Dao Ventures Launches 2017 US-China Impact Venture Contest

*Dao Ventures, a US-China impact investing consortium, has launched its 3rd annual US-China Entrepreneurship Competition that is considered the only impact-oriented venture contest across the Pacific. Dozens of U.S. and international impact ventures have received support from Dao Ventures over the past years via the Competition.*

Washington, D.C. (PRWEB) September 18, 2017 -- In 2017, Dao Ventures, a Sino-US impact investment and accelerator group, has joined forces again with the Dongsheng Science and Technology Park in Zhongguancun, China’s Silicon Valley, to launch the 3rd annual Dongsheng-Dao Ventures US-China Entrepreneurship Competition which is considered the only venture contest across the Pacific.

Aside from the cross-border and internationalization aspect of the Competition, what particularly differentiates the Dongsheng-Dao Ventures Competition is that it has included environmental and social impact as a key part of its selection and evaluation criteria as guided by Dao Ventures, a consortium of various impact investing and acceleration entities that overall has supported over 1,000 impact ventures in both China and internationally so far.

Most of the 25 finalists and all the top winners from 2015 and 2016 who advanced to the Beijing Global Final were considered environmental and/or social impact ventures, and all the top winners received cash grant awards, travelling stipends and mentoring services from Dao Ventures.

Similar to last year, in addition to the Greater Washington region as the main venue, Dao Ventures will also focus on recruiting applicants from the Boston/Cambridge area where some of the well-known U.S. institutions of higher education are concentrated, with the objective of attracting more aspiring young entrepreneurs across the Pacific. Dao Ventures is also looking to recruit applicants from Silicon Valley and Canada this year.

“What we are looking for from applicants are both impact and viable business model, or in other words an innovative way of leveraging business to create an impact, as suggested by our name Dao. From our perspective, neither impact nor business nowadays should be confined to any geography, even for a start-up venture. This is a brave new world,” said Tao Zhang, Founding Managing Director of Dao Ventures.

Whether an applicant is a solid business initiative still in the garage, a seed-stage start-up company or an emerging SME looking to scale up, they are all welcome to apply to the 2017 Competition. Besides, applicants are not limited to only those who look to do business and make an impact in China – U.S. and international ventures purely focusing on the domestic market for now but with global potential are equally encouraged by Dao Ventures to apply and participate. The sector focus of the Competition encompasses environmental, internet technology, media, telecom, healthcare, education, and fintech.

The impact ventures will be competing to win the following prizes and/or benefits:

• RMB 1million (~$160,000) top award at the Beijing Global Final
• Cash grant awards and mentoring services for top winners from the U.S. Final Competition
• An invitation to participate in the Beijing Global Final via a live entrepreneurship TV show
• One-year free office space for up to five people in Dongsheng’s international accelerator in Beijing under the joint New Ventures Global initiative between Dao Ventures and Dongsheng
• Brand marketing, publicity, and media promotion
• U.S.-China cross-border consulting, mentoring and capacity building services

Application is free and easy. Applicants will just need to use a few minutes to fill out and submit an application form at www.daoventures.com/application to start the journey. Registration for applications will be closed on November 10, 2017, and the final competition in the U.S. is currently scheduled to be held in the Greater Washington region on November 30, 2017. The language of this U.S.-based event will be English throughout the Competition.

The Competition with a focus on impact ventures has won support and attention from different stakeholders over the past years, including key Chinese media outlets which have covered this event. These media organizations have included Xinhua News Agency, China Daily, CGTN America, Global Times, and Shanghai Daily.

Please contact us at info(at)daoventures(dot)com if there is any general inquiry about this Competition. For media inquiries, please contact Tim Yin at tim.yin(at)daoventures(dot)com.

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About Dao Ventures

Dao Ventures is a U.S.-China cross-border impact investment, advisory and accelerator consortium of companies and affiliates encompassing ACBridge Global Advisors, ACBridge Capital Advisors, China Impact Fund, New Ventures Global, and its affiliate not-for-profit program Green Startups Accelerator (formerly New Ventures China) housed at the Beijing-based Institute for Environment and Development. Via its myriad entities and services, Dao Ventures' focus is to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) primarily in the environmental and technology sectors whose businesses, technologies and/or products can have a positive impact on China and by extension, make China a better place for its ordinary people to live in. For more details, please visit www.daoventures.com.
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