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At the Global Entrepreneurship Network, knowing that anyone can be an entrepreneur, our true north is about making it possible for anyone, anywhere to have a vision, to unleash an idea, to test, to listen, to do, to make and to create new value. Within GEN, we share a common commitment to the collective possibilities of human endeavor for the benefit of all.

Being a curator in the global entrepreneurial ecosystem is exhilarating. While heading into uncertain environments produces fear in some of us, for entrepreneurs and the ecosystems around them, it is an energizing thrill. Diverse and curious founders chasing down answers and opportunities fuel ecosystems with adrenaline, ideas and actions. In turn, this attracts more entrepreneurs as well as those fighting for them, igniting a global revolution for improving the way we do things.

GEN offers a compass for decentralized communities around the world to navigate the new normal. Better than a blueprint, our global entrepreneurial ecosystem is alive, made up of people connecting, listening, collaborating and acting. We want to make it possible for anyone, anywhere to have a vision, to unleash an idea, to test, to listen, to do, to make and to create new value.

This past year has brought GEN new partnerships and initiatives. Beyond our signature Global Entrepreneurship Week campaign last November, GEN has broadened its partnership with the US Government through the Global Initiative for Science and Technology, Global Enterprise Registration and Global Entrepreneurship Summit. We have also grown our Startup Nations community of governments sharing their experiences with new startup policies and programs.

Our research arm, the Global Entrepreneurship Research Network, aligned agendas and has begun the
task of helping entrepreneurial support organizations find quantifiable methods and data to measure effectiveness. And investors, entrepreneurs and ecosystem leaders have been collaborating across borders and gathering at our local GEC+, Global Entrepreneurship Week and other global events and activities.

New this year has been a strategy for deepening our support for those who lead – the entrepreneurs – by reinventing our programs on the frontline.

First, recognizing the role density plays in local ecosystem connectivity – and following the success of the 22 On Sloane in South Africa – we broke ground on our second GEN Campus, GEN@Bloomfields, where alongside university labs, we will offer some of the best entrepreneurial learning programs in the world.

Second, we have launched GEN Accelerates to provide seasoned expertise to nascent entrepreneurs and capacity-building programming for ecosystem builders. Run by a team under the guidance of Susan Amat, Executive Director for GEN Accelerates and Vice President for Education, the platform has already served tens of thousands of entrepreneurs and several cohorts of ecosystem builders.

Third, having been active for years in promoting a number of global pitch competitions, GEN is focusing its work around the Entrepreneurship World Cup and one pitch competition platform. Centralizing GEN’s competition efforts forged a path for us to directly support early stage startups through virtual and live training and expanded mentorship capacity. Aligning the Entrepreneurship World Cup with GEN Accelerates and our GEN Starters Club is allowing us to better serve startups – whether they win prizes or return to re-work their ideas.

Finally, in an effort to help one entrepreneur at a time, GEN has expanded the Startup Huddle program now to 33 chapters. Built on an ingenious model developed by the Kauffman Foundation, communities come together to listen and give feedback to one or two entrepreneurs a week. The effort is creating communities and providing intensive support for startups.

GEN is proud of its global team and their sustained contributions to a healthy global entrepreneurial ecosystem. We are also especially proud of the people, organizations and communities in the 170 nations who make this possible. We thank our partners, volunteers, colleagues and friends who have joined us in this mission of supporting aspiring ecosystems around the world where talent may be plentiful, but opportunity is not. If you are not a part of GEN we hope you will join with us in making it possible for anyone, anywhere to unleash their ideas and start a new venture.
GEN GLOBAL BOARD
GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK LEADERSHIP

The GEN Global Board works to provide leadership and guidance to GEN’s mission to create one global entrepreneurial ecosystem.

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SR. GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT

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GENERAL PARTNER
1776 VENTURES

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PARTNER/CO-FOUNDER
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U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CRIS TURNER
VICE PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF OFFICE, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS FOR THE AMERICAS
DELL

JONATHAN ORTMANS
PRESIDENT
GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK

IMPACT REPORT 2019
WHAT IS GEN?
BUILDING ONE GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM

The Global Entrepreneurship Network is guiding the development of healthy entrepreneurship communities at the local, regional and national level in 170+ countries – and connecting them globally to fuel their growth.

In little more than 10 years, GEN has expanded rapidly as it engages communities and countries regardless of the size of the economy or maturity of the ecosystem – from fully formed startup hubs like Silicon Valley, London and Shanghai to thousands of emerging ecosystems around the world.

By fostering deeper cross border collaboration and initiatives between entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, policymakers and entrepreneurial support organizations, GEN works to fuel healthier ecosystems that support the growth of entrepreneurs, leading to new jobs, game-changing innovations and sustained economic growth.

To do this GEN's extensive footprint of national operations on every continent works to align the major ecosystem actors and delivers a wide range of programs that positively impact the community. Programs that inspire and provide entrepreneurs with the direct support they need. Programs that remove barriers and shape policy environments to stimulate new firm formation. Programs that expand access to data and redefine the field of entrepreneurship research. Programs that encourage the development of capital infrastructure to sustain local entrepreneurs.

Through its programs, through its members and through its efforts, GEN is building one global entrepreneurial ecosystem.
GEN’S COMPASS
Helping communities and countries navigate through crowded options toward proven solutions and healthy ecosystems in 170+ countries.
GEN COUNTRY OPERATIONS

GEN MANAGING DIRECTORS APPOINTED IN 80 COUNTRIES
GEN Chapter Affiliates

In each of the 170 nations that celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week, formal year-round GEN leadership is emerging to guide the development of healthy national ecosystems that are globally connected to leading-edge research, innovative programs and communities of seasoned experts to deliver high impact entrepreneurial performance.

GEN’s mission in each nation is to catalyze entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial initiative in that country with the goal of building a thriving economy in which all citizens can fulfill their potential and ambitions. GEN is also working to further build the ecosystem through collaboration around monitoring and assessing ecosystem performance, sharing knowledge about research-based best practices sourced from around the world, facilitating information flow among ecosystem stakeholders and coordinating collective action.

In each nation, GEN:

- Convenes and aligns the major entrepreneurial ecosystem actors to streamline efforts, minimize competition, and maximize impact and outcomes
- Serves as a source and sharing platform of knowledge, including national and global research data and analysis about program performance
- Plays to the strengths and strategic plans of the current actors and their current roles seeking to complement and enhance their efforts and funding
- Amplifies the voice of that nation’s entrepreneurial ecosystem actors on the global stage for research and policy, programs and market access
- Operates as an independent non-profit organization overseen by a local governing Board of Directors focused on meaningful impact and outcomes
- Catalyzes a comprehensive array of organizational partners (or members)
representing all geographic regions and diverse voices from the nation’s entrepreneurial ecosystems

- Offers live international events and new best-in-class entrepreneur support programs
- Leverages its global research and policy work.

In 2019, GEN’s managing directors are working with their boards and formal partners on addressing identified priorities and gaps, but with a diverse array of approaches.

Policy and Accelerators
In Cambodia, analysis led to a focus on policy and accelerators. GEN Cambodia launched around a focus on digital disruption at Digital Cambodia with the support from Ministers, Ambassadors, local and international companies, business associations and startup hubs. GEN Cambodia realized that while there are abundant opportunities for startups to scale their businesses, there was a need for a new accelerator program and a range of regulatory and legal barriers to address.

Youth and Regional Engagement
GEN Moldova focused on a strong need for regional engagement and increasing the number of young people exploring entrepreneurship as a career path. This resulted in expanding its GEW campaign and developing youth programs like YOUIACT, ENABLE and WE Accelerate. GEN Moldova also saw the need for regional collaboration resulting in partnerships in the eight regions of the country with those local public administration units responsible for economic reforms and entrepreneurship along with the mayors of Palanca, Cimislia, Dubasarii Vechi, Soroca and the district legislators from Ungheni.

