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PRESS RELEASE

LAUNCH OF SECOND PROOF OF CONCEPT COMPETITION IN VIETNAM

HANOI, Vietnam, April 28, 2017 — Following the success of the First Proof of Concept Competition with 18 enterprises receiving funding and business support services since June 2016, the Vietnam Climate Innovation Center is organizing its **Second Proof of Concept Competition**.

With the objectives of turning climate challenges into business opportunities by way of comprehensively supporting innovative startups in the field of green and sustainable development, startups and young enterprises will gain access to: **(1) grant funding of up to \$75,000; (2) mentoring and training; (3) business advisory services; and (4) fundraising** at all stages of development, from project idea, incubation, commercialization to market development.

The program is made possible through the support of Australia and the United Kingdom, administered by the World Bank Group and managed by Vietnam's Ministry of Science and Technology.

Applicants are required to submit proposals for an innovative product, service, or business model in one of the following categories:

- Energy efficiency;
- Sustainable agriculture;
- Information technology;
- Renewable energy;
- Water management and purification;
- Other sectors/technologies related to climate change

Criteria for assessment of the proposals include but are not limited to:

- Innovation;

- Positive impact on environment and climate change;
- Feasibility and risk management strategy;
- Scalability, commercialization and market potential;
- Capacity of team submitting proposals;
- Gender equality.

Proof of concept documents should focus on meeting the following requirements: 1) highlighting the innovation of technology or business models that can generate products and services to help adapt and respond to climate change challenges; 2) scaling-up and having large-scale spillover effects of their products or services.

The enterprises that will be selected through the competition will receive training by local and international experts and will participate in the international network developed through the World Bank Group’s Climate Technology Program.

Workshops for Call for Concept Proposals will be organized in **Hanoi, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City** to provide further information on the competition and answer questions.

The tentative workshop agenda is as follows:

Province/ City	Tentative venue	Tentative timeline
Hanoi	Room 204, Office of Ministry of Science and Technology - 113 Tran Duy Hung, Hanoi.	Thursday, May 4, 2017
Da Nang	Danang ICT Infrastructure Development Center – 02 Quang Trung tower, Thach Thang ward, Hai Chau, Da Nang	Friday, May 5, 2017
TPHCM	Saigon Innovation Hub - 273 Dien Bien Phu, precinct 7, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City	Saturday, May 6, 2017

Detailed information on venues and timeline can be found on the website: www.vietnamcic.org.

List of enterprises granted with the First VCIC PoC Competition:

No.	Enterprise name – Field	Brief description
1	DiChung JSC <i>IT</i>	Ride-sharing solution helping travelers save costs, get access to transport services, as well as reduce the number of vehicles on the roads and protect the environment (saved over 1,100 tons of CO2 and VND 12 billion for clients as of April 2017).
2	Microbial Technology and Environment JSC <i>Sustainable agriculture</i>	Production technology and commercialization of EMIC products. Initially, the product helped farmers treat about 600 thousand tons of agricultural waste by-products to produce 300 thousand tons of microorganic compost, reduce 780 thousand tons of CO2, and 64 thousand tons of CO by not burning agricultural waste by-products every year.
3	Ho Hoan Cau Co., Ltd. <i>Energy conservation</i>	Automatic non-burning brick making machines utilizing sub-standard products from construction stone mining. The machines are available in both big and small capacities that are suitable for different purposes; small capacity machines are suitable for households to produce and sell non-burning bricks, gradually replacing manually burnt brickyards which are causing pollution.
4	Phuong Nam Biotechnology Co., Ltd. <i>Biotechnology</i>	Biological products for agriculture utilizing the source of wort, waste water after distilling alcohol, by-products of alcohol production process to culture beneficial microorganisms

The full list of enterprises can be found here: <http://www.vietnamcic.org/portfolio>

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