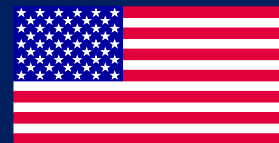




Global Innovation through
Science and Technology



"We believe entrepreneurs can create jobs that fortify relationships between countries, build global markets, and help fulfill the dreams of all who desire the freedom to make of their lives what they will."

-President Barack Obama



The **Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST)** initiative strengthens innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems through programs and partnerships focused on networking, skills development, and connections to financing. GIST empowers youth across **Africa**, the **Middle East**, and **Asia** to develop new technology-based products and companies that create economic and social value.

GIST Programs



Startup Boot Camps—Supporting tech startups through mentorship and training activities led by U.S. entrepreneurs and investors

Tech-I Competition—Bringing technology ideas to the community via YouTube-based idea pitch competition

Tech Connect—Linking global entrepreneurs in real time to U.S. experts through live Q&A mentorship sessions hosted at the Department of State's CO.NX webcast studio

GIST Impact Highlights

Supporting High-Growth Potential Entrepreneurs

3,000 tech startups trained and mentored by international experts

\$21 million USD outside funding raised by top GIST entrepreneurs

23 GIST partner organizations connected with additional entrepreneurship training and education resources

Creating Innovation Ecosystems

Catalyzed the **first angel investment network in West Africa** in partnership with the World Bank's infoDEV program

Trained **journalists in Indonesia and Malaysia** on techlogy and startup trends

Launched a **global business mentorship training pilot program** with MIT faculty

Building a Global Innovation Community

2.5 million youth reached globally through the Department of State Innovation Generation Facebook page

Over **150,000 technology developers** linked to business development training, tools, and mentorship



GIST in Action



Heart Attack Monitor Wins U.S. Startup Contest for Middle East

Most Middle East entrepreneurs can only dream of a startup oasis such as California's Silicon Valley that is filled with angel investors and venture capitalists. But a few entrepreneurs have begun receiving funding from a more unlikely source – the U.S. government... Ziad Sankari was just 17 when he lost his father to a heart attack. Today, the Lebanese engineer has built a startup based on a medical device that monitors cardiac patients outside the hospital around the clock.

Tech Startups in Africa

Over an eight-day holiday in July, [Scott Harley] lectured, mentored and judged startups in Senegal and Algeria as a participant in two of the U.S. State Department's [GIST] startup boot camps. Over four days, hundreds of West and North African technologists assembled, tweeted, pitched products, and exchanged LinkedIn invites... While investors must continue to focus on the highest density networks... they (must) also be open to the possibility that the question "what have you built," is more important than where are you from?

Bangladeshi Innovators scoop US technology Award

Greenovation invented jutin, an innovative building material that can be used to construct cheap shelters in poor countries and disaster areas and that is based on a traditional Bangladeshi fiber used to make cloth, has won the top award of US\$50,000 at the Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) initiative's I Dare competition... (Greenovation) has received funding and a partnership to enable its development to progress further. "Once the production method is finalized, jutin is sure to go global," Hossein told SciDev.Net.



The GIST initiative is a partnership led by the U.S. Department of State and CRDF Global.



Testimonials

"GIST takes great innovators from around the world and immerses them in America's business hotspots – from New York to Silicon Valley – connecting them with mentors and investors that can help them realize their ambitions."

Thomas Nides

Former Deputy Secretary of State

...

"Together we can build an ecosystem that allows entrepreneurs to get the support they need, the financing they need, the mentoring they need, to launch a brilliant idea into a business. That's the importance of the GIST mission."

Jeff Hoffman

Co-Founder and former CEO, Priceline.com & GIST Advisory Board member

...

"GIST's activities and networking events will unleash a wave of entrepreneurial activities; keep it up!"

Donald Frazier

Forbes Magazine

...

"[GIST] was our shortcut towards better connections and visibility."

Ziad Sankari

Founder of CardioDiagnostics;
2011 GIST Tech-I Winner

...

"GIST put together an amazing set of entrepreneurs, speakers, and mentors, all packed into two days of pure excitement. [GIST] gave me a front row view of the creative and dynamism of Indonesia's entrepreneurial spirit."

Jean-Louis Racine

The World Bank

...

"GIST has been the most awesome startup boot camp! The lineup of mentors and judges is phenomenal."

Peter Tam

Microsoft Malaysia