Board and Leadership
Key for some countries has been inclusive leadership. For example, in Belgium it was about getting competing entities to the table. For Indonesia, it was about getting

![Image](image_url)
buy-in from successful startups alongside foundations and government, providing GEN Indonesia with at least one unicorn founder on its board alongside non-profit leaders. In Saudi Arabia, the leadership challenge was covering a fast growing ecosystem of organizations led by Monsha’at, the country’s SME Authority.

GEN Saudi has launched with strong leadership from throughout the ecosystem with a Board of Directors that includes members representing a venture capital company, Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA), Raed Ventures, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Business Incubator & Accelerator Company (BIAC) and Microsoft. The GEN Saudi staff currently consists of a CEO, managing director and six full time staff. Saudi Arabia has adopted some of the best programming in the world and is aligned with broader national visions to empower youth and diversify that economy by 2030.

**Following a Government’s Vision**

GEN Argentina has adopted a strategy of building off the fact that entrepreneurship is a priority established at the highest level of government. Argentina’s Entrepreneurs’ Law, established in 2017, has provided both incentives for new and young firms as well as the national entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Jorge Lawson, former Minister of the Province of Cordoba in Argentina, in collaboration with GEN’s Carla Goglia, is leading the development of GEN’s new affiliate in the country by convening local and regional entrepreneurship ecosystems to facilitate more effective collaboration. GEN Argentina is also focusing on training and support programs especially in formal education curriculum, organizing industry disruption competitions and a major effort to streamline regulations and increase the impact of public sector programs at the national level.

**Inclusion: Inspiring Women and Girls**

Almost all of GEN’s operations have embraced diversity and inclusion as fundamental drivers of increasing entrepreneurial capacity but some have placed it front and center. GEN Georgia prioritizes strengthening the entrepreneurial environment for women and girls within the STEM and agriculture fields.

“Having all women entrepreneurs on our founding Board has led to us promoting the role of women in STEM, as well as creating new STEM education programs to support women entrepreneurs,” said Tinatin Gholadze, managing director of GEN Georgia. “Overall however, GEN Georgia seeks to support all growth entrepreneurs and efforts are underway to engage our government in a new generation of programs, research and smarter policymaking.”

In support of that effort toward improved policies, GEN Georgia partnered with the Ministry of Economy Innovation and Technology Agency to organize the first Startup Nations Policy Hack in the country last year.

**Early Stage Community Building**

GEN Philippines has concentrated on the importance of community in ecosystem
building, focusing its attention on building a startup culture and raising awareness and entrepreneurial literacy in different sectors of Philippine society. It has built collaborative partnerships with more than 250 universities and colleges, launched Startup Huddle in Manila, developed a GEN Philippines Forum, agreed to host the Entrepreneurship World Cup finals and has also built a strong national GEW Philippines campaign with 144 partners, 529 events and 264,500 attendees.

GEN Sierra Leone’s mission is to organize and energize a vibrant ecosystem while identifying the right stakeholders within the ecosystem who will bring much-needed support. Francis Stevens George, managing director of GEN Sierra Leone, is starting from scratch in identifying a new array of entrepreneurial support organizations within his ecosystem to build a next generation support system.

GEN Sierra Leone is addressing the challenge of a fragmented collection of stakeholders by channeling donor funding into effective interventions that will see entrepreneurship grow in the country.

Small is Beautiful
GEN has always recognized the power of small nations as crucibles for testing interventions to support entrepreneurship. Singapore, Estonia and others have made major contributions to our collective global knowledge and experience bank. Bahrain is no exception. It has always been a pioneer on the forefront of regional economic reform and diversification, and despite its size, has great potential to be an economic leader regionally and internationally. With support from Tamkeen, co-host of GEC 2019, this year has seen the establishment of GEN Bahrain as a new independent driver of the ecosystem with a strong Board of Directors.

Alongside hosting GEC 2019, Bahrain has launched Startup Huddle, will host the first Entrepreneurship World Cup national final, and has hosted an excellent GEW campaign to raise awareness of entrepreneurship, innovation and self-employment as a means to create value and make the Bahraini private sector an engine of growth. GEN Bahrain is already partnering with local stakeholders to implement other high-impact GEN programs and is engaging ecosystem stakeholders to identify fresh gaps, facilitate dialogue and strengthen a sustainable development cycle for entrepreneurs.

GEN Bahrain is being supported through a partnership with Tamkeen, which supports private-sector development and is one of the cornerstones of Bahrain’s national reform initiatives and its Economic Vision 2030.

“Having all women entrepreneurs on our founding board has led to us promoting the role of women in STEM, as well as creating new STEM education programs to support women entrepreneurs.”
- Tinatin Gholadze, Acting Managing Director, GEN Georgia
A WORLD OF IMPACT ACROSS THE GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK
Every economy suffers if certain people or nations are underrepresented and face structural barriers. The world needs more entrepreneurs creating new value and unearthing better ways to do things. GEN celebrates risk takers and those who support them across the globe in an effort to increase transparency, inclusivity and diversity as drivers of innovation.

Through celebration, GEN envisions one global entrepreneurial ecosystem open to all – including previously marginalized communities, competing entrepreneurial support organizations and traditional institutional stakeholders that can be late adaptors to the era of digital disruption.
Global Entrepreneurship Week

Global Entrepreneurship Week is a collection of tens of thousands of events, activities and competitions each November that inspire millions to explore their potential as an entrepreneur while fostering connections and increasing collaboration within their ecosystems.

Diversity is a driver of innovation and economies suffer if a nation or group of people are underrepresented or face structural barriers – the world needs more entrepreneurs. Powered by the Kauffman Foundation, Global Entrepreneurship Week has expanded to 170+ nations since its launch in 2008 with 19,000 partner organizations now serving as GEN’s community-building backbone.

Through GEW, GEN seeks universality, striving to be inclusive of individuals and communities who have traditionally faced barriers to entrepreneurship whether minority groups, cumbersome traditional institutions or those pushed to the side by strong competition.

BOARD MEMBERS
- Elmira Bayrasli
  Co-Founder
  Foreign Policy Interrupted
- Neil Dhillon
  Sr. Global Communications Consultant
- Kevin Langley
  Founder and CEO
  Ellis Construction
- Jonathan Ortmans
  President
  GEN

Global Entrepreneurship Week 2018
Reaches Millions, Spotlights Four Themes

Millions of entrepreneurs, aspiring innovators and the people who support them celebrated entrepreneurship this past November, marking the 11th year for Global Entrepreneurship Week.

Since the first effort in 2008, GEW has helped more than 50 million people explore their potential to start and grow new businesses. The campaign began with an emphasis on inspiring young people to make their mark and has since evolved into a far-reaching effort that engages all levels of the ecosystem collaborating to advance economic growth and innovation in all different types of economies and cultures.

With more than 43,500 events held around the world by more than 19,900 partners, GEW highlights have spanned from individual stories of entrepreneurs who were inspired to take a leap of faith, to government leaders who champion startup policy.

This Global Entrepreneurship Week celebrated four distinct themes – women, youth, inclusion and connecting ecosystems. GEW headquarters in Washington, D.C. used the four themes to highlight powerful voices, ambassadors and GEN partner organizations around the world that promote, encourage and support the development of entrepreneurs within each of the four spaces.

GEW Women: As communities and countries increasingly encourage entrepreneurs who create jobs, women can be a catalyst for large-scale economic
growth – not just in countries where the basic rights of women are a struggle, but in developed economies as well. Studies have shown that women have lower levels of involvement in high-growth entrepreneurship than men, and research suggests that accelerating the rates of female entrepreneurship could have the same positive effect that the entry of women into the labor force had during the 20th century.

GEW Women celebrated female entrepreneurs, ecosystem builders, investors and other startup champions, while offering opportunities to expand their networks, identify resources and share knowledge with other women around the world.

**GEW Youth:** As stronger entrepreneurship ecosystems emerge, young graduates unable to secure a job have more opportunities to leverage their economic freedom and create a job. As they choose to start and scale new businesses, they not only change their lives but also contribute to their communities and countries through job creation and economic renewal.

GEW Youth celebrated and shaped the next generation of innovators through activities and competitions to help them sharpen their skills and connect them to potential co-founders, mentors and even investors. This theme also celebrated and aimed to raise awareness of the importance of entrepreneurship education and the teaching of innovative skills.

