Participants List

Social Innovators at the Annual Meeting 2020

Social Entrepreneur

Urvashi Sahni
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Study Hall Educational Foundation, India

Study Hall Education Foundation (SHEF) runs nine schools and programmes catering to different rural and urban Indian groups, including girls, disabled children, rural youth and children outside the formal school system. Its methodology is based on Critical Feminist Pedagogy, a gender-empowering method of education, and the Universe of Care, a holistic ecosystem for learning. To date, SHEF has scaled its model to over 900 government schools, trained 5,000 government teachers, and directly impacted 503,080 children. SHEF also reports that 97.4% of the girls who attended its schools have gone on to higher education and 52.2% of graduates are employed.

Social Entrepreneur

Phillip Atiba Goff
Co-Founder and President, Center for Policing Equity, USA

As a research and action think tank, the Center for Policing Equity (CPE) produces analyses that identify and reduce the causes of racial disparities in law enforcement. Using evidence-based approaches to social justice, CPE uses data to create levers for social, cultural and policy change.

Social Entrepreneur

Tommy Tjiptadjaja
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Greenhope, Indonesia

Greenhope is a social enterprise whose mission is to help the world move towards more sustainable consumption and production (UN Sustainable Development Goal 12). Ecoplas, its patented degradable cassava/tapioca starch bioplastic, is sourced from certified Fair for Life cassava/tapioca farmers. Oxium, its patented degradable additive, makes ordinary plastics degrade within two years (natural biodegradation of plastics takes 500-1,000 years). Komposku, its all-organic soil rejuvenator, works on contaminated soil to restore its natural fertility. Greenhope collaborates with various parties across governments, the private sector and NGOs to deliver thorough systemic changes for a better and more sustainable world.

Social Entrepreneur

Meagan Fallone
Director, Barefoot College, India

Barefoot College, established in 1971, is involved in upgrading and applying traditional knowledge and skills and building the capacity and confidence of illiterate and semi-literate unemployed rural youth to be professionals. It has reached over 500,000 rural poor families and has replicated the concept in 13 states in India. It has received several awards, including the Save the Dryland Award from UNEP (1997), Agfund (2000), the Stockholm Challenge, the World Technology Award, the Nasdaq Educational Award from the Tech Museum in San José, the St Andrews Prize (2002), the Tyler Prize (2004) and the Alcan award (2006).
Social Entrepreneur
Ned Tozun
Chief Executive Officer, d.light, USA

d.light is a pioneer and market leader in off-grid solar solutions for families without access to reliable electricity. Its product line ranges from $4 solar lanterns to solar home system solutions that are financed with pay-as-you-go technology. d.light has enabled over 80 million people to upgrade from kerosene lamps to d.light solar solutions, primarily in Africa and Asia, offsetting over 20 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and saving customers billions of dollars in energy-related expenses.

Social Entrepreneur
Joseph Thompson
Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, AID:Tech, Ireland

AID:Tech uses blockchain for digital identity and remittance delivery. It has also released the first blockchain application of peer-2-peer traceable donations for clients of banks, corporations and consumers.

Social Entrepreneur
Bruktawit Tigabu Tadesse
Chief Executive Officer and Creative Director, Whiz Kids Workshop PLC, Ethiopia

Whiz Kids improves the literacy, numeracy and health indicators of Ethiopian children and youth through educational media. It uses television, radio and print media in Ethiopia to disseminate educational messages in seven local languages, with an emphasis on early childhood education, healthy behaviour, literacy and gender equality. Its Tsehai Loves Learning programme reaches 5 million TV viewers and 10 million radio listeners every week. Whiz Kids also works with schools to integrate their educational programmes into the classroom. It has integrated its Involve Me programme encouraging scientific curiosity into 116 schools and is now rolling it out to another 450.

Social Entrepreneur
Gonzalo Muñoz
Co-Founder and Executive President, TriCiclos, Chile

TriCiclos exists because “waste is an error of design”. Founded in Chile in 2009 and inspired by architect William McDonough’s design work, TriCiclos runs one of the most efficient recycling networks in South America. The Puntos Limpios (clean points) provide recycling services, sustainable consumption education and dignified job opportunities for street waste collectors in Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Argentina. To date, TriCiclos recycling solutions have served more than 3 million people. TriCiclos is the first certified B corporation outside North America and is a member of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation’s CE100 and New Plastics Economy initiative.

Social Entrepreneur
Rupert Howes
Chief Executive Officer, Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), United Kingdom

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is an international environmental non-profit organization working for marine conservation through the certification of sustainable fisheries and the eco-labelling of seafood products. It works with fisheries, retailers and other stakeholders to identify, certify and promote responsible, environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable fishing practices around the world. It operates a certification and eco-label programme for assessing and certifying fisheries. This standard – known as the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing – is the only internationally recognized set of environmental principles to assess whether a fishery is well-managed and sustainable.
Social Entrepreneur

Jeroo Billimoria
Managing Director, One Family Foundation, Netherlands

One Family began operations in the summer of 2018 as a small family foundation with big ambitions. Our open door policy and collaborative working methods have quickly led to high network individuals, organizations and social entrepreneurs joining forces with us to create a network enhancing and growing impact across all regions of the globe. One Family and our many partners aim at solving the social issues which we feel can change the world for the better. We strongly believe that collaboration is the key to bringing about a more equitable world for all citizens and especially the most vulnerable.

