



MEDIA RELEASE

**Making The 'Covid Connectivity Boost' Accessible –
The WSA Top 40 Provide Smart Solutions Leaving No One Behind**

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The 'COVID connectivity boost' provides an excellent lever to accelerate the transition towards a climate-neutral, smart, and more inclusive world. The WSA Winners 2021 from 29 countries prove that content driven applications are enabling access to information, aside from bandwidth and high-tech.

Through the 'COVID connectivity boost', the number of people who have used the Internet surged to 4.9 billion in 2021 (ITU), from an estimated 4.1 billion in 2019. This comes as good news for global development. However, the ability to connect remains profoundly unequal.

Digital content has provided many handy solutions, be it for **access to information**, online learning, or healthcare. Nevertheless, digital means often are not as accessible and sustainable as they seem. **Selected from 380 nominations from 182 participating countries**, the **40 WSA Winners 2021** focus on the diversity of the user, striving to provide connectivity and access to everyone aside from high tech development.

WSA Winner eFlow Education from Lebanon, provides a platform for educators built to serve the most **vulnerable children in the local communities** suffering from **weak internet connectivity**, frequent blackouts, and poor digital skills.

Naa Sika from Ghana bridges the inclusivity gap for business owners in the informal sector. The micro-banking one-stop solution offers users simple money management solutions, insurance, and pension.

800M people in developing countries do not have reliable energy access. Okra Solar from Cambodia tackles the gap using advanced digital monitoring, billing, and mesh-grids to make rural electrification affordable. **The Okra pod offers 1.2kw of clean productive energy**, enabling households to enter the digital economy.

“The WSA Winners 2021 show the commitment to the UN SDGs and solving societies issues with smart content applications. Especially in a time of global crisis, we are obliged to think outside the box, create smart content solutions that hack gaps instead of creating more inequality. This year’s WSA Winners present a wonderful showcase of how digital means do not need a great bandwidth or the newest tech, they need the goodwill to provide usability for society as a whole.” WSA Chairman [Peter A. Bruck](#) states.

The WSA Winners 2021 will present their innovations at the WSA Global Congress, from March 22 -24, 2022. **The WSA Global Congress 2022 is a virtual international networking and learning event for those who are interested in the use of digital technology to achieve the UN SDGs.**

'In the wake of major social and political changes over the current pandemic, social entrepreneurs and digital innovators around the globe are taking bold steps to safeguard diversity, equity, and inclusion. Being a Member of the WSA Grand Jury, I have witnessed this first-hand. As became clear, there is no silver bullet. No single solution that can tackle the UN SDGs. Yet, in pushing ourselves to think outside the box and draw on the best empirical evidence that exists, the convening WSA applicants showcased promising

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evidence that we still have significant hope for the UN 2030 agenda. WSA Grand Jury process is the most democratic evaluation mechanism that is out there to compare and contrast Global Innovations representing all UN Member Countries.' **states WSA Grand Jury member and National Expert for Australia, Sachi Wickramage.**

About the WSA

The 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 present 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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