



SCHWAB FOUNDATION SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW CHAMPIONS 2009 – Dalian, China

Vikram Akula – SKS Microfinance, India

Benefiting over 1.5 million people, SKS has managed to overcome the problem of insufficient dissemination of microfinance in India, especially in rural areas, by borrowing from the practices of McDonalds and Starbucks.



Disnadda Diskul – Doi Tung, Thailand

Sustainable enterprise development and economic inclusion of impoverished communities in Thailand, Afghanistan, and Indonesia.



Harish Hande – SELCO Solar Light (P) Limited, India

Through 25 Energy Service Centres (ESCs) SELCO's PhotoVoltaic (PV) solar-home-systems provide lighting and services to the poor, linking in financing mechanisms to make the technology available to over 80,000 clients.



Tim Hanstad – Rural Development Institute (RDI), USA

Working for over 40 years, in over 40 developing countries, RDI has partnered with NGOs and governments to help 400 million people secure land rights.



Andreas Heinecke – Dialogue in the Dark, Germany

A unique exhibition concept which breaks down mental prejudices around the handicapped. Visitors are led by blind guides through an exhibition in the dark. Dialogue in the Dark current runs more than 20 exhibitions around the world. The concept has been expanded to "Scenes of Silence" for the hearing impaired.



Timothy Ma – Senior Citizen Home Safety Association, China

Preventative social services plus 24-hr ICT-assisted emergency services for ageing population in Hong Kong; model is currently being replicated in other Chinese cities.



Sebastien Marot – Friends-International, Cambodia

Works to empower street children/youth and their families through social, educational, health, and employment services in Southeast Asia and Central America.



Joe Madiath – Gram Vikas, India

Helping villagers pool resources together to set up water, sanitation and energy infrastructure, Gram Vikas contributes supplementary resources or makes soft loans for specific projects after a village fund is established, affecting more than 10,000 families.





Sarah Mavrincac – aidha, Singapore

Financial education for women migrant workers in Singapore. Through academic and hands-on business training, Aidha helps women return to their home countries with social, intellectual, and financial capital necessary to spearhead new businesses.



Jimmy Pham – Know One, Teach One (KOTO), Vietnam

Comprehensive social reintegration and hospitality management training program for street youth in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.



Amitabha Sadangi – International Development Enterprises India (IDEI), India

Designs and develops micro irrigation technology that saves up to 50-70% water and increases crop yield by 30-40% in 150 districts.



Pierre Tami – Hagar International, Cambodia

Employs low-income women through commercial enterprises, including food catering and soy production. In just the first 10 years of its operation, 10,000 people have benefited directly.



Ned Tozun – D.light Design, China, India, & East Africa

Solar-powered lighting that replaces kerosene lamps, thus, enabling safer and healthier indoor environments while boosting household productivity in the evening.



Silverius Unggul – Telapak, Indonesia

Telapak promotes ecological justice, cultural integrity, and economic empowerment through its cooperatives and community enterprises, while raising public awareness for sustainable logging and sustainable marine farming.

