

Young ICT Leaders' Forum 2019

Outcome Report

The challenge that brought change-makers together to transform the world

The Young ICT Leaders' Forum (YILF) was held in September 2019 in Busan, Korea. It was a remarkable experience shared by change-makers and digital innovation leaders from across the world.

This document presents an overview of the events and participants' experiences.



ITU Innovation Challenges

In June 2019, the ITU Innovation Challenge was deployed with a new concept focusing on how to convene engaged, ambitious and committed talent. ITU looked for champions with innovative ideas to improve their local communities with practical solutions that could be accelerated and scaled up.

The ITU Innovation Challenge required participants to submit an initial idea or concept. Applicants then contributed feedback on each idea submitted, followed by further development through a co-creative process. These solutions were later assessed by a panel of international judges who selected the winners.

During the ITU Innovation Challenge, change-makers were empowered with tools to co-create with people around the globe and find the additional skills and knowledge necessary to solve problems in their local communities.



Click the image above to watch the video

In just a short time, over 1 200 people from 400 cities answered the call through a platform. Ultimately, 140 projects were submitted. All platform users voted on and contributed to each individual project through the feedback mechanism. After two months of intense co-creation and support from experts, 30 change-makers were selected as winners of the challenge by an international jury of experts.

Participants included innovators, policymakers, financiers, ecosystem builders and entrepreneurs. The winners were invited to attend a week-long event designed to transform how they solved problems. Attendees were able to benefit from mentoring, workshops and networking; building their skills and capabilities to contribute a strong digital future with industry experts, financiers and policymakers.

Winners attended one of two events: YILF 2019 in Busan, South Korea or ITU Telecom World 2019 in Budapest, Hungary. ITU then connected the winners to the global network and their own local ecosystems to accelerate best practices. Smart communities also helped them scale with the support of mentors, industry experts and previous winners.

An adventure that starts in the smart city of Busan

Young Innovation Forum 2019

Every year, this four-day event aims to contribute to the global ICT community by supporting future change-makers. There were over 40 nations hosted at last year's event.

The event is hosted annually by ITU, the Busan IT Industry Promotion Agency and the Metropolitan City of Busan.

Korea has become an ICT powerhouse, ranked at the top of ITU's ICT Development Index (IDI), and boasts one of the world's lowest digital divides. Korea's commitment to empowering the global ICT community; demonstrated by the Metropolitan City of Busan, a global smart city leader; makes it the perfect place to host the Young ICT Leaders Forum.

Busan is the first area to be an IoT-based smart city in Korea, and the second largest and most visited city in Korea.

Its focus areas are U-Port, U-transportation, U-tour, U-health, U-safety.

Organizers:



Last year, participants gained valuable networks and skills. Every year, the experience improves.

In 2019, new elements were added to the week-long workshops:

1. Participants were given access to tablets, allowing live participation and Internet access provided by the host city.
2. Live questionnaires and word clouds for immediate group participation.
3. Awards for the best pitches.
4. An unforgettable after party organized by the host city.



Special guest Mr Dai Young Jung collaborated with and supported event participants. He has supported this project since its inception in 2013.



Capability building for ICT-innovation ecosystems



Day 1

The first day of the workshop began with a welcome from the host country to the young ICT leaders to the forum's sixth edition and thanking them for their commitment and participation. An impressive opening video showed previous years' events and provided an overview of all that Busan has to offer.

Joined by ITU official Mr Mohammed Ba, the event started by welcoming both previous and new participants, giving the event an air of conviviality.

Additional members of the ITU team were also welcomed: Ms Lucy Spencer, who conducted interviews with attendees; Ms Silvia Dusa and Ms Victoria Masso, who both moderated alongside with Mr Ba; and ITU official Mr S. Ismail Shah, head of the ITU Office for South East Asia and Timor-Leste.

Mr Ba's energy and eloquence captivated the audience. A self-described recovering technology addict and innovation builder, he facilitated the first workshop using ITU's unique ecosystem-building toolkit.



The group also engaged in a team-building exercise in which they threw a ball to other participants, sharing their professional interests once in possession of the ball.

This allowed the group to get to know each other better and fostered trust, collaboration and a sense of community.

This activity was followed by a presentation by Mr. Ba, which focused on how sustainable ecosystems are built and why technological innovation is important for solving local and global problems.

Following the presentation, attendees participated in the forum's first workshop, which addressed qualitative interview techniques, followed by the sharing of an ecosystem maturity map. Participants analysed the map using real-life examples, allowing them to put the research methodology into practice.



Day 2

The second day of the forum began with a presentation by Ms Dusa, who demonstrated how to use the Lean Canvas for projects. After the presentation, participants worked in teams to create their own Lean Canvases. Mr Peter Argent, Mr Pavel Laletin and Dr Shah joined the groups to guide them as they created their canvases.





After each group presented their canvases, they moved on to a storytelling workshop led by Ms Masso. After the workshop, each participant worked on a five-minute pitch that would be assessed on the third day of the event.