**GEW Inclusion:** Entrepreneurship is a positive force that drives innovation, creates wealth and improves lives in communities, cities and countries alike. But not everyone has the same opportunity. Race, age, gender, or where one lives should not be an obstacle to entrepreneurship. Anyone, anywhere should be able to realize their dream and start a business quickly, inexpensively, and without barriers.

GEW Inclusion highlighted the work startup champions are doing around the world to minimize barriers and obstacles for entrepreneurs by maximizing inclusion. Activities, workshops and speaker series held around the world explored the obstacles entrepreneurs from underserved populations may face, and worked to
discover solutions through access to success stories, training, capital and mentorship.

**GEW Ecosystem Connect:** The Global Entrepreneurship Network and other entrepreneurship support organizations around the world are looking beyond Silicon Valley to facilitate collaboration and partnership between startup ecosystems in promising mid-tier cities. Sharing knowledge and connecting local ecosystem leaders has become increasingly important in building healthy and thriving entrepreneurial communities.

GEW Ecosystem Connect worked to inspire communities to collaborate and share their networks and markets to help their rising startups thrive. This theme celebrated the shared challenges and triumphs of entrepreneurship communities and hubs around the world.

The following impact stories barely scrape the surface of the amazing work GEN countries and partners have accomplished during Global Entrepreneurship Week 2018.

**GEW 2018 Highlights**

During GEW 2018 in **Brazil**, new GEW host, the Brazilian Services to Support Micro and Small Enterprises, also known a SEBRAE, took celebrations by storm, helping support more than 8,100 events and 674 partners across the country.

Entrepreneurship is on a positive trend in Brazil. As one of the first nations to celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week in 2007, Brazil has made significant strides in both improving the opportunities for entrepreneurs and encouraging more people to consider the path of entrepreneurship.

Augusto Togni, who is part of the GEW team at SEBRAE, said the organization wanted to leverage GEW – and the resources and connections offered by the Global Entrepreneurship Network – to reach more people, especially as a way to support women and other underserved communities in the country on their entrepreneurial journey. GEW Brazil reached more than 700,000 participants.

For Global Entrepreneurship Week 2018, **China** celebrated by making a concerted effort to focus on the investments angel investors and venture capital firms can make in innovative tech startups. This year’s activities, including an Investment Summit and a Venture Capital Summit point to a larger trend in the Chinese startup ecosystem both in where seed capital is coming from and where it is going.

GEW China partners and host organization, the Entrepreneurship Foundation for Graduates, worked to support and foster more investment activity around venture capitals, angel investors and innovative startups.

The Investment Summit featured keynote addresses from investors such as Haibo

“Entrepreneurship offers us a great opportunity to strengthen the Brazilian environment for entrepreneurs as an important and legitimate path to overcome poverty and raise general productivity of economy through innovation.”

- Augusto Togni, GEW Brazil organizer
Lv, partner at Shanglun Law Firm, and Qiang Qu, partner at Newsion Venture. Participating organizations included Setup VC, Capital Today, Atom Ventures, My Tech and Chenhui Venture Partners. The day-long summit featured topics that aimed to help investors and VCs make better startup investments – including understanding investment trends and making a sound exit strategy.

The Venture Capital Summit took a more focused approach, highlighting the role investments play in fostering innovations in the field of artificial intelligence in China. The summit provides sessions that look at why investors should seek out AI startups by focusing on the different applications for AI in business. By doing so, the summit aims to get more VCs to invest and finance cutting-edge AI technology.

A major success for GEW Cape Verde this past November came with the inclusion of the week-long celebrations in the state budget with support from the government. Cape Verde is a small country, but more than 4 percent of their total population celebrated Global Entrepreneurship Week. Cape Verde organized more than 182 events with 22,818 participants.

Dilma Vieira, vice president of AJEC in Cape Verde, the official GEW host organization, said GEW Cape Verde aims to inspire and empower young people on all of the islands, promoting dynamic activities and guidance for the country’s entrepreneurs.

The focus of the high-level roundtable in Praia was inclusive entrepreneurship aligned with this year’s global #GEWinclusion theme. GEW Cape Verde received support and attendance at the highest level from the government of Cape Verde. The week was endorsed by the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, Minister of Youth and Sport, Minister of Culture, Minister of Education, presidents of the Municipal Council of Cape Verde, president of chamber of commerce and the president of chamber of tourism.

This year, GEW Denmark focused on boosting collaboration between partners to contribute to media outreach and awareness. Organizers reported this year that collaboration between key partners and participating government agencies helped with the coordination of activities and distribution through large national media outlets. The national government also fully participated in the launch and celebration of GEW 2018.

Local entrepreneurs were also showcased on a national stage. With more than 245 events and 22,500 participants, GEW Denmark took up the mantle of promoting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as part of its GEW 2018 themes. One of the key events was an impact challenge for Danish entrepreneurs.

Over the past 11 Global Entrepreneurship Week celebrations, all 50 states, as well as U.S. territories have participated in weeklong activities, competitions and events. For GEW 2018, communities from across the United States celebrated their local entrepreneurs and raised awareness about entrepreneurship.
In the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia region, GEW activities focused on inclusive innovation and spotlighted support for women entrepreneurs. GEW kicked off in the Greater D.C. area November 9, with Techstars Global Startup Weekend. Other activities included a Makers Studio meetup, a workshop on maturing an entrepreneurship ecosystem for inclusive innovation, and more. To close the celebration, the annual Street Pitch, powered by Street Entrepreneurs, hosted seven entrepreneurs, pitching their company to a panel of 21 judges and angel investors.

In Central Arkansas, activities took place across multiple cities and municipalities, but one key program that began in Arkansas became an official event for the GEW global theme, GEW Youth. High School Startup Day, which is a half-day event held once a semester on the University of Central Arkansas campus, teaches students how to identify and analyze a problem, then use entrepreneurial and critical thinking skills to solve the challenge. Students then have the ability to pitch their solution to a panel of judges for prizes and scholarship dollars. High School Startup Day was created and organized by the Conductor of Arkansas, in partnership with Junior Achievement of Arkansas and the University of Central Arkansas.

Empretec Zimbabwe, the official GEW host organization in Zimbabwe, has been hosting Global Entrepreneurship Week since 2010. This year’s GEW theme was “Because I can.”

As part of this theme, the signature activity took place in Gokwe, in the Midlands province of the country, where 4,500 young people were trained in entrepreneurship. This is part of an Empretec Zimbabwe program that started earlier this year – and 1,500 young people have received the training so far.

This training program includes a business plan competition and pitching to a panel of judges. Those who receive an award get further support and mentorship to take their initiatives to the next level.

Other major events of the week included an entrepreneurs conference with an exhibition, a digital linkages event connecting Zimbabwean entrepreneurs with other entrepreneurs globally and Entrepreneurs’ Conversations.
Healthy entrepreneurial communities thrive on connectivity, collaboration, trust, common visions, knowledge sharing and transparency. Through its global verticals of expert communities, events and cross-border initiatives (such as Ecosystem Connect), GEN provides a transparent platform for collaboration among national entrepreneurial ecosystems with similar characteristics beyond location.

GEN envisions a global entrepreneurial ecosystem bigger than the sum of its parts where connectivity, sharing and collaboration have earned trust while creating new knowledge and a common vision to enable the world’s doers, makers and risk-takers.

How GEN teams connect entrepreneurs and ecosystems around the world:

- Global Entrepreneurship Congress
- Startup Nations Summit
- GEC+
- Global Entrepreneurship Summit
- GEN Connect
Global Entrepreneurship Congress

Global Entrepreneurship Congress is a gathering of startup champions from around the world—where entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, thought leaders and policymakers work together to help bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare. The Congress, hosted in different rising entrepreneurial cities each April, fosters collaboration among thousands of delegates from about 180 countries to define action in addressing challenges around growing entrepreneurial ecosystems and more effectively enabling entrepreneurs everywhere.

