

ITU-TRCSL Training on ICTs for promoting Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Creating Supportive Communities For Networking & Collaboration

**12-15 September, 2017
Colombo, Sri Lanka**

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Agenda

- Importance of community
- Joining and creating communities
- Supporting and growing communities





Outcomes

You will:

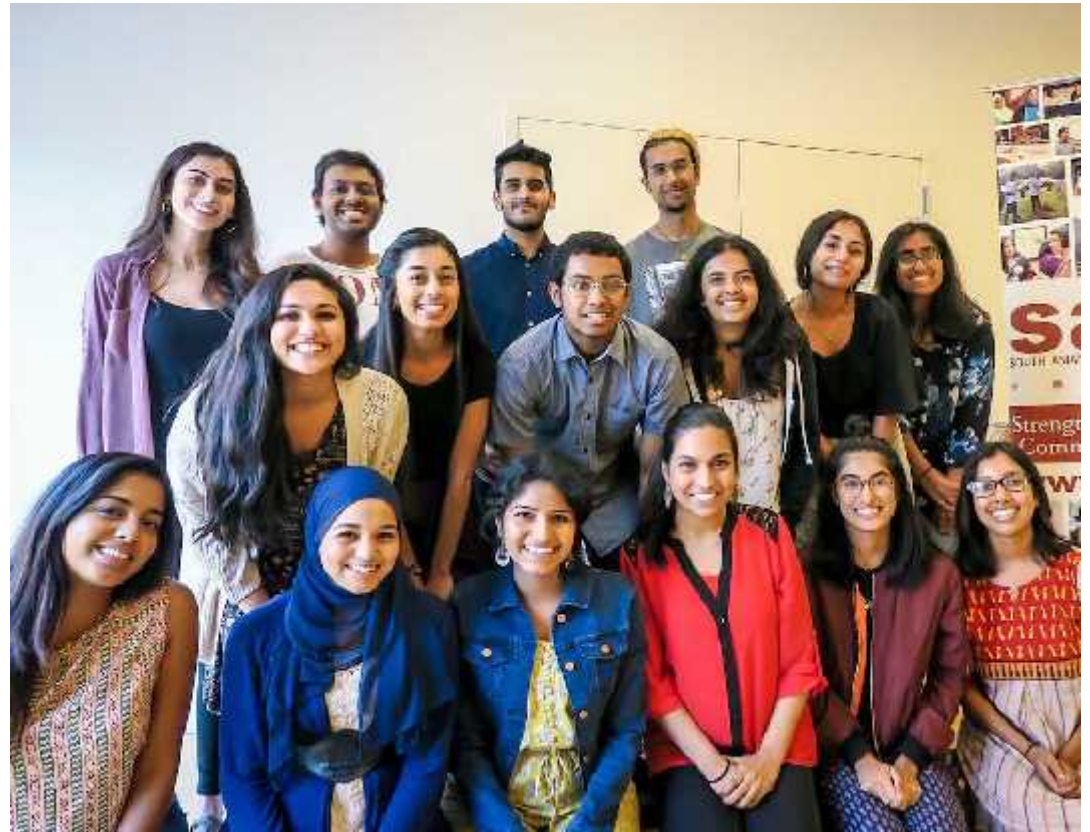
- have joined several online communities and meetup groups
- have planned a community
- Have an understanding of the importance and value of communities
- Know how to create, join, grow and support a community





Why communities matter

- Support
- Networking
- Collaboration
- Education
- Awareness
- Achieve more together!
- Create a movement





Creating meaningful communities

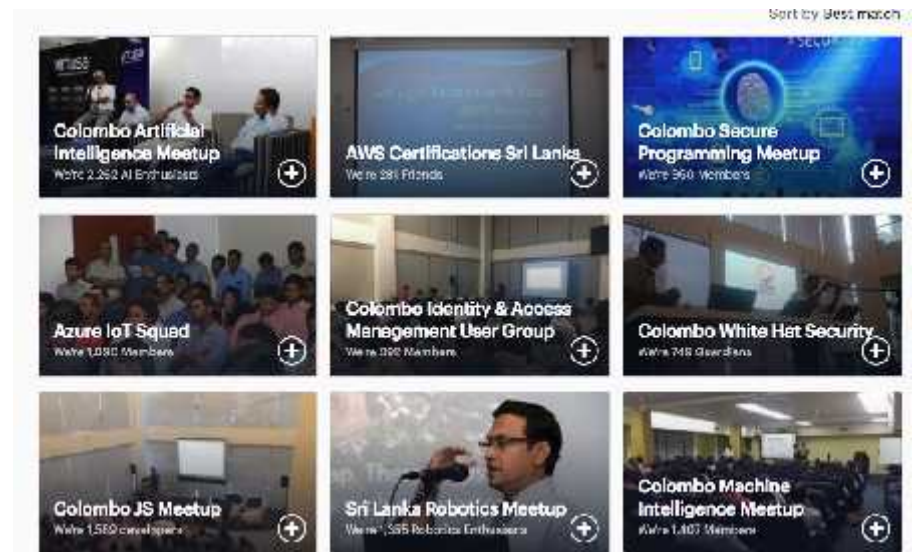
- Bring together people who have common goals and interests
- Have a vision for the community
- Work together to achieve outcomes for the wider society or the world





Online tools to help create communities

- Meetup
- Facebook Groups
- Google+ Communities
- Discussion forum






Meetup.com

Weekend Coder Club

Home Members Sponsors Photos Pages Discussions More Group tools My profile



Change photo

Sydney, Australia
Founded Jan 9, 2014

About us...

