Programme Report 2016

Organised by:
About the Challenge

The DBS-NUS Social Venture Challenge Asia is an Asia-wide competition for social enterprises, open to any member of the public. Organised by NUS Enterprise and the DBS Foundation, the Challenge aims to identify and support new social ventures that have the potential to generate positive, scalable and sustainable social impact.

Since 2014, the Challenge has aimed to raise awareness of social entrepreneurship and build a robust community of social entrepreneurs and capacity builders across Asia. The Challenge also provides multi-dimensional support for budding social entrepreneurs and builds capacity through public education in social entrepreneurship.

Through workshops across Asia, participants are supported and mentored by some of the most experienced practitioners in this field. Furthermore, participants who qualify also have the opportunity to travel to Singapore for mentoring and coaching with experts, before facing the semifinal and final rounds of judging. The Challenge culminates with a prestigious awards ceremony.

With a dedicated learning platform and meaningful networks as well as increased awareness and support for budding social entrepreneurs, the DBS-NUS Social Venture Challenge Asia will accelerate the impact of winning entries to solve today’s most pressing social problems.
At a Glance
Number of Entries – 2014 - 2016

2014
418 entries
19 countries
1204 participants

2015
683 entries
30 countries
1565 participants

2016
1027 entries
32 countries
2215 participants

OTHERS

SOUTH ASIA

NORTH-EAST / EAST ASIA

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

4 (2014)
13 (2015)
18 (2016)
54 (2014)
130 (2015)
168 (2016)
155 (2014)
287 (2015)
504 (2016)

205 (2014)
253 (2015)
337 (2016)
## At a Glance
### Country of Impact – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>197</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At a Glance
Stage of Venture & Industry – 2016

33% Pilot stage

39% Ideas and prototype stage
still validating idea or building minimum viable product

20% Operational stage
consistently generating revenues

8% Growth stage
expanding to new regions to grow in size and impact

19% Education

17% Agriculture

13% Others

6% Arts/Fashion

9% Web/Mobile

12% Energy/Environment

12% Healthcare/ Sanitation

4% F&B

3% Tourism

3% Financial Services

2% Transport

33%

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Healthcare/ Sanitation

4%

F&B

3%

Tourism

3%

Financial Services

2%

Transport
At a Glance
Participants’ Profile – 2016

Male Female
39% 61%

Student Self-employed Full-time employee Others
35% 28% 28% 8%


2014
163 Judges & Mentors

2015
255 Judges & Mentors

2016
346 Judges & Mentors

13% - Social entrepreneurs 35% Industry Professionals
11% Impact Investors 41% Resource Providers
Partners
List of Partners – 2016

Sector Champions
raiSE SINGAPORE  syngenta

Knowledge Partner
WORLD BANK GROUP

Corporate Partners
Google  Unilever  VISA

Impact Partners

Community Partners

Media Partners

“Singapore has potential to become a regional hub for social enterprises and investors operating in the sector”
– The Straits Times

“A new era of corporate responsibility as global organisations foster social entrepreneurship”
– Mashable

Media and Press Coverage
2014 - 2016

SINGAPORE

Channel News Asia
The Straits Times
The Business Times
TODAY
The New Paper
Berita Harian

Lianhe Zaobao
My Paper
The Edge Markets
Vulcan Post
Yahoo! Singapore
AsiaOne

INDONESIA

SWA
Warta Ekonomi
Republika Online
Kabar Kampus
Rilisiana
Tribun Jogja

INDIA

The Global Indian News Network
Your Story
IIFL
Dalal Street
Indian News & Times
Moneylife India

THAILAND

Nation Multimedia
PRESS.in.th
Thansettakij
Narewna.com
Prachachat.net
Newswit.com

ASIA/GLOBAL

Tech in Asia
The Guardian
Asian NGO
AsiaForGood
Digital News Asia
DealStreetAsia

China

第一财经
公益频道光明网
中国制造交易网

Taiwan

CNA 中央通讯社
Market Daily
Unwire.pro

Others

Sabay Cambodia
Dap News Cambodia
The Phnom Penh Post
RBB Today Japan
2DNet Japan
GMA News Philippines
Let Startup HK
Events that created Buzz

Workshops in
SINGAPORE  INDONESIA  TAIWAN  HONG KONG  VIETNAM  CAMBODIA  PHILIPPINES  MYANMAR

Finale Week in Singapore: Coaching, Judging, Networking, SE Showcase, Awards Ceremony
2016 Finalists

**Siam Organic**
Siam Organic works closely with small-scale Thai farmers to sustainably transform their quality of life and lift them out of poverty. Siam Organic’s Jasberry® rice is organic, non-GMO, whole grain, delicious, and has global appeal.

[facebook.com/siamorganic](http://facebook.com/siamorganic)

**OurCityLove**
OurCityLove Social Enterprise maps data of accessible venues, facilities, and services on a cloud-based platform. It also offers training courses to restaurants for disability-friendly certifications, and employment training for persons with disabilities.

[ourcitylove.com](http://ourcitylove.com)

**Arus Education**
Arus Education provides access to innovative, meaningful, quality education in Malaysia for students in low income communities. It aims to establish low-cost private schools across Malaysia, with a personalised teaching approach and hands-on maker education.

[arusacademy.wix.com/aruseducation](http://arusacademy.wix.com/aruseducation)

**engageSPARK**
engageSPARK a B2B platform targeted at non-techie NGOs, social enterprises and businesses. Its easy to use, cloud-based integrated platform enables non-profits to build Voice and SMS programmes to engage their constituents in developing countries.

