

For Immediate Release

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Social Innovator for the 21st Century

On July 1st, in Taipei, Taiwan at the Dharma Drum Mountain University, OneVillage Foundation presented a workshop on Social Innovation in view of the growing interest towards new models of global collaboration combining social enterprise, Open Source and peer-to-peer (P2P) approaches – to name a few. The idea is to leverage OVF network and assets globally, while taking the best that Taiwan has to offer to create a global network of collaboration. This is based on a model to boost Collective Human Intelligence in terms of rethinking how we work and share resources between organizations and networks. This visionary idea has been put forward by Technology Augmenters like Doug Engelbart among others as a way to better use the Internet, computers and technology in general to boost human potential and well being. To execute these workshops, OVF has partnered with Bamboo Community College, Okogreen and Dharma Drum University.

This coalition initiated the design workshop to equip the volunteers with knowledge and skills to engage in field work in a practical way. We began to outline relevant subjects critical addressing current global conditions and World Urgent Issues as part of a well thought out and proactive effort to build an improved global society in order to secure humanity's long term future. As part of a continuing educational effort, the Social Innovator development and training process will be offered to the universities and NGOs that the Coalition Initiators are currently working with.

The primary goal of this effort to foster “Social Innovator” development through building Networked Improved Communities (read more about NICs below). This includes a process and methodology on how to cultivate and empower Social Innovators and improve quality of life for humanity – that we refer to as oneVillage Initiative (OVI). We anticipate that this workshop program will be an ongoing process to immerse students interested in the emerging fields of Social Enterprise Development, Corporate Social Responsibility and Digital Philanthropy.

Workshop and Initiative Goals:

1. To create a “Coalition for the Social Innovator” as a way to bridge network and cultural divides and devise innovative ways to support our shared efforts.
2. To stimulate more holistic thinking and approaches to solving complex issues that leads to synergistic interactions that mimic nature.
3. To promote more sustainable processes of commerce and investment to facilitate a sustainable and socially just global society.

Who are Social Innovators?

Social Innovators celebrate and promote a culture of innovation. Similar as social entrepreneurs, Social Innovators seek to blend NGO and Corporate/for profit models to create a doing good doing well income generation model that is consistent with the Buddhist value and aspiration of Right Livelihood.

What distinguishes Social Innovators from Social Entrepreneurs is that they are people who use creative, new approaches and ways of thinking to bridge human divides in wealth, technology, perception and knowledge at apply this at the regional, national and global levels as appropriate to their perspective, goals and focus.

About the NICs

OVF to support this Social Innovator movement seeks to create a birthing of a globally linked sub-culture to rapidly incubate “social innovators.” **Innovation Hubs/Communities** offer training / lectures to the Global Citizens about the trends and how to adapt to them to produce results that relevant to their work and goals. Through each ‘hub’ we will further develop more subjects for subject experts to have the chance to lead and create. Culture NICs are part of the Innovation Hubs idea mentioned above. It is the understanding the Culture is the link that makes knowledge and information and data relevant in our lives. We participate in building the [knowledge federation](#) for innovation hubs while sharing cultural values and common interests as human beings. We do this while we offer training / lectures to the Taiwanese Youth / African / USA Youth about the trends of humanity in relation to emerging ideas and innovations. Through each ‘hub’ we will further develop more subjects for subject experts to have the chance to lead and create.

Innovation Communities:

1. Fair Trade 公平交易
2. Citizen Journalism 公民記者
3. Digital Archive 數位典藏
4. Storytelling through Documentary 紀錄片拍攝
5. CSR 企業社會責任
6. Storytelling for Community Development & Organizational Change Management 說故事與社區營造 | 組織變遷管理
7. Open Source and Development 開放式源碼與發展
8. Unity Drum for Team Building and Singularity on Vision Quest 鼓訓團隊建立與願景設立

We need Social Innovators to challenge existing conventions and values regarding current approaches and thinking towards World Urgent Issues and do so in creative, proactive and thoughtful/thought provoking ways.

Target groups for this Social Innovator Workshop - students studying in social enterprise/social entrepreneurial development and philanthropy.

About the Coalition Partners:

- [Okogreen 生態綠](#) is a Fair Trade promoter in Taiwan that organizes events that spread awareness of the need for more Fair Trade in Taiwan. They also have a blog that documents these events and links relevant efforts to their site and work.
- [oneVillage 連合村](#) Foundation promotes more comprehensive and holistic approaches to

development as part of its oneVillage Initiative approach. This includes a focus on rethinking the process design development and deployment of appropriate technologies so that goals are better linked with long term results.

- [Bamboo Community University](#) 青草湖社區大學 - BCU is a network of telecenters that promote service learning and volunteerism using ICT in Taiwan. While educating people on ICT, it also provides centers for people to access the Internet and work on their computer skills. Some of those clients go on to become volunteers to teach others through BCU's community outreach efforts.
- [Dharma Drum University](#) 法鼓大學公益學院 – DDU is a university that is the last to be certified to operate in Taiwan. As Buddhist oriented university it stresses the values of that religion in the everyday teaching and curriculum development. This includes philanthropic efforts that combine the best of entrepreneurship with the values of Right Livelihood.