MEDIA RELEASE

Digital solutions with social impact – meet the 9 WSA Global Champions 2021

Salzburg, March 25, 2021. Social entrepreneurs and ICT Experts from 184 countries met virtually at the WSA Global Congress (March 22-24,2021). 45 social tech entrepreneurs had 3 minutes to pitch their creative and innovative solutions and were evaluated by an international expert jury.
On Wednesday evening the 9 WSA Global Champions have been announced at the virtual WSA ceremony.

Digital inclusion, education and innovative solutions fighting the pandemic concern us all. The WSA Global Champions show how digital tools can help to solve real problems and how purpose driven entrepreneurs use their creativity to improve society all around the world.

At the WSA Global Congress 2021, social innovation enthusiasts from 184 countries exchanged ideas and best practices under the motto 'Connect4Impact' - Digital solutions for the UN SDGs'. Out of 600 applications worldwide, 9 social tech startups were awarded as WSA Global Champions. Their solutions not only drive the achievement of the UN SDGs, but also show that digital creativity can make a positive impact on society.

Easy Laws from Lebanon, a free mobile app and website that explains laws in everyday language, giving people access to legislation from a citizen's rather than a legalistic perspective, enabling real citizen participation.

The **Chinese CORONA AI** is designed for real-time medical screening during the Corona pandemic, to monitor patients without having to interact with them, protecting medical personal and patients alike.

Magrid from Luxembourg is a language-independent pedagogical program in Luxembourg for the development of children's early visual-spatial and mathematical abilities, removing language barriers for children!

Beewise from Israel is an AI-based robotic beehive that monitors bees 24/7 using computer vision, precision robotics and AI, Beewise identifies and meets the needs of bees in real time, while reversing the trend to bee colony collapse.

Wheel the world from Chile is an accessibility travel platform from Chile for people with special needs, providing more than 500 million potential travellers with disabilities, using automated emails and system integration with all the information required to satisfy traveller needs.

M4JAM from South Africa links jobbers with organisations needing micro-tasks completed, enabling people most in need and connecting start-ups, SMEs or big business, NGOs and governments, to connect directly with rural and peri-urban communities.

Übank from Chile is a digital savings that promotes habits of incremental saving to improve financial resilience regardless of economic status, giving over 200 million people in Latin America access to a new culture of saving.

WelcoMe from the UK is a low-cost web-based service enabling any person with a disability to forewarn participating businesses of their visit and special needs, ensuring awareness and ease of customer experience.

ConnectHear from Pakistan is a VRS application with interpretation services for the deaf in Pakistan, working with local governments to standardize the profession with private certification programs, giving the deaf a voice by normalizing sign language literacy.

Prof. Peter A. Bruck, Chairman of the World Summit Award Board of Directors states: *"You can only gain knowledge if you have access to good content. WSA is an initiative collecting socially minded entrepreneurs, that focus on quality digital content and innovation. The 9 global champions only show a small selection of what social innovations can be achieved worldwide with digital, content-based solutions. The worldwide network of WSA and the Global Champions of 2021 show that action, not fear, leads to avoiding suffering and alleviating need. This results in sustainably positive transformations in our society and a significant advancement towards the UN SDGs."*

About the WSA

With its worldwide, multi-stakeholder community of social entrepreneurs and digital innovation enthusiast, WSA focusses on international knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the contribution to the UN SDGs. Founded in 2003 as part of the UN World Summit on Information Society, WSA awards yearly 45 outstanding best practice local digital content with a high societal value. WSA spans its community in over 185 countries, a network unique in its passion and reach, holding close cooperation with UN agencies, academia and the private sector alike.

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