The GEC has been hosted in Kansas City, Dubai, Shanghai, Liverpool, Rio de Janeiro, Moscow, Milan, Medellin, Johannesburg, Istanbul and Manama, Bahrain.

GEC 2018 Marks 10 Years of Connecting Global Ecosystems
The 10th anniversary of the Global Entrepreneurship Congress brought thousands of entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, researchers and entrepreneurship support organizations to a global startup hub – featuring in-depth sessions and workshops on the latest developments in entrepreneurship from around the world.

GEC 2018, held in Istanbul, Turkey, took a look at the intersection of mindset, culture and barriers that exist within all entrepreneurship ecosystems. From exponential thinking – exploring how entrepreneurship moves from incremental to truly disruptive innovation – to innovation culture and inclusive entrepreneurship, the Global Entrepreneurship Congress featured sessions on leading-edge topics within the space.

GEN and Startup Genome released the newest edition of the Global Startup Ecosystem Report which provides a
comprehensive look at how regions foster and sustain vibrant startup ecosystems. The report authors spoke to ecosystem builders and city leaders about how to use the GSER results to improve and strengthen their entrepreneurship ecosystem.

For the first time, the Global Innovation through Science and Technology’s Tech-I startup pitch competition finals were held at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress. The GIST Tech-I top 10 finalists, as well as 10 program alumni mentors attended and participated in a day of intensive workshops to improve their ideas and practice their pitching skills. The Tech-I finalists hail from eight different countries, including Algeria, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Rwanda. GIST, a U.S. Department of State initiative, empowers young innovators to develop startup solutions that address economic and development challenges.

During the Congress there was also a meet and greet with the winners and organizers of the first Startup Nations Policy Hack, held in Tallinn, Estonia as part of the 2017 Startup Nations Summit. Policy hack organizers gathered to share their experiences identifying teams, judges and topics for the policy hacks, and participants also heard from the winners about their solutions and how they have started to implement them.

Manama, Bahrain Hosts GEC 2019
In April 2019, the Global Entrepreneurship Network is working with Tamkeen, the Bahrain Labor Fund, in hosting the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in the Kingdom of Bahrain’s capital city of Manama.

The partnership between GEN and the Kingdom of Bahrain is supported by Tamkeen, a semi-governmental organization that has been working to advance entrepreneurship for more than 10 years. In that time, it has launched more than 200 programs and initiatives focused on areas such as funding and financing, skill and career progression, customized employment schemes, and entrepreneurship exposure, amongst many others.

The 2019 Global Entrepreneurship Congress is focusing on ecosystem development and three key themes: Global Entrepreneurial Revolution, High-Performance Ecosystems and Inclusive Economies.

Global Entrepreneurial Revolution:
A global entrepreneurial revolution has taken hold over the last several years and continues to grow – building a shared engine of innovation and economic growth in cities everywhere. Investments into early-stage and growth-stage companies are reaching new highs while total value creation of the global startup economy reached $2.3 trillion over the last three years. This revolution is not only happening in mature startup hubs like Silicon Valley, London and Shanghai – it is happening in thousands of emerging ecosystems around the world. Places like Manama, Bahrain, are investing heavily in entrepreneurs to lead their next generation economy.

Through a focus on the Global Entrepreneurial Revolution, GEC 2019 explores innovative approaches to empower entrepreneurs which communities and countries around the world are implementing, and new emerging innovative solutions and advancements that are changing the entrepreneurship environment globally.

High-Performance Ecosystems: Vibrant, scalable high-performing ecosystems are growing quickly around the world – and they share a common set of characteristics. Local connectedness – founders developing quality relationships with each other, investors and ecosystem builders – and strong sense of community are the first two building blocks but they are only half of the answer. Global
connectedness and global market reach are necessary to supercharge an emerging ecosystem

Through a focus on High-Performance Ecosystems, GEC 2019 examines this new genome of successful startups while exploring data-driven insights into policy and program action plans to help more startups grow.

**Inclusive Economies:** Entrepreneurship is a positive force that drives innovation, creates wealth and improves lives in communities, cities and countries alike. But not everyone has the same opportunity – and it has a negative economic impact, especially in a globally-connected era. Race, age, gender, where one lives, etc., should not be an obstacle to entrepreneurship. One should be able to start a business quickly, inexpensively, without confusion and without barriers – unleashing the full economic potential of society.

Through a focus on Inclusive Entrepreneurship, GEC 2019 will explore barriers to under-represented groups – barriers such as bias, declining infrastructure and demographic shifts – and how they can be addressed.

SNS 2018 Held in Surabaya, Indonesia

Policymakers and advisors gathered in Surabaya, Indonesia, to explore innovative approaches being deployed to help stimulate the creation and growth of new businesses. The Startup Nations Summit is held each November as the official capstone to GEW when millions participate in 35,000 events, activities and competitions.

“Entrepreneurs are the life blood of any economy and governments are understandably focused on the health of their start and scale ecosystems,” said Jonathan Ortmans, president of the Global Entrepreneurship Network. “During this week, we get to see the optimism and energy of those around the world as we work to remove barriers and help a wide array of countries and communities rise to the challenge.”

For the second year in a row, the Summit featured a policy hack where seven teams of public and private sector leaders, guided by experienced mentors, designed policy solutions to real-world challenges restricting the growth of entrepreneurs in their countries. Team leaders hailed from Argentina, Brazil, Estonia, India, Indonesia, Peru, South Africa and Turkey with challenges such as increasing the number of women investors or attracting high-skilled immigrants.

Another highlight of the Summit was the World Bank launching its new flagship report which describes experiences of high-growth firms in 11 developing countries across the world. The Future of Entrepreneurship and High-Growth Firms draws cross-country lessons regarding the incidence and drivers of rapidly scaling businesses but also urges caution around some common misconceptions about public policies to support them.

During the Summit, GEN delivered two major announcements focused on supporting Indonesian entrepreneurs:

**GEN Indonesia:** GEN introduced Ivan Sandaja as acting managing director of GEN Indonesia, its latest country affiliate. Sandaja will work to expand collaboration among the country’s entrepreneurship ecosystem leaders to foster unity among entrepreneurs, startup ecosystem supporters, colleges and universities, the business community and the government – focusing on different topics to help better enable the entrepreneurial community in the nation.

**Collaboration with Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**
GEN signed a memorandum of understanding with KADIN to offer joint programs targeting entrepreneurs, investors and ecosystem builders throughout the country as well as collaboration on entrepreneurship data and research.

The Startup Nations Summit was hosted by the Global Entrepreneurship Network and the City of Surabaya. Delegates to the Startup Nations Summit gathered again in April 2019 at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Manama, Bahrain.

GEC+

GEC+ is a series of GEN licensed events, initiated and hosted by cities around the world, that bring global expertise to bear on a concentrated issue or geographic region to advance efforts to accelerate new firm formation and strengthen local, national and regional ecosystems. GEC+ events have been held recently in Seoul, Cape Town, Bangkok, Taipei and Kigali.

GEC+Taipei Tackles AI and IOT

The Small and Medium Enterprise Administration (SMEA), part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) hosted GEC+Taipei in September 2019, which was a gathering of entrepreneurs, policymakers, educators and other startup champions. The theme of the event was “Enabling Social Impact with AI + IoT,” focusing on the use of smart technology applications to accelerate innovation and the digital transformation of startups and SMEs, as well as promoting sustainable development of the global digital economy.

GEC+Taipei featured a series of events to celebrate entrepreneurs’ creativity and innovation in the region.

An international press conference hosted by the Ministry of Economic Affairs featured distinguished guests including the Minister without Portfolio Audrey Tang, and Vice Minister of the MOEA, Ming-Hsin Kung, as well as leaders of local startup ecosystems.

The GEC+ series of events emerged from the Global Entrepreneurship Congress – a massive gathering of startup champions dedicated to building and strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems in more than 170 countries. The growth of the event over the past 10 years has created demand for more in-depth collaboration on a range of issues and the GEC+ series was developed to address that demand.

Previous events in the series include: GEC+Daegu in South Korea, GEC+CapeTown in South Africa and GEC+Bangkok in Thailand. The next GEC+ event will be GEC+Africa in Kigali, Rwanda, held October 8–9, 2019.

