University of Dar es Salaam Annual Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge

UD-AIEC 2019

Background of the UD-AIEC 2019

Our experience engaging with Local Government Authorities (LGAs) have revealed that they play a major role in local economic development (LED) and have the overarching responsibility in providing an enabling environment for all their residents and businesses to prosper. Successful LED leads to creation of jobs, alleviation of poverty and the general improvement of quality of life. However there are a number of challenges for LED most of which could be perceived as opportunities for social or business entrepreneurship! **We know from both our practice and research efforts that effective LED needs to put meaningful youth participation at the forefront.** The important but serious problem is how to get the educated young people involved as champions in LED and employment creation?

For many years University of Dar es Salaam has been involved in initiatives that aim at developing entrepreneurial mindset of students as well as motivating them to start their own businesses after graduation. These efforts, while had done well in motivating students to see self-employment as a career option, most of the business ideas that were coming out were not that innovative, majority students are actually not able to turn the challenges facing the local community around them into business ideas.

As an attempt to motivate and develop youth champions who can engage in LED, the University of Dar es Salaam through its Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre is planning to organize an annual challenge of innovative ideas from students and graduates; the University of Dar es Salaam Annual Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge (UD-AIEC). The challenge aims at giving students/graduates a vital role to play in solving some of our economy's toughest challenges, starting in their own communities.

Overview of the UD-AIEC

The UD-AIEC aims to be a startup accelerator for impact entrepreneurship or business in development which brings together the students/graduates from UDSM to address and solve the Tanzanian economy's most pressing socio-economic challenges through pitching their ideas of possible solutions and motivating them to launch social enterprises and companies. This competition challenges young people to solve our nation's as well as global toughest challenges while empowering them to make money, do good and make life better for millions of people through the creation for profit businesses.

Eligibility

- UD-AIEC is open to ALL students/graduates from UDSM, this includes all undergraduate, graduate, and PhD programs. Students/graduates from outside UDSM are not eligible to compete.
- The students/graduates must form teams that must consist of three to six members, and may be formed across different schools and colleges. Projects with only one participant shall not be accepted.

UD-AIEC 2019 Theme

"Creating Youth employment by turning challenges into innovative business opportunities and startups"

UD-AIEC 2019 Focus

This year's ideas should come from challenges in the *Environmental issues, agriculture and energy* sectors.

UD-AIEC Calender

- January 19th 2019 launching
- March 1st to April 14th 2019: Registration of ideas
- Announcement of submissions selected for the semi final round 14th April 2019
- Training on pitching skills to the selected 18th April 2019
- Semi final round pitching 18th April 2019
- Final event and Announcement of winners: May 4th , 2019

The Challenge Process

The challenge shall require candidates to register their teams and ideas online

Screening of registered teams

- The registered teams and ideas will be screened by a team of judges to ensure that all conditions have been met.
- Only 20 teams will advance to second round (from expected 50 teams).
- Training of pitching skills will be done to this group

Semi final

- The top 20 teams will get to pitch in front of judges (made of academics and experienced development professionals from public and private sector institutions) will select 7 teams that will proceed to the finals

Final

- The seven teams will pitch and
- Three to five top ideas will receive awards in recognition of their achievements.