CAREC University Startup Generator 2024 Regional Finals

Empowering Tomorrow's Innovators

August 28, 2024 | 16:00 - 18:00 (GMT+8)

Virtual Meeting

INTRODUCTION

The [Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program](#) is a partnership of 11 countries and development partners working together to promote development through cooperation, leading to accelerated economic growth and poverty reduction. The [Asian Development Bank (ADB)](#) serves as the secretariat to the program as part of its commitment to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia while promoting regional cooperation.

As part of the implementation of the [CAREC Digital Strategy 2030](#) endorsed by the CAREC Ministerial Conference in 2021, the CAREC Secretariat organized the "[CAREC University Start-up Generator 2024](#)" challenge program to encourage collaboration and engagement between university students in the region for improving the overall start-up ecosystem between June 01, 2024 to August 30, 2024. This program is designed to promote entrepreneurial spirit and innovative thinking as the students develop start-up ideas in a region-wide university-level competition.

The challenge engaged 202 teams (representing around 440 students) across ten CAREC countries. Over the course of 2 months, these teams made substantial progress in developing innovative solutions to address challenges related to Sustainable Development and Digital Innovation. Several training workshops were conducted by experts from the international start-up community to support this process.

This event served as the regional finals where Nine teams from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, the People's Republic of China, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan will present their solutions to a jury panel to identify the top Three winning teams.

Zoom link:
https://adb org.zoom.us/s/94981739434?pwd=bZYaF1m0AvHt8lTbIJWU2gmIuEiSaO.1
Passcode: meeting28

Agenda

Time	Activity
16:00 - 16:05	**Registration & Welcome (5min)**
	Moderator: **Mr. Naveed Z. Durrani,** Digital TA Team Lead, Consultant, ADB
16:05 - 16:10	**Opening Remarks (5min)**
	Speaker: **Ms. Dorothea Lazaro**, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration, CWRD, ADB
16:10 - 16:25	**Overview of the Challenge (5min)**
	Video
	Introduction of Jury Panel and Pitching Rules (10min)
	Moderator: **Ms. Shuqi Su**, Open Innovation Coordinator, ADB
	Jury Member: • **Dr. Khimji Vaghjiani** (Australian Innovator of the Year), Innovation and Entrepreneurship • **Mustafa Rasheed**, Angel Investor • **Madi Tazhikenov**, Managing Director, White Hill Capital • **Hira Wajahat**, Impact Strategy Consultant & Startup Ecosystem Advisor • **Michael Chon**, Investment Associate in ADB Frontier Fund, PSOD, ADB • **Samir Hajibayli**, Investment Associate, Caucasus Venture
16:25 - 17:55	**Pitching (80min)**
	Setup (1min) + Team pitch (3min) + Q&A and feedback (3min)
	Moderator: **Ms. Shuqi Su**, Open Innovation Coordinator, ADB
	Speakers: 9 finalist teams (Please find project description in Appendix)
	• **AgroConnect** • **AquaPur** • **Filtresha** • **Infograph** Intermission (5min) • **Louq** • **Msphera** • **Nurture Nest** • **Park Lama** • **Valor**
	General Comments from the Jury (10min)
17:55 - 18:00	**Closing (5min)**
	Speaker: **Mr. Khalid Umar,** Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration, CWRD, ADB

Appendix

Product Name	Description	Country
AgroConnect	A hub connecting farmers and buyers with agricultural market data, real-time information, and logistic solutions.	Uzbekistan
AquaPur	Energy-saving seawater desalination membrane	People's Republic of China
Filtresha	Grade 1 Filter papers used in qualitative analysis and scientific research	Pakistan
Infograph	Tool to simplify research	Kyrgyzstan
Louq	Louq, a sustainable startup transforming Textile waste into bricks for interior design and decoration purposes	Pakistan
MSphera	Secure ecosystem for Smart home device	Turkmenistan
Nurture Nest	Children development app for parents	Pakistan
Park Lama	Park Lama is a B2G FinTech startup specializing in parking solutions for major European cities.	Azerbaijan
Valor	An app to help Tajik students quit smoking by breaking an addiction through cognitive- behavioural therapy tools and AI CAT assistant.	Tajikistan