

Social Entrepreneurship to support the Development of Belt and Road Region and countries (2018)

The Government of China has undertaken a major initiative (Belt and Road Initiative) on the development of the Belt and Road region including the western and southern regions of China and the adjacent countries. This initiative involves developing regions of China and Belt and Road countries (Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan etc.). The Belt and Road projects mainly fund the infrastructure development of the Belt and Road by the Government of China in collaboration with Provincial /Local governments and Belt and Road countries. It is important to encourage and support collaborative entrepreneurship so that the people in the respective local areas and Belt and Road countries can utilize this infrastructure for the development of the region. The objective of this seed grant (across UNSW-Australia and SJTU-China) and was to help build a network of organizations including a the Belt and Road Province of China (Guangxi Province) and a Belt and Road Country (Bangladesh) with a view to build a major multi-country project.

Project leader Prof Pradeep Ray visited Sydney (Australia), Nanning (Guangxi province), Copenhagen (Denmark) and Oslo (Norway) and had e-meetings with potential partners in Spain, Thailand and South Asia during 2018 to develop the network. This grant objectives were finally achieved by successfully organizing a major international event called Entrepreneurship Week 2018 (EW2018) in UM-SJTU Joint Institute from Sept 4-7, 2018 that was attended by 115 delegates from 15 countries as per the table below:

Country of Origin	Speakers	Students	Others	All
Armenia	1	0	0	1
Australia	4	0	0	4
Bangladesh	5	9	1	15
China	15	23	19	57
Denmark	1	0	0	1
Finland	1	1	0	2
France	1	2	0	3
India	2	2	1	5
Indonesia	0	5	0	5
Japan	3	0	1	4
Korea	1	1	2	4
Malaysia	0	2	0	2
Pakistan	1	5	0	6
Thailand	0	0	3	3
USA	3	1	0	4
Total	37	51	27	115

First two days of EW2018 were focused on technology commercialization, and the next two days focused on technology based social entrepreneurship, especially mHealth, along the countries and regions under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Most importantly, the EW2018 discussions led to the formation of a major multi-country mHealth for Belt and Road Initiative involving twenty Investigators (both from academia and business) from nine countries including Australia, Bangladesh, China, Denmark, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, Spain and Thailand. It was decided to organize this major initiative into six projects (5 pillars #1-5 and umbrella #6) with at least one project leader as follows:

1. Robots for the Elderly
2. Drones for Disaster Management
3. Portable Health Clinic
4. Blockchain for Social Business
5. mHealth for Parkinsons Disease
6. Global Challenge (the umbrella project integrating the above five pillars)

On the last day, the leader for each project outlined the main objectives, list of partner members (countries), possible sources of grants and funding and expected results within one year and it was decided to meet in September 2019 in AIT, Thailand to make concrete progress on large multi-country grants. The team resolved that the first year results would be compiled into joint publications in 2019 for making a success of the grant proposals.