

MEDIA RELEASE

## **FUTURE DIGITAL CHANGE MAKERS ON STAGE AT WSA SOCIAL INNOVATION CONGRESS IN SINGAPORE**

**SINGAPORE, 7/1/2016. UN-based World Summit Awards wraps up another edition of presenting the world's top digital content for changing society in Singapore. 480 attendees, 32 international speakers and over 98 social entrepreneurs joined together from June 29 – July 1, 2016**

The [WSA Social Innovation Congress 2016](#) held in Singapore wrapped up a successful award edition of the world's top digital content for changing society. With 480 attendees, 32 international speakers and 98 social entrepreneurs present, this 3 days event offered in depth perspectives and best practices of digital innovation for an impact on society and honoured the investment in and deployment of digital innovation creating sustainable social change and impact worldwide.

During the 3 days Congress in Singapore, the [selected best](#) of digital start-ups, young entrepreneurs and distinguished experts from around the globe offered outstanding examples and insights of how digital technologies drive the United Nations agenda for the [Sustainable Development Goals \(UN SDG's\)](#).

**Zikry Kholil, Cofounder & Global Executive Officer at Incitement, Malaysia**, inciting the crowd with his **workshop "Building a Tribe that Matters"**, states: *"Being part of this stellar team of Grand Jurors, phenomenal delegates and thought leaders of the world, I learned a lot, but making new connections through the platform was the greatest take away. I look forward to the future for more opportunities to add more value to the WSA Saga."*

**Mexican WSA winner Karlo Rodriguez from Grillo**, an affordable, easy-to-use device that directly connects residents in Mexico with the governments' earthquake early warning infrastructure, **adds**: *"WSA is an unique event where you can meet social entrepreneurs from all over the world, make interesting connections and create friendships for life, it's not just an award, it's the chance to meet people working on things capable of making the world a better place."*

In his welcoming speech **Guest of Honour Dr. Janil Puthucheary, Minister of State for the Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Education, Singapore pointed out**: *"Since its launch in 2003, [...] this forum has grown into an international platform for entrepreneurs, ICT experts, venture capitalists, investors and governments from all over the world to make a social impact through digital innovation. [...] This is an exciting time for social innovation. Technology has changed the world. It has created many new opportunities in all sectors – business, finance and healthcare to name a few. But at the same time, it has also disrupted traditional businesses and fundamentally transformed jobs and economies. [...]"*

**H.E. Ahmad Alhendawi, the United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Youth adds**: *"Already, there are 10 billion mobile connections, more than the 7.2 billion people on earth. This striking projection begs the question of what else we might achieve in the next five, ten or fifteen years at the hands of digital innovation. This is why being here at the World Summit Awards in Singapore is so energizing. Recognizing the critical role of digital innovation and its ability to create sustainable social change and positive global impact, the World Summit Awards could not occur at a more opportune time."*

**Prof. Peter A. Bruck, Chairman of the World Summit Award Board of Directors concludes**: *"The WSA Social Innovation Congress is the impressive showcase of products from all United Nations member states that make a difference and therefore have been selected by the WSA Jury of global experts from 40 countries. The World Summit Award addresses the social impact of ICT in the context of the UN focus on making the world sustainable and to create a true knowledge society."*

## WORLD SUMMIT AWARDS

c/o ICNM – International Center for New Media  
Leopoldskronstrasse 30 | 5020 Salzburg | Austria  
+43-660-6304087 | office@worldsummitawards.org

[www.worldsummitawards.org](http://www.worldsummitawards.org)

[www.facebook.com/worldsummitaward](https://www.facebook.com/worldsummitaward)



Hosted by the Creative Alliance Group Singapore, the event showcased digital innovation from across 178 countries in eight main categories covering a range of key economic, social and business areas, spanning issues from commerce and government to environment, health and education. Focusing on originality, diversity and creative content, the 40 winning teams and 8 Global Champions were selected by a jury panel of subject-matter experts within the framework of the United Nations' World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) and represented 25 UN member states from South East Asia, Europe, South America, Africa and the Middle East.

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*The [WSA Social Innovation Congress](#) offers in depth perspectives and best practices of digital innovation for an impact on society and honours the investment in and deployment of digital innovation creating sustainable social change and impact world-wide. During the 3 days Congress in Singapore, the [selected best of digital start-ups](#), young entrepreneurs and distinguished experts from around the globe offer outstanding examples and insights of how digital technologies drive the United Nations agenda for the [Sustainable Development Goals \(UN SDG's\)](#).*

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### **About the WSA**

WSA is conducted within the framework of the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2003-2025, mandated by the 2005 WSIS Plan of Action and executed in collaboration with UN organisations such as UNESCO, UNIDO, UNCTAD and ITU. By building on a global network of national experts, non-governmental groups, government offices and other professional associations, WSA offers quality content and innovative apps from 178 UN-member states and sustains a global movement for sustainable digital solutions.

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### **Media Contact World Summit Award:**

Ms. Manuela Wagner, MSc.

Network Development and Communications

Email: [Manuela@worldsummitawards.org](mailto:Manuela@worldsummitawards.org)