GEC+Taipei featured a number of sessions, forums, pitch events and a Linkou Startup Terrace Tour focusing on insights and inspiration sharing in eight key areas: future startup ecosystems; smart cities and towns; smart enterprises; cross-sector innovation; digital health and smart healthcare solutions; IoT and smart manufacturing; and blockchain.
Global Entrepreneurship Summit

GEN Leads Private Sector Partners in GES 2019

The Global Entrepreneurship Network was again appointed by the U.S. State Department as the lead implementing partner in support of its Global Entrepreneurship Summit, held in The Hague, The Netherlands from June 4–5, 2019.

Among other efforts, GEN focused on the participation of entrepreneurs and the integration of private sector partners into the program. The Summit is co-hosted by the United States and The Netherlands. The focus of the 2019 Global Entrepreneurship Summit is the Future, Now, bringing together 2,000 of the world’s leaders in entrepreneurship, investment and policy – coming together to make deals that matter.

GES 2019 is about leveraging market power to unlock innovation. It is both a marketplace for new deals and partnerships, and a forum to discuss the larger context of technological change. The Summit offers unique opportunities for building business environments and policy frameworks to support the next wave of entrepreneurs and innovation.

The Summit invites innovators across five major sectors – agri/food, energy, health, connectivity and water – dedicated to providing impact solutions on how to keep the world healthy, safe, powered, fed, secure and connected.
GEN Connect

GEN Connect is a collection of virtual platforms that offer access for registered members to individuals and organizations within the Global Entrepreneurship Network. The platforms include an evolving set of tools to help strengthen local ecosystem connections while working to unite them under the banner of one global ecosystem – providing news updates, identifying upcoming events, highlighting innovative programs and pitch competitions, helping find presenters through GEN’s Speaker Bureau, affording the opportunity to network across borders and more.
An explosion of programs, institutions and organizations promoting entrepreneurship around the world has brought a new imperative for better measurement and deeper knowledge around the impact of interventions to support entrepreneurs and their ecosystems. Entrepreneurial support organizations are seeking more sustainable models for collecting and analyzing robust data about the performance of programs and their ecosystems.

Through partnerships with researchers and developing collaborative data ready communities, GEN envisions more connected and efficient processes for measuring what works – and what does not – in accelerating entrepreneurship.
The Global Entrepreneurship Research Network is a community of institutions serving the field of practitioners in entrepreneurship ecosystem building, with data collection, rigorous analysis and actionable insights to achieve greater impact.

GEN believes that evidence-based programs and interventions can improve entrepreneurial outcomes, and that better-informed ecosystem-building activities lead to more entrepreneur-led value creation. As GEN’s research arm, GERN: curates a community of practice around expanding minimally viable data sets required by entrepreneurial support organizations to monitor performance; assesses the impact that different programs and incentives have on building ventures; convenes funders and research institutions to undertake new entrepreneurship studies across geographies; aligns research practices for studying entrepreneurial ecosystems; and connects governments and practitioners to build evaluation capacity.

Key benchmarking tools include the Global Startup Ecosystem Report and the Index of Dynamic Entrepreneurship. GEN also engages in collaborative initiatives including the Global Accelerator Learning Initiative, to study what factors make accelerators successful, and the Innovation Growth Lab which utilizes the most rigorous scientific methods to examine the effectiveness of particular entrepreneurship support initiatives.

Startup Genome, GEN Launch the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2018

What technology sub-sectors hold the most promise for economic growth? How much local networking should startup founders do in their ecosystem? Do women and men differ in their entrepreneurial mindset at different points in the startup journey? Which ecosystems are leading the way in Fintech?

Answers to these questions, and countless other insights, are in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2018, released at the 2018 Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Istanbul.

Produced in partnership between Startup Genome and the Global Entrepreneurship Network, the GSER informs public and private decision makers all over the world about what actions they can take to build vibrant startup ecosystems. This year’s report analyzes key technology sub-sectors—such Artificial Intelligence and Edtech—across 45 different ecosystems, and looks at how local connections affect company performance and what makes up an entrepreneurial mindset.

“We’ve entered the Third Wave of innovation—the global startup community is disrupting industries by combining technology with deep industry expertise. This creates a game-changing opportunity for smaller, less mature startup ecosystems that can now build out competitive advantage at a global level by focusing on their DNA and legacy strengths,” says JF Gauthier, CEO and cofounder of Startup Genome.

The new GSER, with analysis based on the voices of more than 10,000 founders and data from Crunchbase and Orb Intelligence,
will enhance the lessons and insights shared at GEC.

**Index of Dynamic Entrepreneurship Serves as a Compass for Strategy Design for Better Ecosystems**

The Index of Dynamic Entrepreneurship (IDE) provides key information about the social, economic, cultural, political and regulatory conditions that affect the creation of dynamic new firms, those who contribute more to economic growth and innovation. IDE adopts a systemic and evolutionary approach.

The Global Entrepreneurship Network and PRODEM released the index as millions of people around the world took part in Global Entrepreneurship Week events, activities and competitions.

The Index of Dynamic Entrepreneurship builds on PRODEM’s previous work by combining information for more than 40 variables into 10 key dimensions, thus providing data for 60 countries around the world. The predecessor to the IDE – the Index of Systemic Conditions for Dynamic Entrepreneurship (ICSEd) – became a widely used analytical tool, mainly in Latin American countries. The new partnership with GEN looks to expand its reach to new countries.

“We hope this index will create dialogue at the regional and national level among anyone who is committed to entrepreneurial development in the world,” said Hugo Kantis, Director of PRODEM. “Our expectation is that this product will serve as a compass in the vast sea of entrepreneurship and innovation for a journey to better ecosystems.”

- Policymakers and other relevant players will find orientation for the design and implementation of strategies for ecosystem development. Among the index’s highlights:
  - America as well as North and Central Europe provide the best contexts for dynamic entrepreneurship, whereas Latin America and Africa show the most unfavorable ones.
  - The United States, the Netherlands, Singapore and Finland lead the ranking
of the best conditions for dynamic entrepreneurship.

- Better access to financing and social capital to build networks are the main advantages of the leading group regards their followers. This happens in a context of high level of development in most of the dimensions of the index.

- Only a few countries were able to reduce the distance regarding the leaders in the 2017-2012 period. They are China, Estonia, Ireland, Denmark and Hong Kong.

- Improvements in demand conditions and financing were the main sources for reducing the gap.

- Most of the reduction in the distance regards the leaders took place during the last three years, so it will be very important to follow the IDE next years to confirm whether this is a long term and sustainable trend or not.

The Index of Dynamic Entrepreneurship is the result of research and development efforts started more than 10 years ago by PRODEM, conceptually based on its pioneering studies since the late 1990s. IDE’s primary focus is on dynamic entrepreneurship – those projects and new firms that manage to survive their first years and also grow significantly with the potential for further growth.

World Bank Report Highlights New Linkages between Sustainable High Growth and Job Creation

High-growth firms in emerging economies account for more than 50 percent of all new jobs and sales despite making up less than 20 percent of all firms in manufacturing and services. These firms create a domino effect on others through increased demand and/or offering improved access to inputs.

A new World Bank Group report, “High-Growth Firms: Facts, Fiction, and Policy Options for Emerging Economies” acknowledges that the extraordinary capabilities of high-growth firms have attracted the interest of policy makers who are keen to figure out how to encourage the establishment of more of these high-performing firms to boost economic performance. The report is based on a detailed analysis of firm dynamics in Brazil, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, and Turkey.

According to the report’s analysis, the link between productivity and high growth is often weak; as firms may grow for a variety of reasons beyond technical efficiency. The report reveals that, in many instances, high growth episodes are tough to sustain and difficult to predict. Policies designed to improve firm dynamism and support job creation need to steer away from a selective focus on potential winners. Instead, they should support what the report calls...
“the ABCs of growth entrepreneurship”: (a) improving Allocative efficiency, (b) strengthening Business-to-business spillovers, and (c) building firm Capabilities.

