



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

GIST | GLOBAL INNOVATION
THROUGH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY





WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Take a look at some of our programs and accomplishments from 2021:

1 / 10 YEAR CELEBRATION

We are celebrating a decade of GIST!

2 / A YEAR OF GLOBAL INNOVATION

Our year in numbers

3 / INNOVATES PROGRAMS

Our work in Ukraine & Bhutan

4 / CATALYST

Our first ever virtual pitch competition

BACKGROUND

Year after year, the goal of the GIST program is to support early-stage science and technology (S&T) innovators globally by providing access to skills, mentorship, education, and networks of support.

In 2021 GIST successfully delivered high-quality, high-impact, interactive training and networking opportunities virtually to build robust and sustainable innovation ecosystems all over the world.

Since 2011, and now reaching over 130 emerging economies, GIST has trained over 15,000 startups that have gone on to generate \$250 million in revenue and create 6,000 jobs. Additionally, GIST has reached more than 27 million people through the development of this GIST Network platform that serves as a central resource for individuals and organizations in economies seeking resources to grow their innovation ecosystems.

IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY!

We celebrated 10 Years of GIST...

Take a look at our new 10 Year microsite for a look at the past and our vision for the future.



GISTNet has a gender parity of **51% women to 49% men.**



Over **130** emerging economies benefiting from GIST programs



15K startups who have gone on to generate over **\$250 million** in revenue



GIST has reached over **10 million** women innovators

A YEAR OF GLOBAL INNOVATION...

2021 was a year of challenges and discovery, of resiliency and growth, for the entire GIST community. In navigating another year of a closed world we forged new bonds and new strategies for connection. We were so inspired by the work of innovators the world over who are committed to creating solutions that will make every decade better than the last.

The start of 2022 is a meaningful time of reflection and hope for all of us here at GIST as we celebrate a decade of growth and look forward to the next 10 years. We couldn't have accomplished any of our work without the vision of our amazing community, our global network of entrepreneurs, innovators, and changemakers.

As we celebrate and reflect on the close of this year and decade and the beginning of the next, we could not be more proud of the entire GIST family. We look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the years to come!



35

IHUBS WERE SUPPORTED
THROUGH AN ACTIVE ONLINE
COMMUNITY

644

2021 GIST PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

85

TOTAL INNOVATES
PARTICIPANTS
30 BHUTAN | **55** UKRAINE

\$53K

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PRIZE
MONEY AWARDED

BHUTAN

INNOVATES PROGRAMS



83%

Of respondents indicated that instructors cared about their venture's success, made participants think about their business model in a new way, pushed them to change their approach to research, and challenged their assumptions about their innovation's readiness for commercialization.

"The training has taught me a valuable lesson to validate your idea and to understand the market through customer interviews. This has helped us to identify the pain point our customers were facing."

"Interviews from the relevant people can solve years of working on the wrong problem."

-Innovates participants

Thanks to a partnership between the U.S. Department of State's GIST Initiative, iHub Bhutan, the Loden Foundation, and the Bhutan Foundation, 30 Bhutanese innovators began work towards realizing their dreams of starting and scaling their businesses.

GIST Innovates Bhutan was a 10-week, accelerated online training program using the Lean Startup methodology, a structure for quickly developing a viable product and creating sustainable business development. The GIST Investors - Bhutan program launched in collaboration with the Angel Capital Association (ACA) Angel University on September 14, 2021. 16 Bhutanese investors, government employees, representatives of entrepreneurial support institutions, and representatives from financial institutions registered for the program.

UKRAINE



6 out of 8

AIMS teams are **women-led** companies

96%

Of respondents reported the program increased their knowledge of market, value proposition, commercialization pathway, business model, and/or technological pathways.

The **GIST Innovates Ukraine** initiative seeks to increase the role of science and technology (S&T) innovation to promote economic growth and to expand technology commercialization activities across Ukraine.

Building on our past successes of the previous year, the second cohort of GIST Innovates Ukraine completed 10 weeks of programming. The program began on June 2, 2021 and ended on August 4, 2021, with 19 teams successfully completing all 10 weeks of the program.

