



Organiser: Young Makers & ChangeMakers | Co-organiser: Cyberport | Lead sponsor: Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Hong Kong girls won grand prize in Silicon Valley for making innovative mobile app that helps dementia patients and caregivers

Hong Kong – September 11, 2017 A team of five Hong Kong girls won the Grand Prize (Junior Division) for their innovative Dementia Care Companion mobile app solution at the 2017 Technovation World Pitch Summit that took place last month in Silicon Valley. Hong Kong's top Junior team from Diocesan Girls' School was selected from 1,100 teams worldwide.

Katrina Liu Tin Nam, Amanda Looi Nga Man, Sharon Ng Yan Laam, Celine Mung Hoi Yan and Natalie Tsang Sum Yee created a mobile app that provides patients with personalised training and games to help them maintain their abilities to interact with loved ones, while also allowing family members to monitor patient progress through game statistics.

Technovation is the world's largest technology entrepreneurship challenge for girls aged 10-18 to encourage girls to identify and solve a problem in their community that corresponds with one of six United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals through creating mobile app solutions. Hong Kong's top Senior team from St Paul's Convent School was a world semi-finalist and also joined the World Pitch Summit held at Google's Mountain View headquarters as a Visiting Team sponsored by Alibaba Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund.

The result is particularly remarkable because this is the first year that Hong Kong youth participated in this global challenge, which is the result of the initiative of Young Makers & ChangeMakers founder and Technovation Hong Kong Regional Ambassador Brian Tang Wha-Li.

"Technovation HK: #GirlsMakeTech is an innovative model for encouraging and supporting girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), connecting them with STEM skills and knowledge for social improvement," said Mr Nicholas Yang, Secretary for Innovation and Technology of the HKSAR. "In an Internet-driven economy, increasing STEM participation is a core component of our ecosystem. The Government will continue to inspire the younger generation to have more exposure in innovation and technology and attract more young people to pursue STEM disciplines and careers."



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Excited Hong Kong team being announced as the winners of the 2017 Technovation Grand Prize (Junior Division).

To augment Technovation’s online curriculum to better support Hong Kong girls, Young Makers & ChangeMakers created the TechnovationHK: #GirlsMakeTech programme to provide connected learning to real-world talent and local opportunities through workshops led by experienced practitioners for the girls to learn to ideate, prototype, create and pitch their an app solution made using MIT’s AppInventor visual programming language. In the programme’s inaugural year, nearly 300 girls from over 40 schools across Hong Kong participated under the guidance of more than 100 industry and teacher mentors. Hong Kong girls were also given the opportunity to make field trips to cutting-edge workplaces such as Google HK, Commonwealth Bank Innovation Lab, INFINITI Lab and WeWork, as well as attend a bootcamp at The University of Hong Kong.

The two top Hong Kong teams were selected from 22 teams from local and international schools at the Hong Kong Pitch Finals and Celebration co-organised by Cyberport in May.

“The brilliant results achieved by the Hong Kong students show not only their innovative capacity in using technology, but concern for others and the society at large,” commented Mr Kevin Yeung, Secretary for Education of HKSAR. “The Education Bureau will continue to nurture students with talent and interest in STEM. It is hoped that more young people will pursue a career in related fields to support the development of innovation and technology.”



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The two teams representing Hong Kong at the Technovation World Pitch Summit at Google's Mountain View headquarters.

Healthtech was a big theme for many of the Hong Kong girls who created mobile apps to address junk food snacking, keeping fit and stress relief. Teams incorporated mobile phone GPS functionality to provide location access for the physically impaired and breastfeeding mothers, plastic waste clean-up organisers and to enable informed emergency medical decisions. They created platforms to help students access study materials, tutors and work experience, as well as for clothes recycling and food donation. Some of the other innovative ideas included Team T-Time's Walker app that links physical activity to charitable fundraising, and Team HKIS Dragons' Black Box app which addresses domestic helper safety.

"I am delighted to see girls from Hong Kong taking part in and doing so well at the Technovation World Pitch Summit in Silicon Valley," said Kim Salkeld, Secretary-General to the Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development Fund. "Their app, which helps to address the rising challenge of dementia in this city, shows how young people can bring technology, creativity and compassion together for the benefit of society. I look forward to many more participants from Hong Kong in future years, and welcome the encouragement that the Technovation HK: #GirlsMakeTech programme by social enterprise Young Makers & ChangeMakers gives to Hong Kong young girls pursuing studies and careers in the fields of science and technology."