“In many countries, growth models that may have been successful in the past need to accommodate new challenges and support job creation,” said Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, World Bank Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions. “We are working with client countries to support policy interventions that are tailored to the challenges and capabilities of firms and entrepreneurs. For many public-sector institutions, the capacity to implement such policies relies on their ability to facilitate innovation, productivity, and firm growth while monitoring and adopting global good practices.”

According to the report, most high-growth firms in developing countries are spread across a variety of sectors and regions and the majority began as a medium or large company. The report therefore recommends that public policies aimed at facilitating firm dynamism and growth do not overemphasize size, sector, technology content or location as selection criteria for policy interventions.

The report also recommends improving the quality and accessibility of firm-level data, expanding the use and scope of policy evaluation, while strengthening institutional capabilities to support entrepreneurship; all of which are key priorities for the effective implementation of high-growth policies.

“Sustaining high growth is a challenge for most firms. Central to the report’s findings is a recognition of the importance of innovation, global linkages, networks, good managerial practices, and access to finance in enabling high-growth episodes,” said Najy Benhassine, World Bank Director, Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation. “The report debunks myths about high growth being associated with particular sectors and whether a firm is high-tech and/or a startup. A stronger focus on evidence-based policies to facilitate these channels is likely to pay off greater dividends in terms of productivity and firm growth than often-futile searches for ‘the next unicorn’, ” he added.
Like the ventures they enable, ecosystems are decentralized, uncertain, organic and unpredictable. But entrepreneurs and ecosystem builders cannot afford to wait for permission to start. They need reliable knowledge and support now about innovative policies and programs.

With no blueprints for such work, GEN serves as a compass to help navigate through a crowded set of options toward proven interventions tested by peers – providing confidence amid an unpredictable path for ecosystem builders and entrepreneurs.

How GEN teams support entrepreneurs:

- Startup Nations
- Startup Huddle
- Global Enterprise Registration
- GEN Campus
- Global Business Angels Network
- GEN Accelerates
- Entrepreneurship World Cup
- GEN Starters Club
- GEN Space
- YouNoodle Compete
gAsia Pass Wins Startup Nations Policy Hack
As part of the 2018 Startup Nations Summit, entrepreneurs, thought leaders and other startup champions from around the world hacked seven different challenges to support their ecosystems. Through weeks of research and one day of in-person intense discussion, mentoring and live pitches, these teams developed viable policy solutions.

The 2018 Startup Nations Policy Hack took place in Surabaya, Indonesia, and culminated in a live pitch competition. Team leader Yatin Thakur, managing director of the Global Entrepreneurship Network affiliate in India and chair of GEN Asia, and his team members took first place at the competition for hacking a solution that reduces barriers to entrepreneurs.

The innovative solution is the “gAsia Pass,” which is a new initiative by GEN Asia and

MINISTERIAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Mariano Mayer, Secretary of Entrepreneurs and SMEs, Argentina
- Zayed R. Alzayani, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Bahrain
- Amitabh Kant, CEO, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), India
- Kristin Schreiber, Director, EU Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises & SMEs, European Commission
- Saleh Alrasheed, Governor, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority, Saudi Arabia
- Lindiwe Zulu, Minister of Small Business Development, South Africa
- Pichet Durongkaveroj, Minister of Digital Economy & Society, Thailand
other collaborators. The gAsia Pass offers a digital entrepreneur membership card which speeds up and facilitates access to government startup support services (such as a startup visa or tax benefit) and curated professional services.

Thakur’s team members included Marie Wall, startup director and deputy director, Division for Research, Innovation and Access to Finance at the Ministry of Enterprise in Sweden; David Kuo, GEN’s local managing director; Andrew Outhwaite, incubator facilitator for the government in Western Australia; and Mark Hugh Sam, adviser to the GEN team in Taipei.

“The biggest challenge which entrepreneurs face today is access to the right markets and smooth movement – especially around their own nations,” said Thakur. “We feel gAsia Pass would be able to solve that issue through a single digital identity of entrepreneurs and their enterprises with support from governments from its members’ nations.”

Unlike traditional policy hacks where challenges are chosen by the organizers, the Startup Nations Policy Hack called for team leaders to bring specific, real challenges to the table. Team leaders were also asked to bring a preliminary idea of how to address such challenges. Following the policy hack, these team leaders commit to test the hacked solution in their respective ecosystems.

Two teams, led by Felipe Matos, the vice president of Dinamo in Brazil, and Jak Koseff, the chief director at the Office of the Premier, Gauteng Provincial Government in South Africa, were finalists in the hack. Matos’ team tackled how to form and shape a Brazilian Startup Act – looking at the best possible changes in regulations and how to involve the ecosystem and government officials in the discussion.

Koseff’s team took on the problem of misalignment between the initial intention of South Africa’s “30 percent procurement policy” and its level of impact.

“The Startup Nations Summit brings policymakers and key stakeholders from...
a number of countries to share best practices, and the hack initiatives allows some of the key ideas to accelerate and scale-up policies and ideas in less than a couple of months,” said Thakur. “These hack initiatives are surely defining the new governing structures.”

**Startup Nations Policy Hack Expands to National, Regional Participation**

Inspired by the global policy hacks, local partners have organized several national editions of the Startup Nations Policy Hack around the world. These independently organized events bring together public sector leaders and experts responsible for strengthening their countries’ entrepreneurship ecosystems and roll up their sleeves and engage in hacking.

Georgia held its first Startup Nations Policy Hack in November 2018. Nikoloz Gogiashvili’s team’s proposal took first place, and focused on creating a specific accreditation system for startups and entrepreneurs, so that it can serve as a starting point for startup policy development in Georgia. This “Accreditation Center of Entrepreneurs” will maintain a constantly updated startup and entrepreneur database, identifying their capacity-level, level of activity and more. Based on this information, startups and entrepreneurs can receive specific advantages, such as tax reductions or training programs.

In Africa, a regional Startup Nations Policy Hack event worked to shed light on unseen SMEs. The hack took place in Johannesburg, South Africa in May 2018.

Team leader Jak Koseff, chief director at the Office of the Premier, Gauteng Province, South Africa, and his team members took first place at the competition for hacking a solution that addressed the 30 percent SMME procurement policy. The policy proposal was elevated and refined for the global policy hack in Surabaya, Indonesia. Koseff teamed with senior officials from across Africa under the title of “Digitizing Procurement of SMME inclusion.” The team focused on enabling the 60 to 80 percent of African SMMEs that are considered informal, to evolve into suppliers to both government and private sector value chains.

Through GEN’s programs, entrepreneurs are connected to resources in their ecosystems to help them start and scale.
Startup Huddle

Startup Huddle is a program designed to help one entrepreneur at a time while strengthening the local ecosystem. Entrepreneurs discover solutions to the challenges they face through purposeful engagement with a broad array of voices from their local community. The Startup Huddle format is consistent in each location: at a consistent meeting place, one or two early-stage startup founders give a six-minute presentation about their company to a diverse audience from their local community. Each presentation is followed by a 20-minute question and answer session where the community provides ideas, connections and feedback for the entrepreneur. By providing a weekly meet up for the local ecosystem, Startup Huddle builds community – one entrepreneur at a time.

Startup Huddle Expands, Reaches 25 Countries on Six Continents

Around the world, entrepreneurs in a growing number of cities are getting tailored support from their own start and scale ecosystems. Startup Huddle, designed to help one entrepreneur at a time while strengthening the community around the startups, creating a center of ideas and solutions, having better entrepreneurs and businessmen generation jobs and sustainable profit,” said Maia.

Startup Huddle is a program designed to educate, engage and connect entrepreneurs. In St. Lucia, Michelle N. Samuel leads the meetup, bringing in local entrepreneurs from across the country and helping spread the word about Huddle in the surrounding region.

“St. Lucia is a hub of talent, skill, creatives and inventors, who are just looking for that opportunity to make something of themselves. Startup Huddle St. Lucia could be that catalyst our young entrepreneurs have been waiting for,” said Samuel.

