

## EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-885-55-00

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov)

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



## ANNOUNCEMENT

### 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GIST TECH-I COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

The American Center of the U.S. Embassy is announces that the **2<sup>nd</sup> annual Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) Tech-I competition** of the U.S. State Department has been launched! This competition is an opportunity for young entrepreneurs in many countries throughout the world to compete and win money and up to five scholarships. The initiative identifies and supports high-potential technology startups across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Using its online community and network of country and regional partnerships, GIST has delivered skills development, networking, and financial activities and resources to 400,000 young scientists and entrepreneurs.

Bangladesh has won one GIST competition already. On June 29, two Dhaka University students won the U.S. State Department's Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) "I Dare" business plan competition with their invention of Jutin, a jute fiber and resin-based building material for affordable and sustainable housing. Their plan was one of 384 entries from 48 countries. To learn more about their business plan please visit:

<http://goo.gl/NZ1gG>.

Here are the Tech-I Competition highlights:

- Technology innovators and entrepreneurs should submit their executive summary and 2 minute video pitch.
- **The deadline for applications is 5 PM EDT September 24, 2012.**
- GIST will host a webinar at the end of August to help entrepreneurs with their applications.

- 30 semi-finalists will earn an all expenses paid weekend of entrepreneurship training in Dubai in December 2012.
- The winners in Dubai will receive cash prizes totaling \$70,000 and 3 months of mentorship from entrepreneurship experts.
- 5 winners will be invited to Silicon Valley in summer 2013 for a six week GIST Accelerator Program to help their startups take off with a total of \$200,000 in seed funding available at the end.
- To view the video pitches of the finalists from Tech-I 2011, click [here](#).
- Click [here](#) to see and hear what GIST brings to entrepreneurs according to GIST I Dare Business Plan Competition finalists.
- To see what previous GIST competition finalists and mentors said about becoming entrepreneurs, click [here](#).
- [Here](#) is the link to the GIST YouTube channel.

Please apply now at: [www.gistinitiative.org](http://www.gistinitiative.org)

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*Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8855500, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov); Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)*