Day 3: The forum and pitching to win

On the third day of the forum, winners benefited from outstanding presentations and discussions given by innovators, thought leaders and officials; including Mr Sung-soo Kim, Mr Ba, Dr Shah and Mr, Argent; as well as Ms Bui Thi Thuy from Seoul National University, Ms Eunbyul Jo of WeGo, Ms Magda Baciú, Ms Silvia Dusa, Ms Khadija Hamouchi and Pavel Laletin. Panel discussion topics included “Disruptive and frontier technology influencing smart cities development” and “Solving smart cities, problems and leveraging a global ecosystem”.

The day closed with the challenge winners putting their new skills to the test by pitching their projects to these experts. Pitches were assessed according to five different criteria: body language, trust, viability, voice, story and confidence.



After party

Following the pitches, the winners attended after party with live music, performances, and delicious local food and drink. Winners also received participation certificates.

The evening ended with closing remarks by Mr Chang-ho Shin, Mr Dai Young Jung and Mr Ba.



Day 4: Technological innovation day in the heart of Busan

National Science Museum

On the fourth day of the forum, the winners were given a tour around the city of Busan. They began at the National Science Museum, where the participants experienced engaging attractions explaining scientific, biological, technical and mechanical principles.



The Busan Center for Creative Economy and Innovation

Participants also visited the Busan Center for Creative Economy and Innovation, which provides a space for communication and exchange for Busan's creative economy. It functions as a resource hub for aspiring entrepreneurs, a stepping stone that can help turn ideas into reality and a "base camp" for early-stage local start-ups to exchange with one another.

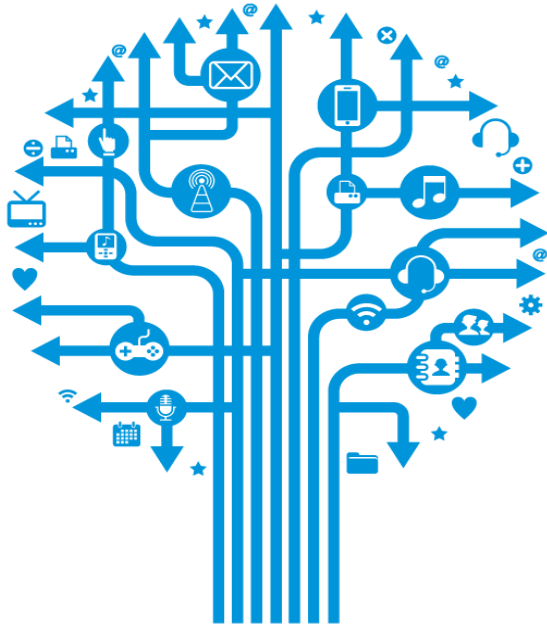
On this final day, participants visited different departments in Busan that focus building smart cities (for further information, see the "Current projects and engage with industry leaders").

Busan Smart City is a project that began in 2005 with a unique vision and the goal of turning the city into a world-leading digital hub. Participants explored its history and development at the Busan IT Industry Promotion Agency and Smart City Exhibition in addition to the Busan Center for Creative Economy and Innovation.

Smart City Exhibition Center

Using public and private data (i.e., Open lab, API, SDK), this centre provides an environment for technical development, support and testing for different services. The support centre helps operate the city platform and open lab run by the private and public sectors, and provides infrastructure to support programmes run by global companies to assist small- and medium-sized businesses. It also provides mentoring and support for the commercialization and technological development of new projects, including expansion and entry into global markets.





Speakers and Moderators

Speakers

Collaboration is vital to achieving an ICT-centric innovation community. For this reason, YILF focuses on building capabilities and networks. The talented young ICT leaders that attended came from different industries and diverse backgrounds.

This event would not have been possible without the influential speakers, moderators and industry leaders that joined and provided the winners with the opportunity for knowledge sharing, capability building and networking.



Mr Pavel Laletin

General Partner, Co-Founder & COO

TechGrind Incubator & Venture Capital

Mr Laletin is a general partner, co-founder and COO of TechGrind Incubator and Venture Capital. TechGrind Incubator was the first private technology incubator in the region and has become the most successful program in the region at creating technology start-ups.



Mr Brian Kim

Manager, Busan Center for Creative Economy & Innovation

Mr Kim is the manager of the Busan Center for Creative Economy and Innovation, where he nurtures IoT-based start-ups in line with the with Busan Metropolitan City's plan to become a smart city. The centre works to transform Busan into a gateway for creative and innovative products.



Ms Silvia Dusa

HR Designer, Bosch

Ms Dusa loves people, ideas and the space where they meet. She has a background in competitiveness, entrepreneurship and innovation and is currently a PhD candidate focusing on creating a sustainable smart city model using design thinking and the power of community. She also works in human resources at Bosch, covering organizational development, change management and leadership. Ms Dusa is very optimistic, likes discovering new cultures and creating new things from scratch.



Mr Mohamed Ba

Head of Innovation at ITU

Mr Ba is Head of Innovation Division for the Development Sector at the International Telecommunication Union. The division's goal is to strengthen ITU Member States' innovation capacity by fostering innovation dialogue in various ecosystems, providing 360 degree innovation advisory services such as policy recommendations and high-impact projects; empowering Member States and ITU-D membership; and foster an enabling environment for ICT entrepreneurship, innovation, creativity and socio-economic transformation through ICT-centric innovation.