“Startup Huddle is a program that is important because it provides an ideal environment for local entrepreneurs to meet and express themselves and to connect with key individuals and companies who can help make a difference”

– Michelle N. Samuel, Startup Huddle St. Lucia organizer

around the startups, creating a center of ideas and solutions, having better entrepreneurs and businessmen generation jobs and sustainable profit,” said Maia.

Of those chapters, Felipe Maia, the Startup Huddle organizer for Beaga in Brazil, said that as the third largest city in Brazil, Beaga is a major center for entrepreneurship and innovation in the country. But there is still a sense of isolation among entrepreneurs – which Maia said he hopes Startup Huddle can help connect entrepreneurs and startups.

“We want to have a united community

around them, has expanded to 25 different countries across six continents in the last year, with more than 33 Startup Huddle chapters launched.

Samuel leads the meetup, bringing in local entrepreneurs from across the country and helping spread the word about Huddle in the surrounding region.

“St. Lucia is a hub of talent, skill, creatives and inventors, who are just looking for that opportunity to make something of themselves. Startup Huddle St. Lucia could be that catalyst our young entrepreneurs have been waiting for,” said Samuel.
GEN, Tatweer Misr Break Ground on Entrepreneurship Hub in Egypt

During GEW 2018, Dr. Sahar Nasr, Egyptian Minister of Investment and International Cooperation, attended the ground-breaking ceremony in Cairo of the new entrepreneurship and innovation hub, managed by GEN in partnership with Tatweer Misr. The hub will be located on the 90 acre College Campus in Bloomfields in Mostakbal City, Tatweer Misr’s latest development in Cairo.

GEN@Bloomfields is expected to be operational by 2021 and will host several technology labs, work stations, a co-working space and ample space for networking and events. It will be home to many partners, with offerings such as education and training programs, as well as a lecture series.

“The Ministry supports all efforts directed towards entrepreneurship in Egypt,” said Nasr, referring to the importance of the regional entrepreneurial hub in supporting Entrepreneurship in Egypt and on a wider scale, the Middle East and North Africa.

The campus will offer support for entrepreneurs at all stages – from concept to commercialization. Participants will also have direct access to a team of experienced entrepreneurs, mentors, industry leaders and funders all under one roof to nurture and support them during every step of their journey. This includes product development, services, business models, funding opportunities and access to markets, as well as exploring and identifying new industries and opportunities in MENA.

“Empowering innovation is the key to empowering entrepreneurship, and through our partnership with GEN Global on this campus, we aim to create a space that generates innovation opportunities for developing a better future for our youth in the region,” said Dr. Ahmed Shalaby, Tatweer Misr CEO and managing director.

GEN Campus

GEN Campus is an effort to create scalable startup villages where entrepreneurs can connect, collaborate and share knowledge and networks in ecosystems where talent is plentiful but opportunity is not. Healthy entrepreneurial ecosystems benefit from new and young firm density within a given geographic area – making it easy for entrepreneurs to connect with each other and access the resources they need. While the global startup revolution has been accompanied by the emergence of plentiful shared office spaces, GEN Campus develops physical locations in an array of ecosystems facing barriers to entry, addressing a lack of a centralized location for ecosystem leaders and startups.

In addition to becoming home for some of GEN’s national operations, GEN campuses attract local and regional startups through proven entrepreneurial support programs identified and tested around the world.

Following the 2017 opening of 22 On Sloane, the 10,000 square meter campus in Johannesburg, alongside Richard Branson, GEN is developing its next campus, GEN@Bloomfields in New Cairo, Egypt, in partnership with Tatweer Misr.
Dr. Sahar Nasr, the Egyptian Minister of Investment and International Cooperation (center), breaks ground on the new site for GEN@Bloomfields in Cairo, Egypt.
The Global Business Angels Network is an inclusive global community of early-stage investor networks seeking to increase access to early stage capital by developing angel investor capacity in burgeoning entrepreneurship ecosystems. Directed by leading angel investor networks around the world, GBAN mentors new national investor networks, provides training and support to improve investor capacity, amplifies the angel “voice” to regulatory issue discussions, advances policies removing barriers to investors and facilitates cross-border investing.

GBAN works to increase the number of angel investors worldwide and expand geographic investment arenas beyond local markets.

GBAN Shares Knowledge on Developing Angel Networks, Public Policy
The Global Business Angels Network held its third Annual Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress. There, GBAN members discussed their goals for 2018 and beyond. Since GBAN was launched in March 2015 at the GEC in Milan, it has grown from 5 founding members to 80 members from more than 60 countries. These members interface year-round with the entrepreneurs, policymakers, other early-stage finance actors and leading entrepreneurial support programs that are a valued part of GEN.

During the GEC+Taipei GEN invited and met with GBAN members to gather information and feedback from them with the goal of regularly refining what GBAN does to stay relevant to members.

Fostering cross border investment, building trust between angel investor networks globally and taking the best practices of its members global are a few about the opportunities mentioned.

In working with the Global Entrepreneurship Summit co-hosts, the US and Dutch governments, GBAN secured judges who help in selecting the most promising, investor-ready entrepreneurs from around the world. Selected entrepreneurs in focus area like Agriculture/Food, Connectivity, Energy, Health and Water get the chance to participate on the Summit.

GBAN members also have the opportunity to partner in the Entrepreneurship World Cup where entrepreneurs at any stage can enter to compete at a national level, get access to free virtual accelerator services and try to make it to the global finals with
GEN Space provides a global ecosystem platform to help stimulate the creation of startups and scale-ups focused on entrepreneurial opportunities in space. Through connecting existing and nascent space entrepreneurs with relevant government agencies, industry and investors, the program promotes collaboration and helps increase the viability of space commerce.

GEN Space serves more than 2,000 companies employing thousands of astropreneurs interested in developing launch systems, space hardware technology and support infrastructure, including: habitats, advanced materials, big data, exotic fuels, flight safety and space suits. It is also a means for connecting companies that are currently serving terrestrial markets today but which may solve grand space challenges tomorrow.

GEN Space Develops Globally Diverse Board
In 2018, GEN Space developed and enlisted a global board consisting of experts and connectors from the space industry, space travelers, astropreneurs, space media, space investors and space accelerators. The GEN Space board is globally diverse and has held several meet-ups co-located with space conferences.

At the Global Entrepreneurship Congress held in Istanbul last spring, Stephan Reckie, executive director for GEN Space, moderated a panel discussion, “GEN Space and the New Space Race,” which featured former NASA astronaut Greg Johnson, and Valerie Vlasenka, founder of VSpace News. Both Johnson and Vlasenka are members of the GEN Space board. The discussion featured a wide range of topics, and also focused on what’s next within the industry.

GEN Space bridges the gap between those innovating within the space industry to the experts, industry leaders, relevant government agencies and investors they need to take their companies to the next level. The initiative serves more than 2,000 people – including astropreneurs who are working on launch systems, space hardware technology and so much more.

This work is made possible through an outstanding board that includes Tomi Davies from Africa, Padmaja Ruparel from India, Baybars Altuntas from Europe and John May from the United States. Starting in July 2019 Linda Smith, Chairman of the Angel Capital Association will join the GBAN Board representing the United States angel investor ecosystem.
The Entrepreneurship World Cup is GEN’s primary global pitch competition with a shot at life-changing prizes. With 100,000 entrants from around the world, EWC provides entrepreneurs with the tools, resources and mentorship to start and scale their venture. The program leverages plug-and-play curriculum and director mentor engagement through the GEN Accelerates platform – guiding participants through targeted training courses, national competitions and structured support as they compete to reach the global finals held in November during Global Entrepreneurship Week. While winners of the Entrepreneurship World Cup gain entry into the GEN Starters Club, all participants enjoy continuing support in GEN Accelerates before and after competitions.

100,000 Startups Targeted to Compete in New Entrepreneurship World Cup
Up to 100,000 businesses are anticipated to take part in the Entrepreneurship World Cup, a new global program organized by the Misk Foundation and the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) across more than 100 countries.

