Dear friends,

We are pleased to announce our seven winners from this year’s Young Social Entrepreneurs (YSE) programme.

**YSE Pitching for Change 2018**

After a valuable eight-month programme comprising an intensive four-day workshop and study visit in Singapore, as well as a customised mentorship scheme under dedicated mentors, the YSE 2018 programme culminated in the *Pitching for Change* event on 19 October. 14 shortlisted social enterprises re-grouped in Singapore to present their plans to build a scalable and sustainable social impact business. After a challenging deliberation process to select the top teams, our judges awarded seven social enterprises with up to SGD20,000 each to help them take their enterprises and ideas to greater heights. They will also continue to receive mentorship from industry professionals to guide them in their growth as changemakers. Congratulations to our seven winners!

1. **Cricket One** produces sustainable and affordable future food from crickets in Vietnam.
2. **Junior Art Lab** from Singapore empowers children from less privileged backgrounds using art and design to nurture confidence and creative thinking.
3. **Khemdro Dairy**, a cooperative value chain that increases the income of dairy farmers in Bhutan.
4. **Kon Chhlat** provides undernourished children in Cambodia with affordable and high nutrition food.
5. **Musimpanen**, an agricultural enterprise in Indonesia focused on plantation, land management, and the transformation of neglected commodities.
6. **The Kisan Union** with co-founders from India and Singapore, provides informational accessibility through technology to rural India.
7. **TreeDots** from Singapore reduces food wastage by linking businesses to facilitate the use of unsold food.

The Kisan Union impressed the panel with their pitch to make information accessible to rural India through mobile kiosks.

Taste-test – The judges tried cold-pressed juices made from “ugly” fruits discarded by retailers and wholesalers, produced by Singaporean social enterprise Ugly Food.
As part of Pitching for Change, YSE participants also participated in a unique tea appreciation session facilitated by deaf TeaRistas from a young but successful social enterprise Hush TeaBar. After a nerve-wracking day preparing for their pitches, participants got the chance to slow down with a cup of tea and learnt how to express themselves in silence. Anthea Ong, founder of Hush TeaBar and Nominated Member of Parliament, also shared the ups and downs of her own start-up story as an inspiration to our young founders.

**YSE Study Visit and Group Mentorships 2018**

This year’s YSE participants had the opportunity to meet several other distinguished social entrepreneurs and understand various business models in Singapore through their study visit in June. Together with the three winners from our YSE Overseas Workshops in Mumbai, Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur held in 2017, the YSE 2018 shortlisted teams spent an enriching week understanding the growing social enterprise ecosystem in Singapore. The international group of young changemakers from Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, United States and Vietnam strengthened their friendship over dragon boating and latte art, and walking tours to Tiong Bahru and Geylang!
Through a panel session hosted by the National Youth Council, YSE participants met other young leaders making a difference in society and learnt more about the support that the Singapore government is providing for youths to excel.

Besides experiential learning visits, the YSEs also continued to work on their financial modelling in a second workshop conducted by trainers from Unframed. They also reviewed their Theory of Change and funding options in workshops conducted by SIF partner AVPN.

While in Singapore, participants took the chance to meet with their local mentors and gain consultation through the two Group Mentorship sessions held in June and October.

YSEs got the chance to work one-on-one with their own mentors and receive advice from other mentors during the Group Mentorship sessions arranged by SIF.

To our funders, mentors, judges, speakers, alumni and partners, we wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the growth of these young social entrepreneurs and the success of the YSE 2018 programme! We look forward to embarking on the YSE’s 10th anniversary with you next year, creating more meaningful impact and providing greater support for young changemakers across communities. YSE 2019 applications are open until 9 December, find out more here!
YSE 2018 shortlisted teams take a final group shot with SIF Governors, judges, mentors and staff at Pitching for Change that concluded their eight-month Young Social Entrepreneurs (YSE) journey. The participants now join a 900-strong international alumni of young changemakers!

Warmest wishes,
SIF Good Business Team