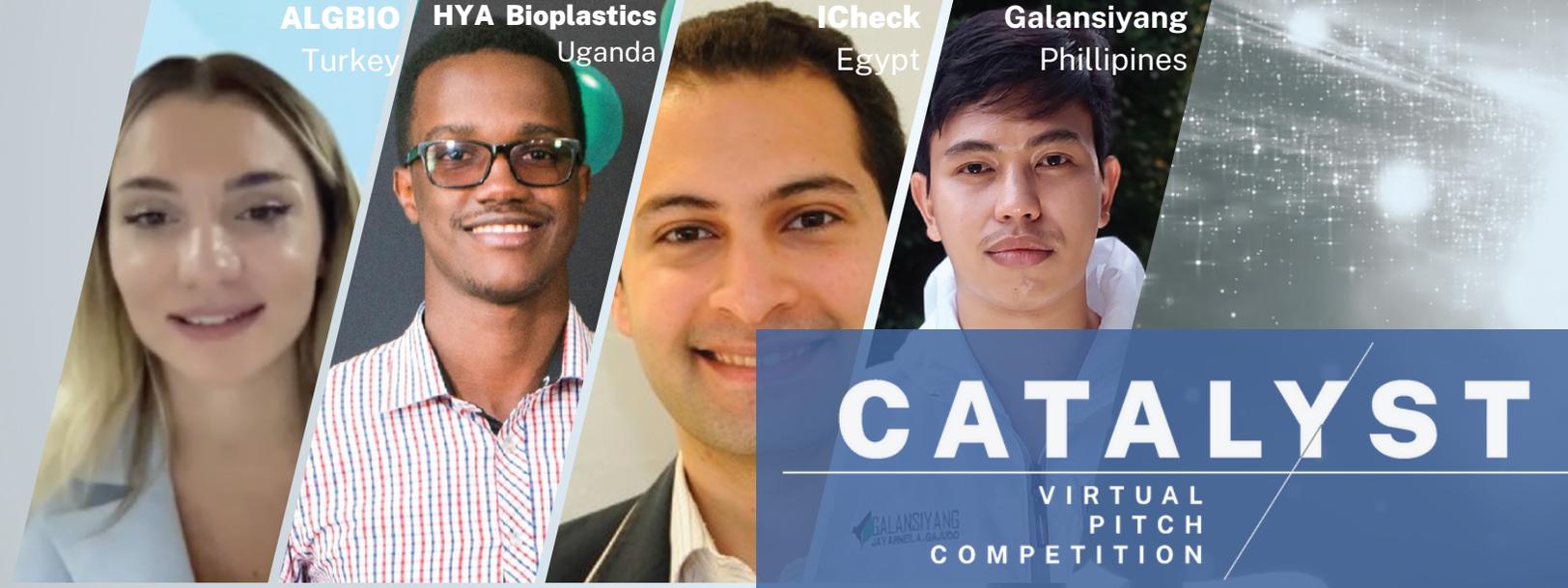
As follow-up programming, 8 teams (2 teams from 2020 and 6 teams from 2021) were chosen to receive Advanced Innovation Mentoring and Support (AIMS) - 8 weekly one-hour sessions of personalized one-on-one mentoring from GIST Innovates instructors and mentors. The AIMS program kicked off on September 13 and ran through November 9.

ALGBIO
Turkey

HYA Bioplastics
Uganda

iCheck
Egypt

Galansiyang
Phillipines



CATALYST

VIRTUAL
PITCH
COMPETITION

In an event that spanned nearly every region of the globe, GIST conducted the first ever virtual edition of its Catalyst Pitch Competition. In its ongoing goal to highlight and empower both individual innovators and the entrepreneurial ecosystems that support them, GIST selected 25 innovators from hundreds of prospective participants to pitch their solutions live in front of global audiences.

- Our first-place and Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur award-winner was Selen Şenal, of ALGBIO, representing the European region with her venture from Turkey. Her venture treats industrial wastewater and flue gases with microalgae and produces carbon negative biofuels and algal bioplastic from these wastes.
- Our second-place winner was Mark Musinguzi of Hya Bioplastics, Uganda; his venture uses cassava starch and pulped fibers from banana pseudo stem to create biobased food packaging.
- In third-place was Ayman Sabae of iCheck, from Egypt, a service that integrates technology, management and clinical expertise in a way that bridges the geographical and logistical barriers restricting the provision of eye health appointments from those who need it.
- The winner of both the Spirit of GIST and People’s Choice awards was finalist Jay Arneil Gajudo, of Galansiyang Inc. in the Philippines. Galansiyang is a forestry support services startup that aims to help the mining industry speed up the process of mine rehabilitation by providing them with drone and IoT technology to automate forestry, including aerial seeding for reforestation and forest monitoring.

Accomplishing an event like this virtually was a new frontier for GIST programs, and while challenging, presents a new opportunity for global engagement moving forward.

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!

To learn more,
sign up for our newsletter!

You can find us on social media to stay connected to the latest from GIST.