Mr Peter Argent

Consultant

After careers in hospitality and as a software consultant at IBM, Mr Argent found his calling as an innovation, entrepreneurship and technology educator. Since 2013, Mr Argent has taught coding to aspiring tech start-up founders, children and people from all walks of life.

Mr Argent is the founder of the Digital Intelligence Institute, which provides digital product design, development, and education and service delivery.



Ms Victoria Masso

Founder and Director

Behaviour Hackers

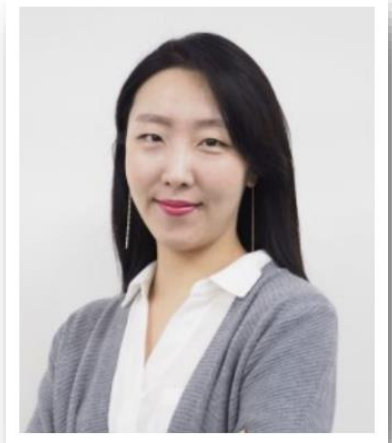
Ms Masso is an award-winning leader in technology. She is an engineer with a Master's degree in international business and training in human behaviour. The current global economy and technological advancements result in new behaviours among organizations, teams and consumers. Ms Masso created Behaviour Hackers to fill that gap and build bridges between technology and human interaction, optimizing their resources to boost human talent. She works around the world delivering corporate training to organizations and helping them create more impact using fewer resources.



Dr S. Ismail Shah

ITU Area Representative and Head of ITU office for South East Asia and Timor-Leste

Dr S. Ismail Shah is a renowned ICT professional with an extensive background in spectrum auctions, technology implementation, ICT policymaking and regulations. Dr Shah is a strong proponent of using ICT to create smarter societies. The combination of his strong intellectual and technical knowledge and his leadership roles has given him a unique and unparalleled perspective, allowing him to become a global ambassador for the power of ICTs. He has also worked on initiatives for persons with disabilities, women's empowerment, big data analytics, Internet of things, shared economy and digital entrepreneurship. Dr Shah holds a Doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh, USA.



Ms Elena Cho

*Program Manager
WeGo*



Ms Bui Thi Thuy

*Doctoral Candidate
Seoul National University*

Originally from Vietnam, Ms Thuy is a PhD student at Seoul National University's College of Engineering. She has published several journal articles. One of her many projects focuses on efficient water use and accessibility.

Previously, Ms Cho worked as a research officer in the Development Cooperation Division at the Ministry of Strategy and Finance in the Republic of Korea. She also served in the Inter-Korean Policy Division of the Korean Peninsula Peace Regime Bureau at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has a Master's degree in development policy from the KDI School of Public Policy and Management (Korea), a Graduate Program in INSEEC Grandes Ecoles (France) and a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and international studies from Ewha Womans University (Korea).



Mr Dai Young Jung

*Assistant Director, Smart City Promotion Division
Busan City Government*

Mr Jung joined the Smart City Division to facilitate the export of Busan smart city business and IoT-based smart city technologies and cooperation to other smart cities around the world. Mr Jung has contributed significantly to overseas exports of several proven Busan Smart City services and solutions.

Mr Jung graduate from the Pukyong University of Busan in 1993 and received his MBA from Hawaii Pacific University in 2007.



Ms Khadija Hamouchi

Ms Hamouchi is an award-winning technology entrepreneur specialized in the Arabic digital media industry. A true citizen of the world, she completed her education across four universities worldwide. Ms Hamouchi is on a mission to make the Arabic Internet relevant to its users.



Ms Magda Baciu

Ms Baciu is an entrepreneur with extensive experience in online marketing, statistics, data tracking and data analysis. As a result of her entrepreneurial endeavours, she founded the House of Progress, a data analytics and advertising agency which builds scalable growth marketing strategies driven by web analytics and user research.



Mr Seong-soo Kim

Chief Strategy Officer, Busan IT Industry Promotion Agency

Past:

Auditor, Jo Eun Logic Co. (2016)
Policy committee member, Busan Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice (2015)

Education:

Doctor of Law, Pukyung National University
Master of Public Administration, Dong-eui University



Mr. Chang-ho Shin

Director General of Future Industry Bureau, Busan Metropolitan City

Past:

Director General of Welfare and Health Bureau, Busan Metropolitan City (2018)
Director General of Industry and Commerce Bureau, Busan Metropolitan City (2017)

Education:

Master of Public Administration, Pusan National University
Master of International Administration, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The adventure continues...

The 2019 YILF cohort has been busy further developing and implementing their new skills and abilities acquired t the 2019 forum. ITU is looking forward to welcoming a new cohort in 2020. There will be a call for outstanding individuals from around the globe to join the ITU Innovation Challenge in 2020.

All ideas or projects that involve ICT to improve local communities and the broader world will be considered.

For further questions, e-mail: innovation@itu.int.