[engagespark.com](http://engagespark.com)

**Jeevtronics**
Jeevtronics aims to reduce the rate of cardiac arrest in developing countries with the world’s first portable hand-cranked external defibrillator. Its patented defibrillator is affordable, reliable and runs independently of an external power source.

[jeevtronics.com](http://jeevtronics.com)

**Nazava Water Filters**
Nazava Water Filters envisions a world where everyone, everywhere has access to safe and affordable drinking water within their homes. It produces high quality ceramic water filters that are customised to fit the different needs of different income groups.

[nazava.com](http://nazava.com)
2016 Semi-finalists

AESIR
AESIR creates gamified content to provide advanced therapeutic training for special needs students in Hong Kong, using Augmented and Virtual Reality technologies. To date, AESIR has developed mobile apps, motion sensor games, and a playbook to facilitate emotional literacy.

imsoulinc.com

I’m Soul Inc
Through awareness-raising activities, music technology, an online portal, and training programmes, I’m Soul Inc enables people and communities to unlock the therapeutic power of music easily, 24/7, at a low cost, regardless of age, culture, abilities, or disabilities.

imsoulinc.com

Ants Workshop
Ants Workshop strives to increase the employability of young migrant women from rural China through their training workshops. They also provide professional consultancy to NGOs and startups in areas of finance, legal and taxation.

gyf.org.cn

Kruosar Solar
Kruosar Solar bridges the existing energy gap in Cambodia by building a nation-wide last-mile distribution network for sales, installation and after-sales care of Solar Home Systems, bringing electricity to 60% of the population without access to the power grid.

nrg-renewables.com

BLITAB® Technology
An “iPad” for the blind, BLITAB® is the first-ever digital e-reader for people with sight loss. It creates tactile Braille, graphics and maps so blind people can learn, work and play with one device, leading to employment generation and equality empowerment.

blitab.com

Socialgiver
Socialgiver is a lifestyle and travel website that helps consumers, businesses, and social projects create combined social impact through a win-win-win ‘giving ecosystem’.

socialgiver.com
2016 Special Award Winners

$50,000
raiSE VentureForGood Grant Award

**AbleThrive**

AbleThrive is a one-stop platform with curated high-quality resources about living well with a disability, sourced from a growing network of over 100 blogs, organisations, companies and hospitals worldwide. In addition, it provides consulting services for companies interested in fostering disability inclusion.

ablethrive.com

$10,000
Syngenta Award for Best Agriculture Social Enterprise

**Kamal Kisan**

Kamal Kisan develops machines and tools suitable for smallholder farmers to reduce their dependence on labour and increase their profitability. One of their products, a sugarcane planter, has been able to demonstrate improvements in process efficiency by up to 80%.

kamalkisan.com

$10,000
Syngenta Award for Best Use of Technology & Innovation in Agriculture

**Naireeta Services**

Naireeta Services develops “Bhungroo”, a unique rainwater management solution which helps poor farmers adapt to disasters like drought and prolonged water logging. “Bhungroo” filters, injects and retains excess storm water underground for reuse in dry season.

naireetaservices.com
Zaya Learning Labs

Zaya Labs provides a complete school operating system which includes content, curriculum, lesson plans and teacher development all delivered through technology. Zaya works only with low income private schools across India helping them transform learning at an affordable rate even in schools where there is a lack of internet. Through its ClassCloud, Zaya provides schools to access all these resources in a personalized manner for every child even in places where there are under qualified teachers.

Since winning SVC Asia in 2014, over 60,000 students have benefited from the Zaya’s products, from more than 250 schools and 30 vocational centres in 4 cities in India. Zaya has begun supplying schools in Africa with the same ClassCloud platform. Another 150,000 students are signed up for 2017 and Zaya aims to become the largest affordable learning solution for low-income schools

zaya.in
Learn Education

Learn Education aims to improve the quality of education by helping teachers, in particular for Maths and Science, within Thailand through their blended-learning technology tools. This includes learning modules that align with Thai curriculum, to develop self learning and critical thinking skills amongst students; one-to-one learning software with tests, analytics and a report system; and implementation processes to connect the software with “human-ware” teacher and student. One of Learn Education’s pilot schools saw a 31% improvement in national test scores after three years.

learneducation.co.th
Participant Feedback

“We participated in the DBS-NUS Social Venture Challenge Asia because of two reasons: (1) It’s global and you need to know where you stand and what is happening in the space, and (2) It’s the validation that you need that you are doing the right thing.”
– Neil D’souza, Zaya Learning Labs, India (2014 Winner)

“As an education company, trust is important for partners to work with us. This was our main objective in participating in the DBS-NUS Social Venture Challenge Asia, to gain recognition and validation needed. We attracted many partners and funders after the competition, allowing us to nearly triple our growth. We also benefitted from the knowledge sharing from the mentors and judges, and continued support from the organisers. Whenever we have challenges, the DBS-NUS team is always our great partner.”
– Tanin Timtong, Learn Education, Thailand (2015 Winner)

“I would like to thank DBS and NUS for the great experience and interactions with the judges and mentors of the Social Venture Challenge Asia, that will allow us to shape our social venture to be even more successful in the future.”
– Pornthida Wongphatharakul, Siam Organic, Thailand (2016 Winner)

“For ambitious start-ups like Interclo that want to make a global impact, a platform like the DBS-NUS Social Venture Challenge Asia lends us credibility. It has given us visibility and the traction we need to open doors that would previously have been reserved for bigger players.”
– Mateen Kirmani, Interclo Designs, Singapore (2014 Finalist)

“This was really one of the most effective events I’ve been to, considering your very deep investor network. The competition also really forced us to revise and improve our business model.”