The Entrepreneurship World Cup combines a broad-reaching pitch competition, aimed at ventures ranging from idea stage to growth stage, with a virtual accelerator program to help all participants launch, strengthen and scale their enterprises. The participants will be guided through four different stages throughout the next year:

Accelerate I – a series of education and virtual training opportunities

National Competitions – occurring across all countries – either live or virtually – with winners receiving national prizes and advancing to the next stage

Accelerate II – the national winners will experience a combination of advanced virtual training sessions and focused one-to-one mentorship prior to regional selections of global finalists, who will receive a free trip to compete in the Global Final

Global Final – this takes place at the Misk Global Forum, where finalists receive live training sessions, and compete on stage for millions of dollars in prize money and support services that will transform their enterprises.

“According to research recently commissioned by Misk among 25,000 young people around the world, 68% said they would like to start their own business one day,” said Shaima Hamidaddin, the executive director of the Misk Global Forum. “The contest will assess the potential of ambitious young entrepreneurs and accelerate the growth of their startups. The support provided throughout next year will help contestants to evaluate their business models, grow quickly and possibly develop new and better ideas.”
Global Enterprise Registration

Global Enterprise Registration is an index of web portals around the world that outline and enable simple online business registration. GER.co promotes the use and improvement of business registration services by providing easy access to existing online systems and by facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices among governments.

Global Enterprise Registration’s eRegistration and eRegulations platforms offer nations with large informal economies not just new tools for more efficiently registering and regulating businesses, but an innovative new vision for how entrepreneurship can drive citizens into the formal economy. By placing regulations online in one platform with eRegulations or by automating them with eRegistrations, GER.co offers policymakers and administrators a new model for entrepreneurs to interact with government agencies, comply with administrative regulations and implement regulatory policies and practices that are simple, quick and easy.

GEN and its partners are also developing a new vision that will enable governments anywhere to put affordable new innovative administrative processes in place – including cost-effective single-user window interfaces for all business-related interactions.

Global Enterprise Registration is jointly produced by the Global Entrepreneurship Network, U.S. Department of State and UNCTAD.

Global Enterprise Registration Tackles Business Administrative Process in Iraq and Kurdistan

In the last year, the Global Enterprise Registration initiative has taken a hands-on approach to reducing barriers to starting and operating a business through the development of its eRegistration and eRegulations platforms.

With two separate projects in Iraq, one centered in Baghdad, which started first, and the other in Erbil, the seat of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, GER has documented and published processes for business registration, operation, investment and trade. After respective government officials have verified each procedure, GER published all the information Arabic, Kurdish and English.

The online eRegistration and eRegulations platforms allow anyone and everyone – including governmental officials – to review business procedures and regulations set out in a clear, step-by-step package. In Baghdad, a team of GEN documentation officers recorded and published all the steps required to comply with 12 key regulatory procedures related to business registration and administration. The officers completed the steps any citizen would need to go through to start and operate their own company – recording every piece of paperwork and identifying all the officials and notaries who are part of the process.

This has had two effects: one is that it has made clear to anyone interacting with the government what is required of them in advance, allowing them to prepare necessary forms, documents or other materials. The other effect is that government officials can see for themselves what is required to comply with particular procedures. This has empowered them to evaluate the necessity of the steps involved, and to undertake measures to simplify the procedures.
Global Entrepreneurship Network launches GEN Accelerates effort to support entrepreneurial growth

The Global Entrepreneurship Network launched GEN Accelerates, an initiative to support capacity-building and program development for entrepreneur support organizations and governments, during the 2018 Startup Nations Summit.

“GEN Accelerates is an exciting new effort to unleash the power of regional and global networks to bring tested and validated solutions and expertise from around the world directly to the changemakers, founders and innovators in communities across the globe,” explained Susan Amat, Ph.D., founding executive director of GEN Accelerates.

She also emphasized that GEN Accelerates will be far from a one-size-fits-all solution. “We’re not just boxing up what’s working in Silicon Valley or London or Medellin...
or Kansas City and bringing it to new entrepreneurial communities.”

GEN Accelerates is offering:

- training and sharing of best practices for entrepreneurship ecosystem enablers
- plug-and-play software, curricula and other programs for entrepreneur development, and
- customized consulting with entrepreneurship supporters, educator and policymakers for the development of entrepreneurship support programs and curriculum design and execution.

GEN Accelerates supports best practice sharing, a data driven approach to ecosystem building and global linkages, leveraging regional and international experts from GEN Global’s existing network, including GERN, the Global Business Angels Network, GEN Country Managing Directors, and Startup Nations members.

GEN Accelerates is off to a running start as a partner in the Frontiers Incubator Program, supporting the training of 30 accelerators in Asia-Pacific region and announcements will soon follow for programs in the Middle East and Latin America with both public and private partners.

GEN Global offers a myriad of events for celebration, education and ecosystem-building, competitions, research and policy support to increase engagement in entrepreneurship from the smallest sole proprietor to heads of state. The millions involved through GEW and the GEN initiatives from more than 170 countries have shown their commitment to economic development through entrepreneurship, but often do not have the tools or training to operationalize the goals set by policymakers, entrepreneurs and those who support them.

The Frontier Incubators Program of DFAT is strengthening capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region. GEN Accelerates is supporting two well-known scale up programs in Bangladesh and a two-site accelerator and fund operating in Nepal and Myanmar. Through live trainings with the teams on the ground, workshops for their startups and scaleups, and virtual coaching, GEN Accelerates has supported strategic planning for regional growth, engagement of national and regional partners to scale their opportunities, and developed branding and operational plans. Curriculum and team reviews are a key piece of ensuring proper evaluation and assessment so data collection and metrics for success are core to all of the engagements. Additionally GEN Accelerates is running a virtual program for three island-based accelerators in the Pacific to achieve sustainability and build opportunities throughout Asia.

The Anzisha Prize is the largest youth entrepreneurship competition in Africa, developed to “fundamentally and significantly increase the number of
job generative entrepreneurs in Africa” by finding young innovators and helping them learn to scale.

The Anzisha Prize was founded by the African Leadership Academy (ALA), considered the crown jewel for educators on the continent. Beginning in 2004, the secondary school now boasts alumni from 46 countries and has developed a two-year curriculum in African Studies and Entrepreneurial Leadership.

GEN Accelerates is proud to partner with The Anzisha Prize in supporting the scaling of their programs and support through content and curriculum development. Using the GEN Accelerates platform, Anzisha Fellows will have access to world class content to support building sustainable ventures with a global mindset and access to the Anzisha Community of current Fellows and alumni.
GEN Starters Club

GEN Starters Club is a global community of talented founders whose promising startups have been battle-tested through the Entrepreneurship World Cup or one of GEN’s other programs. Club members access global connections with experienced entrepreneurs, mentors and investors within the Global Entrepreneurship Network – as well as year-round opportunities for additional support, visibility through curated networking opportunities at special events and learning experiences through GEN Accelerates.

YouNoodle Compete

YouNoodle Compete is a customizable startup program management platform powering more than 1,000 competitions in over 125 countries – providing corporations, accelerators, governments, universities and others with a simple and efficient tool to operate their competitions. Combined with other programs like GEN Accelerates and the GEN Starters Club, the platform offers local ecosystems a valuable tool for helping startups hone their skills through competition and move their venture to the next level.
GEN engages with a wide variety of partner organizations around the world that contribute considerable expertise, experience, resources and energy through various programs and events.
SILVER

3M  
acer  
aws

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GEN continues to integrate partner programs and initiatives into its year-long programming in order to better support entrepreneurship ecosystems around the world.

Through Global Entrepreneurship Week and other efforts, GEN is supported by a massive network of more than 19,900 partner organizations in 170+ countries.
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<td>Luke Nightingale, Head of SME Policy, Business Growth Directorate, Department for Business, Energy &amp; Industrial Strategy, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>MIDDLE EAST</td>
<td>Ali Mustafa, Officer at the Planning &amp; Business Development Department, Tamkeen Labor Fund, Bahrain</td>
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<td>Idelin Molinas, Executive Director, National Council for Science &amp; Technology (CONACYT), Paraguay</td>
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<td>Carolina Luzardi, Assistant Coordinator for Innovation &amp; Entrepreneurship, Office of the Presidency, Paraguay</td>
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