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Hong Kong girls created 22 app solutions that address local issues in education, environment, equality, health, peace and poverty, which culminated in the Hong Kong Pitch Finals and Celebration at Cyberport on 7 May 2017.

According to 13 year old Sharon Ng Yan Laam, “Winning this competition is an honor for us, and we will further develop this app by modifying bugs in the app and coding a better version of Dementia Care Companion.”

“The wonderful win by the Dementia Care Companion team shows the incredible potential of our Hong Kong girls,” said the Hong Kong organiser Brian Tang. “Other Hong Kong Finals awardees included girls from Belilios Public School, Good Hope School, Lok Sin Tong Ku Chiu Man Secondary School, Hong Kong International School, Nord Anglia, St. Paul’s Co-Education, The Harbour School, and West Island School. The sheer diversity of talent and dedication of all the girls and their industry and teacher mentors should be highly commended. I hope that these girls can serve as an inspiration to all our youth that they too can learn to use technology and innovate to improve our society, and at the same time prepare for the jobs of tomorrow.”

Ms Maria Lam, Chief Corporate Development Officer of Cyberport, said “We’re proud to witness young girls from Hong Kong achieving remarkable results in international technology competitions. Cyberport has been committed to nurture and inspire the next generation to be part of the digital technology industry. We will continue to organise and support diversified and inspiring events to springboard them to success.”

Students and mentors who are interested in participating in Technovation 2018 should pre-register at <http://technovationchallenge.org/> and follow Young Makers & ChangeMakers at <https://www.facebook.com/YoungMakers.ChangeMakers/> for updates regarding the Hong Kong-based programme. And supporters of #GirlsMakeTech can show their support by wearing T-shirts exclusively available via a crowdfunding campaign at <https://www.nextchapter.com.hk/campaign/technovationhk-girlsmaketech>



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About Young Makers ChangeMakers (YMCM)

Young Makers & ChangeMakers is an inclusive education platform and community to foster young maker mindsets, STEAM education and 21st century skills for the jobs of tomorrow. Since 2014, YMCM has organized Hong Kong's summer [MakerCamp](#), as well as young maker workshops in conjunction with [Hong Kong Maker Faire](#), [Star Wars Hour of Code](#), and the [Global Cardboard Challenge](#), in addition to its own signature mini Young Makeathons. As a multi-sectorial platform, YMCM has worked with many of Hong Kong's makerspaces (MakerBay, Dim Sum Labs, and MakerHive), universities (PolyU School of Design, CityU AppLab, and HKU), business innovation hubs (Cyberport, CoCoon, and WeWork), as well as schools and charities like [Teach4HK](#) to create an inclusive young maker curriculum and teacher training. YMCM partners with Google to expand its CS First Code clubs in Hong Kong. In 2017, YMCM created its TechnovationHK: #GirlsMakeTech programme that fostered technology entrepreneurship in girls across Hong Kong to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/YoungMakers.ChangeMakers

You can also see the following student-made videos to learn more about the pilot TechnovationHK: #GirlsMakeTech programme:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AG8ehJKS3gs&t=1s>;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NL9XemH310&t=2s>;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnwBcWoLtTQ>;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zqbTVnoUgU&t=11s>

About Cyberport

Cyberport is an innovative digital community with over 900 digital tech companies. It is managed by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, which is wholly owned by the Hong Kong SAR Government. With the vision to become a main force in developing the digital tech industry as a key economic driver of Hong Kong, Cyberport is committed to nurturing youth, start-ups and entrepreneurs to grow in the digital industry by connecting them to strategic partners and investors, driving collaboration with local and international business partners to create new opportunities, and accelerating digital adoption amongst SME and corporates.

Cyberport focuses on building key clusters of digital technology, namely FinTech, eCommerce, IoT/Wearables and Big Data/AI to foster the development of Hong Kong into a "Smart City". With a committed team of professionals providing all rounded value added services to support our digital community and an array of state-of-the-art tech facilities, Cyberport is the flagship for Hong Kong's digital tech industry.

For more information, please visit www.cyberport.hk



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Alibaba Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund

Alibaba Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund is a not-for-profit initiative launched by Alibaba Group in 2015. Our mission is to help Hong Kong and Taiwan-based entrepreneurs and young people realize their dreams and visions for their businesses and communities.

We are passionate about fostering the entrepreneurial spirit amongst young people. As such, we established in Hong Kong a HK\$1 billion fund and in Taiwan a NY\$10 billion fund to support entrepreneurs in both markets.

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