Social Entrepreneur

Jürgen Griesbeck
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, streetfootballworld, Germany

streetfootballworld represents a network of more than 100 community-based organizations worldwide, sharing the common aim of using football to increase or accelerate their impact. As the knowledge centre of this network, streetfootballworld provides organizations with educational resources and connects them with partners in sport, business, politics and philanthropy. The network empowers more than 2 million young people in disadvantaged communities annually. It also incubates social enterprises to fill gaps in the football-for-good ecosystem as part of the football industry’s value chain. Additionally, streetfootballworld uses the power of football for cultural and educational transformation.

Corporate Social Intrapreneur

Garance Wattez-Richard
Head, Emerging Customers, AXA SA, France

AXA is a French multinational insurance firm that engages in global insurance, investment management and other financial services. Garance Wattez-Richard founded and leads AXA Emerging Customers since 2016, a business whose objective is to protect the middle class and close the insurance gap across emerging markets.

Corporate Social Intrapreneur

Salah Goss
Head, Mastercard Labs for Financial Inclusion, Mastercard, Kenya

Mastercard is a global payment and technology company. It operates the world’s fastest payment processing network, connecting consumers, financial institutions, merchants, governments and businesses in more than 210 countries and territories. Its products and solutions make everyday commerce activities, such as shopping, travelling, running a business and managing finances, easier, more secure and more efficient for everyone. Salah Goss is Head of the Mastercard Labs for Financial Inclusion in Nairobi, Kenya, responsible for overseeing the development of digital solutions that positively impact low-income households in Africa and other developing markets.

Public Social Intrapreneur

Maryam Uwais
Special Adviser on Social Investments to the Vice-President, National Social Investment and Welfare Programmes, Nigeria, Nigeria

Maryam Uwais is Special Adviser to the Vice-President on Social Investments in Nigeria. She is a legal practitioner and human rights activist with over 36 years’ cognate law practice experience, including the Kano State Ministry of Justice, the Nigerian Law Reform Commission and the Central Bank of Nigeria.
Public Social Intrapreneur

Geoff Mulgan
Chief Executive Officer, Nesta, United Kingdom

Nesta is an innovation foundation that works through a combination of practical programmes, investment, policy and research and partnerships to promote innovation. The organization operates across the globe and across sectors, including education, healthcare, the arts, technology and economic policy.

Social Innovation Thought Leader

Julie Battilana
Alan L. Gleitsman Professor of Social Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, USA

Julie Battilana is the Joseph C. Wilson Professor of Business Administration in the Organizational Behavior unit at Harvard Business School, and the Alan L. Gleitsman Professor of Social Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School, where she is also the founder and faculty chair of the Social Innovation and Change Initiative. She currently teaches the second-year Power and Influence course and previously taught the first-year Leadership and Organizational Behavior (LEAD) course in the MBA programme. She also teaches in the doctoral programme and in executive education offerings.

Social Innovation Thought Leader

Fadi Ghandour
Executive Chairman, Wamda Capital, United Arab Emirates

Fadi Ghandour is the Executive Chairman of Wamda Group, a platform that invests, nurtures and builds entrepreneurship ecosystems across the Middle East and North Africa. He is also the Founder of Aramex, one of the leading global logistics companies. Ghandour spent the first 30 years of his working life as CEO of Aramex, making it the leading emerging market logistics company, employing over 15,000 people working in over 250 offices in 90 countries. He took the company public twice, first on Nasdaq – the first company from the Arab world to do so – then on the Dubai financial market. He continues to be active on the Aramex board. Ghandour is a serial entrepreneur and has been involved in founding, investing and launching many companies and non-profits, from digital tech, hospitality, fitness and wellness to security.

Social Entrepreneur

Helianti Hilman
Founder and Chairperson, JAVARA, Indonesia

JAVARA works across agricultural value chains, from production to distribution to branding, in order to preserve Indonesia’s food biodiversity and bring fine organic products from remote and rural Indonesia to broader markets. Javara champions artisanal food products of specific origin that have market relevance. Triggered by indigenous farmers and food artisans who have been determined to preserve Indonesia’s food biodiversity, JAVARA is working hand in hand with over 52,000 smallholder farmers and food artisans to bring forgotten foods to the market. The company sells over 800 artisanal products, serving over 700 businesses in Indonesia and exports to 22 countries.
Social Entrepreneur

Runa Khan
Founder and Executive Director, Friendship Bangladesh, Bangladesh

Friendship Bangladesh has been working since 2002 to help address the needs of remote and marginalized communities in Bangladesh. The organization mainly works in the shifting northern river islands and the southern coastal areas, which due to their remoteness and geographical location, lack infrastructural development and are subject to a high frequency of natural calamities. The organization delivers services in six sectors: health, education, climate change adaptation and disaster management, good governance, sustainable economic development and cultural preservation. Friendship’s services reach 4.2 million people through a holistic needs-based approach to delivering sustainable solutions – a successful integrated model.

