

Press Release

For immediate release

Foundation for Youth Social Entrepreneurship
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Foundation for Youth
Social Entrepreneurship

4 young entrepreneurs from Cambodia selected for regional youth entrepreneurship fellowship

2009-11-10; Tuesday. Hong Kong. **4 young entrepreneurs from Cambodia** have been selected to join the annual Paragon fellowship (previously Asia Pacific Future 100) 2009.

The Foundation for Youth Social Entrepreneurship (FYSE) announced today **100 inspiring young entrepreneurs and social Changemakers** from **10 countries in Asia Pacific** that have been selected for the **annual Paragon fellowship**, a Paragon being a model of excellence for others to aspire towards.

Allison Hoffman, founder of the Pari Project; Chab Vannkunn, founder of Jasmin Lodge; Kristin Hansen, founder of Soria Moria and Rithy Thul, founder of ProCambodia, have been selected out of 560 applicants from the region to join the Paragon fellowship 2009 including fellows from Indonesia, India, China, Pakistan and Nepal.

As many countries struggle to create enough jobs for young people, youth entrepreneurship has emerged as an attractive alternative to widespread unemployment, as it integrates unemployed youth into the labor market and tackles poverty through the creation of jobs.

In order to support young entrepreneurs who have dared to stride out, FYSE selects 100 young entrepreneurs and social Changemakers annually for a one-year fellowship in which they **benefit from regional networking, leadership development, mentorship from an extensive network of professionals and entrepreneurs, capacity building and access to finance**. To **inspire more young people** FYSE will profile Paragon fellows widely through an extensive network of more than 50 partners in Asia Pacific and multiple online channels as positive role models in order to inspire more young people to consider entrepreneurship as a career choice. The website will not only provide young people with **inspirational role models**, but also provide them with information on how to take the next step towards turning their ideas into reality.

“We need to provide more young successful entrepreneurs as positive role models to our youth in order to inspire them to take actions. Many young people in Asia Pacific dream of being an entrepreneur, but they hesitate to take action because they don’t know any young entrepreneurs who have already succeeded in doing so. The Paragon fellowship aims to change that”, says Ms Andrea Krause, Executive Director of FYSE. “While in Europe and the US young social Changemakers and entrepreneurs are celebrated in the media and society, we need to move forward in Asia to celebrate and support our young entrepreneurs, as they can play a tremendous role in creating jobs and in contributing significantly to the economic and social development of our countries.”

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This year fellows represent 10 countries including India, Indonesia, China, Pakistan, Nepal and Singapore and an astonishing **65 percent of the fellows started social ventures or NGOs**. As more and more young people want to use their education to make a difference in their society, starting a social venture or NGO enables them to tackle challenges they are passionate about with a business mind. "I am an entrepreneur because I saw a social need that had to be addressed immediately and I felt that I could adequately address it by taking it up institutionally", says Indian Piyush Tewari founder of the Save Life Foundation. Ejaj Ahmad, founder of the Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre agrees, "I am an entrepreneur because I wanted to change my society and for me social entrepreneurship provided the perfect platform."

The full profiles of all fellows are available at <http://www.paragon100.asia>

About the Foundation for Youth Social Entrepreneurship

The Foundation for Youth Social Entrepreneurship (FYSE) is a regional organization inspiring and empowering young people to make innovative suggestions and actions to create positive change and real impact in their communities, their countries and Asia. FYSE's major initiative is the Vision: Asia's young people are inspired and empowered to change their community for good.

Fellows 2009/2010

Cambodia



"I am an entrepreneur because I believe the old paradigm of charity and aid work needs to make way for the adoption of business-like approaches within the development sector."

Name: Allison Hoffman
Age: 26
Venture: The Pari Project
Focus: Consulting
Website <http://www.thepariproject.com>



Name: Chab Vannkunn
Age: 28
Country: Cambodia
Venture: Yasmine Lodge
Focus: Hospitality
Website: <http://www.jasminelodge.com>



"I am an entrepreneur because I follow my dreams."

Name: Kristin Hansen
Age: 30
Venture: Soria Moria Boutique Hotel
Focus: Hospitality
Website: <http://www.thesoriamoria.com>



"I am an entrepreneur because I want to live on my own strength, create lucks for myself, and provide jobs to people who needed it."

Name: Rithy Thul
Age: 23
Venture: ProCambodia
Focus: Consulting
Website: <http://www.procambodia.com>