Invite friends

Weekend Coder Clubs 1,059

Group reviews 11

For Meetups 79

Our calendar

[f](#) [t](#) [l](#)

Schedule a Meetup

Expand all sections

The basics No date and time selected


What should we do? (required)

30 characters left

Select a date and time

at 7:00 PM set and time

Select a place





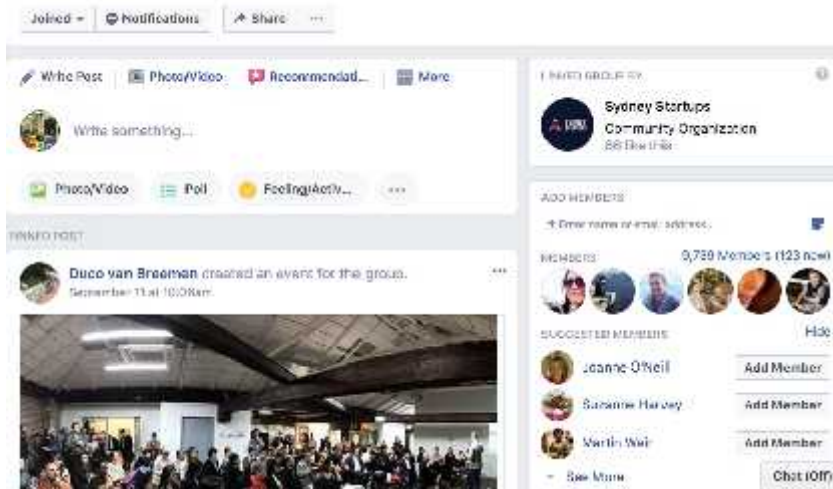
Activity: Join a Meetup group

- <https://www.meetup.com/>
- Create an account for yourself
- Look for groups that you share an interest with in your area
- Join the group and attend a meetup!
- There is a cost with running your own Meetup group but it is easy to do and you will find people will join.





Facebook groups



- A great way to reach more people

- **Activity:** Find and join a Facebook group

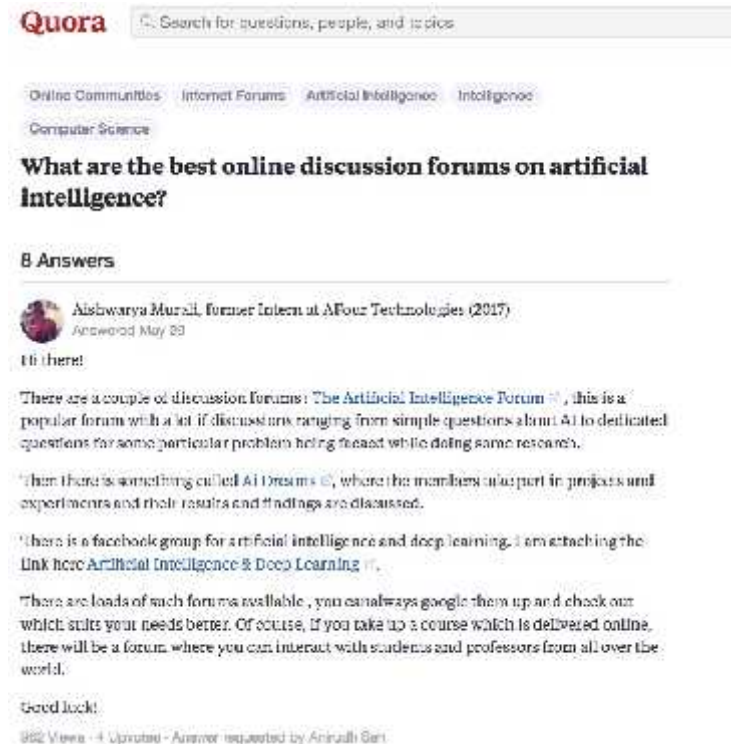




Discussion Forum

- Reddit
- Quora
- Private discussion boards

- Activity: Create a Quora account OR Find a Reddit community you are interested in





Joining vs Creating a community

Joining

- Existing group of people around the topic you are interested in
- Less responsibility to organise
- Less ability to direct

Creating

- Responsibility for organising and directing
- Need to grow the community
- Greater control over direction of community





Community activities

In person

- Monthly meetings with speakers and networking
- Hackathons
- Volunteering

Online

- Share and discuss news
- Ask & answer questions
- Collaborate on social good projects





Supporting and growing communities





Supporting your community

A great community

- Has good leadership
- Is democratic
- Has a common vision and purpose
- Communicates well
- Helps others
- Regular events
- Newsletter
- Website





Growing your community

- A good community grows naturally
- Be prepared for growth
- Identify passionate community members
- Project groups





Share the good news

- News outlets love a “Good news story”
- Don’t be afraid to create press releases when your community achieves your goals and makes a positive impact in your city.
- It helps your members feel good about the work they have done to help others.





Growing your community

Offer responsibilities or elect officers

- Event manager

- Schedule, organise meetings and special events
- Recruits other members to assist

- Communications

- Announces meetings, events
- Manages website, press releases

- Social program managers

- Leadership team





Activity: Plan a community

1. Which interest group will you create a community around?
2. What is the name of your community?
3. What will be your mission and goals?
4. What platform will you use?
5. What activities will you schedule?
6. Where will you hold events?





I Thank U (ITU)

