



TEAM AFRICAN YOUNG INNOVATOR (A.Y.I), WINNERS OF
HULT PRIZE @ UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA, 2017

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

HULT PRIZE @ UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA

2017-2018

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HULT PRIZE AT UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA – CAMPUS DIRECTOR



Introduction

University of Rwanda was confirmed as a Host of Hult Prize late October, 2016; In November, 2017 the competition was coming to Rwanda for the second time.

The Hult Prize, in partnership with the United Nations, is the world's largest students' competition for budding social entrepreneurs, and every year challenges college and university students to put their time, talent, and innovative ideas towards solving the most pressing global problems, together with their peers. From the tens of thousands of applications received every year, one winning team receives USD 1 million in seed capital, as well as mentorship and advice from the international business community and one team in each Country (which has National program) receives 30,000 US Dollars as start up seed and a chance to compete for the final competition at the United Nations Headquarter after the accelerator in the biggest United Kingdom (UK) business university.



Judges, Organizing Team and students from all colleges of University of Rwanda



Preparations

The preparations started by selecting an organizing team that would help in the preparations of the competition. The team was made of students from the University of Rwanda in Nyarugenge, Huye, Gikondo, Nyagatare, Remera and Busogo Campuses.

Various Marketing Strategies were used to spread the word about the competition, which included Passing through classes before lectures, using posters, using social media, held more than 10 info sessions conducted in different campuses of University of Rwanda.

Judges

We are very much thankful to our judges who helped in selecting of the great ideas, mentoring teams and ensuring they come up with good business ideas. They were from Ministry of youth, Back Home opportunity Network, K-Lab and other companies with expertise in Hult Prize challenge of this year.



Some judges pictures



Use of Social Media

Some of the Media companies were also our partners in spreading the word and raising awareness of Hult Prize at University of Rwanda.





Pre-selection

The Pre-selection event and final pitching competition took place on 22nd December, 2017 on before noon and the other afternoon. A total 54 Teams registered one of 3-4 students were able to pitch their business/Innovative ideas in front of the Judges in Hult Prize Competition. Teams from Nyagatare, Busogo, Huye, Gikondo, Remera and Nyarugenge Campuses managed to present their ideas. Teams came **up with Social innovative enterprise ideas in these 6 dimensions; Connectivity, mobility, Health, Agriculture, Water and education** to impact the lives of 10 million people in 5 years anywhere in the world by harnessing the power of Energy. Business ideas ranged from Mobile Apps, Biogas, Digital based solutions, among many others.



6 Top Teams with the best ideas were selected by a panel of 12 Judges to proceed to the finals where 3 teams were selected starting from the Winning team, Second place and the Third place.

Finalists round

Among the 6 final teams, they have pitched in final oncampus pitching session where the top 3 team were selected ranging from the winning team, second place and the Third place.





Final Round Pictures



Some Organizing Team Members



Group Photo (Judges& organizing team)

Top 3 Teams

1st Place (Winning Team) - Team **African Young innovators** introduced electronic device that would help in the operation of public transportation to assist in queue management systems.

2nd Place-Fine Energy Group, a group which is a leading objective to Sustainable Development Goals for Energy

3rd Place - CAJE EDU-ROOM, Educational room as a solution for the lack of electricity in sub-Saharan Schools and students in refugee camps and scam areas.

What Next?

This should not only stop at being a competition, these brilliant and amazing ideas can be great solutions if implemented. We will welcome the support of various stakeholders to enable the top 3 teams to implement their ideas and make them a reality in Rwanda. In partnership with the National Program, there will be the meeting with the stakeholders so that they can invest in these Ideas as also the team are preparing for the National Program to Win 30,000 Us dollars as start up Seed.

Furthermore, the competition does not stop here. The winning team has secured a place in the Regional finals slated March 2018. The regional finals take place in 15 host cities (Boston, San Francisco, London, Dubai, Shanghai, Toronto, Mexico city, Quito, Bogota, Melbourne, Lagos, Nairobi, Cairo, Tunisia, Kuala Lumpur and



Singapore next March). 2 teams from University of Rwanda, will be representing the University of Rwanda in Regional Semi-Final, one in Nigeria-Lagos and the other in Kenya-Nairobi

We need to secure their flight tickets and stay during the 3 days stay in regional Semi-Final. This is the only way we can guarantee these teams have a chance at the 1 Million Dollar grand prize.

Challenges

- Lack of financial support during the preparations and during the competition: Due to lack of financial support, the competition was almost entirely run on the organizing committee money.
- Delayed response from major stakeholders and late confirmation from Hult Prize Headquarter.
- Given the fact that teams were from all over the campuses of the university, some teams were not able to attend info sessions, or training opportunities provided.
- Lack of enough knowledge of the challenges facing the power of energy in Rwanda and the region.
- Delayed response from some Universities authorities even if we had limited time.

Recommendations

- The Hult Prize being the first version of its kind at the University of Rwanda and in Rwanda has shown so much potential and if such a competition can be invested in, we can witness amazing and stunning innovations from students solving some of the toughest challenges in our society.
- Given the interest that was shown by students from all over the country in different Campuses of the University of Rwanda, and also other Universities requesting to be part of the competition, major stakeholders in the energy field could take this opportunity to bring together brilliant young people to create a bigger competition, where students can come up with solutions specific to challenges faced by harnessing the power of energy in Rwanda.
- We invite all other major stakeholders to take part in such initiatives, to support young people working to create solutions for major problems in our society and viable businesses.

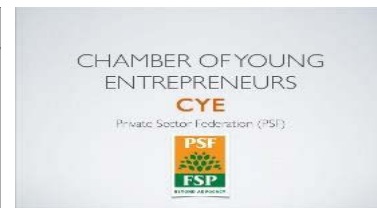


Organizing Committee

The event was made possible by a dedicated and hard working committee; it couldn't have been happened without them. They have invested they time, effort and financial to make the event more a success.

MUHOZA Christine (**Nyagatare Campus Coordinator**), UMUTONI Ange (**Huye Campus Coordinator**), ISHIMWE Eric Josue (**Gikondo Campus Coordinator**), MUYOBOKE Aimable (**Busogo Campus Coordinator**), MUSABIMANA Hirwa Elise (**Remera Campus Coordinator**), NISHIMWE Joyeuse, TUYISHIME Patrick, RWAGASORE Prince, NDAYISHIMIYE Jean Batiste, UMUBYEYI Benise Raissa, NSENGIMANA Pierre Damien, Innocent NSHIMIYIMANA and HATEGEKIMANA SENGGA Serge.

Finally, special thanks to all our supporters and partners that helped us make this competition happen.



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