

PRESS RELEASE

BEYOND SILICON VALLEY - START-UP SUCCESS STORIES OUTSIDE OF THE WEST COAST NARRATIVE PRESENTED IN VIENNA

While Silicon Valley may stand undefeated as the most prominent name for tech entrepreneurs and startup visionaries, other regions all over the world are worthy competitors. The WSA Global Congress 2018 brings start-ups and digital entrepreneurs from over 120 countries worldwide to Vienna in March.

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While Silicon Valley still dictates headlines of tech start-ups at the billion dollar end of the scale, our increasingly connected world has sprouted a number of other thriving start-up hubs, sometimes in places you'd not expect to find them.

WSA's mission is simple enough – to award and promote the most creative entrepreneurs using digital innovation for a benefit to society – and that in over 180 countries. In March 20-22, 2018 WSA will turn the city of Vienna into a truly global hub for digital innovation at the WSA Global Congress in Vienna. The session "*Local Innovation for System Transformation*" on March 21st will present Start-Up success stories outside of the west coast narrative.

From Santiago - a city which has garnered much praise from the start-up community lately- Carolina Rossi, author of the book "*Comunicación Estratégica: Siete casos para la reflexión*", will share her insights on Chile's start up scene: "*My focus is to make Chile a better Ecosystem for start-ups.*" Carolina has been a fundamental anchor of the growth of the start-up and entrepreneurial ecosystem on Latin America in this last decade. As founder as the first Chilean Carpooling company called Yebame, she is a lead member of Start-Up Chile. As WSA Expert she brings [5 top Chilean social start-ups](#) to the WSA Global Congress, who will receive their Awards on March 22nd.

Tech industry veteran and business angel Shinta Dhanuwardoyo, will share her insights on Indonesia's digital landscape. Since the inception of her first company [Bubu.com](#) in 1996, the award-winning entrepreneur has worked tirelessly to advance technology in the region: "*The start-up scene here just started probably four, five years ago. About 90 percent of our economy relies on small and medium enterprises, so for me social entrepreneurship in Indonesia must touch on this sector, finding a way to empower this sector.*"

Since now 15 years, the [World Summit Award](#) with its global network recognizes and connects digital social entrepreneurs with a focus on big societal impact, providing a platform to showcase their projects worldwide. At the WSA Global Congress in Vienna a diverse selection of inspirational speakers, high level representatives and most of all digital social start-ups from over 80 countries will meet, demonstrating that start-ups thrive in all corners of the world.

About the WSA

The World Summit Award (WSA) was founded in 2003 by Austria as part of the UN World Summit on Information Society as a global initiative to award local digital content with high social value and presents it worldwide. Through close cooperation with the United Nations agencies and strategic alignment with the UN SDGs, the WSA is a globally recognized quality seal for digital innovation.

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Media contact:

Manuela Wagner
Network Development & Communications, WSA
manuela@worldsummitawards.org
+43.660.630408.7