Dear friends,

On 24 March, 16 social enterprises represented by 38 young changemakers from Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the United States of America and Vietnam were shortlisted for the eight-month Young Social Entrepreneurs (YSE) programme.

They seek to better the world through a wide range of ideas. Some of these ideas include using technology to facilitate ethical work arrangements for domestic workers in Southeast Asia, providing e-governance and basic health services to the rural poor in India, reducing food wastage and using IT skills to nurture creative confidence in children from disadvantaged backgrounds in Singapore, as well as improving the livelihoods of fishermen and farmers in Indonesia through sustainable technology.

Over the next few months, they will go through a mentorship scheme with leading business professionals and experienced entrepreneurs, an experiential study visit in Singapore and regroup in October to pitch for up to SGD20,000 each to launch or scale their social enterprises.

98 participants from 47 social enterprises, spread across 12 countries and territories, were admitted into the four-day YSE 2018 workshop from 21 to 24 March in Singapore. Partners from the academic, social, public and corporate sectors in the regional social enterprise ecosystem interacted with our participants, imparted various skillsets and shared their experience through training sessions, business clinics and panel discussions.

Ms Jean Tan, Executive Director of the SIF, Mr Lian Wee Cheow, Governor of the SIF, Ms Elim Chew, Special Advisor to the YSE Programme and the YSE 2018 Workshop Judges welcoming the 38 youths from 16 shortlisted social enterprise teams, who will be joining the eight-month YSE programme and a global network of young changemakers.
Mr Jonathan Chang, Executive Director, Lien Centre for Social Innovation sharing with participants about driving meaningful social innovative ideas and the importance of impact measurement.

The hands-on Design Innovation workshop conducted by the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), where the YSEs learnt to create and test innovative ideas through a human-centred approach.

Ogilvy & Mather conducted a workshop on Branding and Digital Marketing to help YSEs bring their brand to life and reach the right audience through suitable marketing channels.

YSE participants learning to work together as teams and become effective communicators in the interactive Pitching for Impact workshop session.

Business professionals and MBA graduates mentored the social enterprise teams on their business model and presentations.

YSE team presenting their social enterprise ideas and business plans to judges from the business, impact investment, social entrepreneurship and philanthropy sectors.
Block-Change: Blockchain for Social Change. From left: Mr Vinay Mohan, Director of ConsenSys Asia Pacific, Mr Nicholas Ng, Head of Business Development, Impact Investment Exchange (IIX), Ms Karen Teoh, COO of Kommerce, Mr Dorjee Sun, COO of Santiment.net and Mr Pramodh Rai, Founder of Jugnuu and CPO of Funding Societies (Moderator).

YSEs from various nationalities working together to discover the various co-operative stations around Singapore.

Teamwork in completing their missions at the Runninghour Co-operative located at the Singapore Sports Hub.
YSE 2018 workshop would not have been possible without our partners, speakers and judges who shared valuable resources, expertise and time with the participants over the four days.

We thank our partners and YSE alumni for making the YSE 2018 workshop a success. We are on the lookout for well-wishers, donors and volunteers. If you wish to contribute to the programme to inspire, equip and enable youth to lead sustainable enterprises that create positive social change, please contact us at yse@sif.org.sg.

Warmest wishes,
Singapore International Foundation