduced and utilized in the right manner, and with the right timing. Technology is a tool to help people. We need not just invest in technologies but also in relationships."

Peter Staecker, 2012 IEEE President-Elect, set a vision to "harness the creative power of IEEE … and to bring a positive, meaningful and long-term impact on the welfare of significant populations." At the same time Krista Bauer, GE Foundation, emphasized importance of deeper corporate involvement in the humanitarian projects saying that "GE has a strong volunteering tradition and volunteering is encouraged. People do want get involved. There is passion and a lot of interest."

GHTC 2012 also hosted the Hoover Medal Award Ceremony, honoring N.R. Narayana Murthy, who founded Infosys in 1981. The Hoover Medal was established in 1929 and recognizes the civic and humanitarian achievements of engineers.

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