Social Entrepreneur

Amina Laraki Slaoui
CEO and Founder, Group AMH, Morocco

AMH was founded in 1992 and recognized to be of public utility in 1997. It started by providing life-enhancing services for people with disabilities. Over the years, the group focused on developing opportunities for the social and economic integration of people in precarious situations in Morocco (such as the elderly and children). It now provides various services in the areas of health, autonomy, education and vocational training to more than 27,000 beneficiaries.

Corporate Social Intrapreneur

Rob Acker
CEO, Salesforce.org, USA

Rob Acker is the CEO of Salesforce.org, the social enterprise branch of Salesforce working to make the world’s #1 Customer Relationship Management system available to and effective for the nonprofit, education, and philanthropy sectors, so they connect their organizations and accelerate their impact. As a social enterprise, the more missions the technology supports, the more Salesforce.org can invest back into the community, creating an endless circle of good.

Social Entrepreneur

Chris Sheldrick
CEO, what3words, United Kingdom

Talking about a precise location in the world is actually quite difficult. Street addressing is often too broad and not universal, while GPS coordinates are accurate but prone to transcription and communication errors. what3words is a global address system that divides the world into a grid of 3m x 3m squares, each allocated with a fixed and unique three-word address. This precise yet simple solution means that everyone can easily talk about a specific location. NGOs, aid organizations, emergency services, delivery companies and governments are adopting the technology in order to improve business efficiencies, drive growth and save lives.

Social Entrepreneur

Veronica Colondam
Founder and CEO, YCAB Foundation, Indonesia

YCAB Foundation (1999) is the founding and flagship organization in the YCAB Social Enterprise Group, which bases its operations on a mutually reinforcing and financially sustainable social change model. Since its founding, YCAB has evolved from a non-profit foundation focused on sustainable youth development to include for-profit entities that offer products and services to millions of emerging consumers, including microloans to low-income women entrepreneurs conditional upon child enrolment in school. These mission-driven microfinance activities began in 2010 and to date have disbursed over 300,000 loans, which are valued at more than $50 million.
Njideka Harry  
President and CEO, Youth for Technology (YTF), USA

Youth for Technology Foundation (YTF), an international non-profit, prepares students to enter a workforce that will be more global and more digital, and entrepreneurially focused, bridging the skills gap from secondary schools to universities and into employment or entrepreneurship. YTF teaches emerging and disruptive technologies through programmes like 3D Africa, which introduces human centered design, 3D printing, robotics and internet of things, to students in schools and in innovation corridors. Combining classroom, online and business development training with support from corporate partners, YTF programmes for underemployed and undereducated youth and for women entrepreneurs replace economic disparity with economic opportunity.

Harald Nusser
Head, Novartis Social Business, Germany

Harald Nusser is Head, Novartis Social Business for Novartis. Novartis is reimagining medicine to improve and extend people’s lives. As a leading global medicines company, it uses innovative science and digital technologies to create transformative treatments in areas of great medical need. In its quest to find new medicines, Novartis consistently ranks among the world’s top companies investing in research and development. Novartis products reach more than 750 million people globally and the company is finding innovative ways to expand access to its latest treatments. About 108,000 people of more than 140 nationalities work at Novartis around the world.

Maysoun Odeh Gangat
Co-Founder and Director, NISAA Radio Broadcasting Company, Palestinian Territories

NISAA is using media as a tool to debate taboos, challenge traditional roles assigned to women, and present women as capable and assertive actors in society. NISAA (“women” in Arabic) has three radio frequencies across the Palestinian Territories and a listenership of 126,000 (10% of the population). It provides a mix of Western and Arabic music and talk shows designed to be attractive to women and men, since actively engaging men in the conversation about gender is central to NISAA’s philosophy.

Rosanne Haggerty
President and CEO, Community Solutions, USA

Community Solutions works to achieve a future without homelessness, so that poverty never follows a family beyond a single generation. It does this by helping communities become better problem solvers, so they can fix the expensive, poorly designed systems that low-income people must rely on every day.

Tony Kalm
President, One Acre Fund, USA

One Acre Fund is a non-profit social enterprise that is equipping 570,000 smallholder farm families in six East African countries with the tools to grow their way out of hunger. One Acre Fund provides farmers with everything they need to increase productivity, including financing, farm inputs on delivery, agricultural training, and market facilitation, resulting in an average farm income boost of 50%. Clients are also protected against climate change by a defensive shield that includes reforestation, crop insurance, and soil health initiatives. One Acre Fund aims to serve more than 1 million farm families by 2020.