



“Innovation Weekend Grand Finale 2012”, The platform to support entrepreneurs who challenge world market will be held by SunBridge GV and Venture Now in Tokyo

On November 27, 2012, Tokyo Japan - The global seed accelerator SunBridge Global Ventures Inc. (Head office: Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo, Japan, President & CEO: Ikuo Hiraishi, henceforth “SunBridge GV”) and Venture Now, Inc. (Head office: Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan, CEO: Yasushi Takeuchi, henceforth “Venture Now”), the media specialized on Internet venture companies, have announced that they will hold “Innovation Weekend Grand Finale 2012” on December 4, 2012, at JIJI PRESS Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

“Innovation Weekend” was launched to serve as a platform to develop “global venture business originating from Japan”. It discovers promising entrepreneurs and creates opportunities to raise seed money and to receive various kinds of supports by linking them and investors. It was started in May, 2011, through the efforts of three main individuals - Ikuo Hiraishi of SunBridge Corporation (at the time, currently SunBridge GV); Yasushi Takeuchi who has investigated and reported the venture industry in Japan since 1998; and Kiyoshi Nishikawa who restarted the Netage.

“Innovation Weekend Grand Finale 2012” will have rich and useful contents including presentations by successful entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and seed accelerators from Japan and overseas, and business plan contest by promising startups, as a culmination of quarterly held Innovation Weekend.

Moreover, adding to the universal theme of “Go Global!”, a tagline “It’s not a joke!!” is set this year. We hope all the people who participate in Innovation Weekend can absorb the valuable stories and knowledge shared by the remarkable challengers who try expanding their business on a global scale, and also sense the possibility of global challenge.

Mr. Keith Teare will make a keynote on abundant stories about developing business on a global scale through the various positions as an incubator or as a serial entrepreneur. Previously he was co-founder of TechCrunch, and currently is CEO of just.me, a next generation SNS for coming mobile era born from Palo Alto based incubator "Archimedes Labs" established by him.

Furthermore, more and more challengers who aim to develop their business on a global scale will share their experiences to the challengers to be. Mr. Ray Grieselhuber, CEO & Founder of Ginzamarkets, Inc., is an alumnus of Y-Combinator and 500 startups in Silicon Valley, and has an experience of starting a company in Japan. From Japan, Mr. Taku Harada, CEO of Peatix Inc., is steadily gearing up to develop their business in the USA with his very international team.

In the pitch presentation part, being a feature of this event, the Grand Champion of Innovation Weekend 2012 will be chosen from the winners of quarterly held Innovation Weekend 2012, and the qualified public presenters. Ticket to international startup pitch contest held in Silicon Valley will be given to the grand champion by the organizers.

We hope that more and more people feel through this event that "global expansion" is a feasible dream that comes true. Thus, we will keep supporting and contributing to the activities that increase the population of global challengers.

[Event Overview]

Title:Innovation Weekend Grand Finale 2012 <http://innovation-weekend.jp/en/>

Date:13:30~20:30 Tuesday, 4th December 2012

Location:JIJI PRESS Hall (Ginza Tokyo)

Capacity:250~300

Fee:Pre-registration : General 6000 yen / Student 3000 yen

(On the day tickets: General 8000 yen / Student 4000 yen)

<http://innovation-weekend.jp/en/register/>

Organizer:SunBridge Global Ventures Inc./Venture Now, Inc.

Sponsor:

e-solutions, Inc.

Japan Venture Research Co., LTD.

CyberAgent Ventures, Inc.

Mitsui Fudosan Co., LTD.

Panasonic Corporation

*Innovation Weekend is supported by many sponsors. The list of sponsors can be found on the website below

<http://innovation-weekend.jp/en/partners/>

Media Sponsor:CNET Japan/IT media News

Theme:Go Global! - It' s not a joke!! -

Main Program:

[keynote]Keith Teare, CEO of just.me and former TechCrunch co-founder

[Talk Session]

Ray Grieselhuber, CEO & Founder, Ginzamarkets, Inc.

Taku Harada, CEO, Peatix, Inc.

[Panel of Seed Accelerators & Venture Capitalist]

Hironori Maeda, Managing Partner, Open Network Lab, Inc.

Soichi Kariyazono, Managing Partner, GLOBIS CAPITAL PARTNERS & Co.

Soichi Tajima, President & CEO, CyberAgent Ventures, Inc.

Tomohiro Ebata, Head of Business Development and Investment Director,Global Business Development Division, KDDI Corporation

Takao Ozawa, COO, YJ Capital Co.

Ikuo Hiraishi, CEO, SunBridge Global Ventures Inc.

[Innovation Weekend Live! Finale 2012 (Pitch)]

14 promising companies related to Internet business will make thier presentation. The list of pitch presenters can be seen on the website below.

<http://innovation-weekend.jp/en/speakers/>

To register : <http://innovation-weekend.jp/en/register/>

[Venture Now]

Since the establishment in December 1998, the early Internet age, Venture Now has found, interviewed and reported more than a thousand venture companies in a year, especially focused on the very early stages.

Company: Venture Now, Inc.

Location: 1st FL. Hatchery Shibuya, 14-1 Sakuragaoka, Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo, Japan

Established: 16th December, 1998

Capital: 10,000,000 yen

Representative: CEO Yasushi Takeuchi

Services: Publishing "Venture Now", a media specialized on Internet venture businesses

[SunBridge Global Ventures Inc.]

SunBridge Global Ventures supports young entrepreneurs following the three major trends of smartphones, social media and cloud global platform by providing them know-how cultivated in the past 10 years under the name of SunBridge Global Venture Habitat. Startups invested in so far include salesforce.com, Macromill, OKWave, ITMedia and istyle.

Company: SunBridge Global Ventures Inc.

Location: 1-5-5, Ebisu-Minami, Tokyo, Japan

Established: January 5th 2012

Capital: 52,640,000 Yen (Paid-in capital 52,640,000 Yen)

Representative: President & CEO Ikuo Hiraishi

Field of Business:

1. Internet startup investment and global expansion support
2. Developing and planning new businesses
3. Developing next generation innovative human resources

For media inquiries, please contact:

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