Fast Track Pitch Event Finalist Presentations

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The Fast Track Pitch Event is an event co-organized by JETRO Singapore to commemorate the 50th year of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation as well as to facilitate collaborations between companies and startups in Japan and the ASEAN region. On 20th April 2023, the Finalist Startup Pitch was held in Singapore where the finalists of the Fast Track Pitch Event presented their pitch for the respective challenges that they are targeting. In response to the various innovation challenges set by eight industry leading companies (hereinafter referred to as the "challenge owners") including Pfizer, Itochu Corporation and Panasonic, a total of 145 startups sent in their applications for the Fast Track Pitch Event, out of which only 22 of them were selected for the Finalist Startup Pitch. Among the selected startups, 13 of them were Singapore-based and 4 of them were Japan-based.

The Finalist Startup Pitch started off with opening remarks by Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Mr Nishimura Yasutoshi and Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry Dr Tan See Leng, both emphasizing the importance of collaborative innovation. After the opening remarks and a quick introduction of the event by Executive Director of JETRO Singapore Mr Ishikawa Hiroshi, the 22 finalist startups presented their pitch to the audience, and answered questions posed by the challenge owners. Besides the presentations, the event also featured a networking session where participants had the chance to get in touch with other startups and challenge owners, as well as various government organizations and co-organizers of the event, expanding their network and opening up new opportunities for future collaborations.

Below are 3 out of the 22 innovative ideas presented by the startups during the event:

Bot MD – AI Clinical Chat Assistant
(Challenge Owner: Pfizer)
In response to Pfizer's challenge for the under-diagnosis and mistreatment of rare diseases, the startup Bot MD has come up with a chat assistant powered by AI for healthcare professionals to automate patient engagement and monitoring. The AI chat assistant supports

any language and works through any chat applications such as LINE and WhatsApp, making it extremely easy to use and scale for any country, targeting local rare disease conditions. By automating reminders and safe collection of data, Bot MD is able to monitor, triage, and educate patients based on their queries, significantly reducing the workload for doctors and nurses as well as inform them when intervention is needed, all through the chat applications that patients already use.

GaitMetrics – Remote Healthcare Monitoring Using Wi-Fi Signals
(Challenge Owner: Panasonic)
In response to Panasonic's challenge regarding physical function solutions for the elderly, GaitMetrics has developed a solution which trains AI to interpret Wi-Fi and radio frequency signals to identify a person's position and activity in a room, and eventually profile their gait as well. Compared to camera surveillance, this innovative method requires a much lower bandwidth and preserves the privacy of the elderly. This solution is able to detect and track the daily routine of the elderly, and alert caregivers if there are any anomalies in the elderly's actions such as excessive trips to the toilet or a change in sleeping pattern, allowing for early detection of diseases and problems that they may be facing. GaitMetrics is currently already in the midst of running a trial with a nursing home in Singapore for tracking activities and has plans ongoing to improve their technology further for more accurate and precise detection capabilities.

Aevice Health – Remote Monitoring via Wearable Stethoscope Device
(Challenge Owner: Itochu Corporation)
In response to Itochu Corporation's challenge to provide a service or platform supporting medical doctors in the ASEAN market, Aevice Health has created a small wearable stethoscope called AeviceMD which allows doctors to monitor patients with respiratory disease remotely instead of having to do so in a clinical setting. The device is placed on the chest of patients, and machine learning techniques are used to extract information such as respiratory rate, heart rate, and abnormal lung sounds such as wheezing, based on the sound recording from the device. AeviceMD allows hospitals to discharge patients earlier while still maintaining the quality of care for patients via continuous remote monitoring in the comfort of their own home, in addition to facilitating early detection of respiratory problems using AI analysis.

While the first round of the Fast Track Pitch Event in Singapore has just ended, it has already been announced that the upcoming round of the ASEAN-Japan Fast Track Pitch Event will

be held in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. We look forward to the positive impact that the collaborations between the startups and large companies from each round of the event will bring to the region with their new innovations.