

## Asia Social Innovation Award (ASIA) 2018-19 Winners Announced Pioneering Partnership with JUMPSTARTER of the Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund

(Hong Kong, January 24, 2019) Asia Social Innovation Award (ASIA) entered its 10<sup>th</sup> year with a groundbreaking partnership with JUMPSTARTER, a startup platform and initiative curated by the Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund. The Grand Finals was held last night with the Grand Prize awarded to Sense Innovation Co, a startup from Taiwan utilizing eye-tracking assistive technology to reinvent rehabilitation and learning for patients and caregivers.

The competition theme this year is "Impact of Things", as inspired by the term "Internet of Things (IoT)", signifying the connection between the social entrepreneurship and startup ecosystem, corporate and public sector in amplifying positive impact to the society.

ASIA received hundreds of applications from 25 countries in the Asia-pacific region that propose innovative solutions to the more pressing social and environmental challenges. Among the 12 teams selected to present at the Grand Finals Pitch, 3 startups are based in Hong Kong, while others represent the Philippines, China, South Korea, Thailand, and other Asian countries. Connecting themes include building pioneering platforms and innovative technologies to improve physical and mental wellness, promote medical and educational reform, and improve the quality of life for the underprivileged.

After a thoughtful deliberation by the judges, **Sense Innovation Co** was awarded the Grand Prize Winner. **Coeo Labs** awarded the Health Impact Award, and **Smart Air** awarded the Learning Impact Award. Sense Innovation was selected because its invention benefits patients and the disabled across the world, with high scalability. Coeo Labs has huge health impact because it provides an easy-to-use and effective product which would greatly support areas with a lack of medical resources. Smart Air is believed to bring a disruptive change because it educates the public to create low-cost DIY air purifiers," said the Judging panels.

Winning teams Overview:

Award	Name	Origin	Feature	Prize (HK\$)
Grand Prize	Sense Innovation	Taiwan	Eye-tracking assistive technology to assist patients and the severely disabled	100,000
Health Impact Award	Coeo Labs	India	Its product "Saans" utilizes a low-cost multipower	20,000

			neonatal breathing support device for low-resource settings	
Learning Innovation Award	Smart Air	China	Promotes affordable DIY air filters to deal with air pollution	20,000

For more information on the participating teams and the program rundown, please download materials via the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/g0w89s1asiwd6pr/Bio%20of%20the%20Winning%20teams.docx?dl=0>

Social Ventures Hong Kong Founder and CEO Francis Ngai, also serving as a judge of ASIA this year, shares, “ASIA is only a beginning, we hope to promote a culture of social entrepreneurship and “Business 2.0” strategy, encouraging all corporates to look beyond financial returns to bring positive influence to the society and the environment. Eventually, the lines between startups and social startups will be blurred. As corporates, society and environment will all be winners.”

For photos of ASIA 2018-19 Grand Finals, please find via link

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4z00jeeth39q5oh/AAAbDCn0d-LXjzPlcFmrE2KBa?dl=0>

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**Organizers**



**Asia Social Innovation Award (ASIA)** is the first regional social start-up competition promoting the culture of social innovation and exchange of ideas among Asian cities, launched by SVhk in 2008.

Targeting early to growth stage social startups, the award provides entrepreneurs with the exposure, network and resources to take their ideas onto the next level.

<http://www.socialinnovationaward.asia>



Founded in 2007, **Social Ventures Hong Kong (SVhk)** is an Impact Purpose Organization (IPO) that innovates social change by re-imagining the city. We focus on inventing, incubating and investing in social startups that address urban challenges in Hong Kong through sustainable and innovative business solutions. 20 portfolio ventures include Green Monday, Diamond Cab, Light Be, Run Our City, BottLess and more. (<http://sv-hk.org/>)