MEDIA RELEASE

FUTURISE DIGITAL – Digital solutions towards United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals

The 17th WSA Global Congress in Puebla, Mexico unleashing digital impact

(Puebla, June 3, 2023.) The WSA Global Congress as an international conference promoting the 45 international WSA winners, is currently held in Puebla, Mexico, and serves as a platform to explore, discuss, and exchange about innovative digital solutions and their societal impact.

"The WSA Global Congress is a catalyst platform to share learnings. It promotes an attitude of social awareness and how to look at the world, a global mechanism bringing together hidden champions and Nobel prize winners, international unicorns and neighborhood solutions, national governments and global citizens," WSA chairperson Peter A. Bruck states.

The winning solutions show an impressive variety, from unbridling access to citizens engagement around government and governance in Nigeria to an immersive, multi-sensory experience of Mexican art, from forest monitoring with space observation in Lithuania to the ordering logistics for small retailers in Namibia. The WSA Winners assembled for the final round of pitching during the conference in Mexico and were subsequently judged by an international panel of experts in the fields of innovation, technology, and local impact.

Out of the 45 winning solutions 8 Global Champions were announced at the WSA Award Ceremony in Puebla.

WSA Global Champions 2023

1. BindiMaps (AUS): The smartphone app helps to navigate unfamiliar indoor and precinct spaces. While BindiMaps provides convenience for able-bodied users, it is life-changing for those with accessibility needs. BindiMaps has the functionality to assist in the navigation of those with vision impairment and those who prefer wheelchair-accessible options.

2. Stymie (AUS): Stymie is an anonymous, online confidential harm reporting tool used in schools. Students can make notifications about all kinds of harm that may be happening to them or harm that they may know is happening to someone else. Schools allow students to use Stymie to help enhance their culture of care and to support their students to #saysomething without fear.

3. Khaana Chahiye (IND): During the first lockdown, to tackle the data gap, Khaana Chahiye used online forms to track and report hunger across the

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various clusters in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. This mechanism allowed volunteers, citizens, nonprofit organizations, and other community stakeholders, such as Teach For India fellows, to report hunger in their localities and neighboring areas. It also ensured that Khaana Chahiye optimized their operations based on the needs of communities.

4. Aloi (SGP): Aloi provides a low-cost SaaS solution to monitor the financing flow of informal sector business loans. Aloi is one of the first loan usage monitoring software built for emerging markets and specific to micro-business loans. It creates tailored vendor ecosystems to track loan use and helps lenders focus business loans on business investment.

5. Skooqs (NGR): Skooqs is an e-learning platform focused on providing African children with access to technology courses at a young age.
Skooqs provides democratic access to learning opportunities outside of children's traditional classroom while leveraging videos, online classes, and one-on-one tutors.

6. Teachers Lead Tech (LTU): Teachers Lead Tech unlocks the potential of primary school teachers and serves them in becoming confident, competent and creative in integrating various IT practices in their daily lessons, so fundamental informatics skills reach every child, despite their gender, location, and socioeconomic background. Within 14 months, the female-led Teachers Lead Tech team of education and technology experts impacted 44.000+ kids in their home country Lithuania and aims to reach 20 M kids globally by 2025.

7. Volunteer Circle (LBN): The Volunteer Circle makes volunteering accessible, targeted, and innovative. Their smart platform creates a marketplace for volunteering that turns talent and time into measurable impact on social, environmental, cultural, and economic levels.

8. Agricos (MEX): AGRICOS proposes precision agriculture, which aims to make a more productive crop field, collect valued and intelligent data and information to help to decision-makers and results in a greater profit margin.

Voices

Peter A. Bruck, WSA Chairperson

> "WSA follows the vision that digital and interactive media based on smart content, combined with the aspiration to high quality in terms of informational value and respect for human rights, are key to meet global challenges and to provide the right solutions – at a time when digital is misused to promote hate and fake news, to conduct cyberwars and online fraud, to individual isolation and social divides."

Olivia Salomón, *Secretary of Economy of the state of Puebla*

"The event aims to recognize and reward those individuals and organizations that work tirelessly for the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, which positions Puebla at an international level."

Sachi Wickramage, *WSA National Expert Australia*

"During the WSA Global Congress in Mexico, I drew attention to the pressing issue of digital accessibility, highlighting how it's a challenge not just for developing nations, but even for developed ones like Australia. Our journey to bridge the digital divide has only just begun, and it requires collective, sustained efforts.

We have innovative solutions like BindiMaps and Stymie that are paving the way in Australia, proving that irrespective of the technical complexity, technology can be harnessed to make the world more accessible.

As the National Expert for WSA Australia, a member of the WSA Grand Jury, and a member of the WSA Board of Directors, I implore us all to realize the immense power and opportunity we have as digital entrepreneurs. Let's come together to build an inclusive, digitally transformed future, not only for Australia but for the entire world."

Beatriz Manrique Guevara, *Secretary of Environment, Sustainable Development and Land Management of the state of Puebla*

"Puebla has a serious commitment to technological innovation and sustainable development for environmental regeneration. The UNESCO Creative City of Design is renowned for its commitment to creativity-led development & has a thriving ecosystem for creative entrepreneurs."

About the WSA Global Congress program

In its 3 days program, WSA Global Congress combines inspiring keynotes, innovation shots by social entrepreneurs from all regions of the world, interactive workshops, and the pitches of the 45 WSA winning teams 2022.

FUTURISE CLIMATE focuses on behavioral change of people in mobility and energy, creating smart cities.

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FUTURISE DIGITAL GAPS lowers divides on all levels, not just access but also knowledge and skills, competencies and abilities.

FUTURISE DEMOCRACY addresses the rise of AI and the age of algorithms, advancing the values of democracies through quality journalism and a focus on human rights.

About WSA

The World Summit Awards (WSA) are a highly diverse and democratic award system that selects and promotes the world's best digital innovation with impact on society. Combining an ongoing series of international events and activities with a global network of start-ups, social entrepreneurs, mentors, jurors, speakers, experts, government leaders, academia and civil society, WSA is an international platform for innovative examples of how Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can impact society in a positive way. With 20 years of international experience, WSA is a quality seal for digital content with societal impact in over 182 participating countries.

WSA was initiated in 2003 in the framework of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (UN WSIS) held in Geneva. The declared aim of the conference was to make ICT accessible to everyone and to bridge the digital divide. WSA was established as a means to achieve this and have been working to put UN-WSIS goals and UN SDGs into action ever since.

Useful links:

Web: https://wsa-global.org/wsa-global-congress-2023/

Pressroom: https://wsa-global.org/wsa-global-congress-2023/pressroom-global-congress-2023/

Flickr: https://www.flickr.com/photos/worldsummitaward/albums/72177720308605051

Program:
https://www.canva.com/design/DAFYqTsGeAk/jCI0apV75Nmx7_vQuUzvSg/view?utm_content=DAFYqTsGeAk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink

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