



August 4rd, 2017

Invitation to: The Open Innovation Hackathon
Building Smart Villages:

Website: <https://corporateinnovation.berkeley.edu/open-innovation-hackathon/>



*Professor Solomon Darwin
Executive Director
Center for Corporate Innovation*

Dear Students,

I am most pleased to invite you to participate in our Inaugural Open Innovation Hackathon in India on August 29-31, 2017 in Vijayawada. The Honorable Chief Minister, Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu will chair the event on August 31. He will issue 8 Innovation Awards for the hackathon winners. A special certificate will be granted to the winners of the challenge from Garwood Center for Corporate Innovation, Haas School of Business.

We received well over 1,000 applications from top Indian institutions. Please form your group and Register your group at this link [Register Your Group Here](#) and select three challenges of your choice in order of priority – only one challenge will be assigned to your group. Professor Murlal Krishna, Chief Advisor to the Garwood Center on Smart Villages, and his selection committee will choose the top 60 groups. Please submit a one-page write-up of your understanding of the challenge and discuss the capabilities of your group to solve it. Send your executive summary to Teja at reddytejachowdary@gmail.com by Aug 7th midnight.

All selected participants will be sent a link to join Facebook group by Aug 10th which is only accessible to the selected participants. The originator of the challenge (the UC Berkeley Student) automatically becomes a member of your team to provide input as necessary. Your team may make modifications to the challenges related to a) Product Features b) Product Specifications and c) Business Model but NOT to the mission statement. Please work with the originator of the challenge in making all modifications who will resubmit the revised version to Berkeley by **August 15**. Please put together your best team.

At least one member of your team should see me on **August 18th** evening 5pm- 9pm at KL University where guidance and orientation will be provided to prepare your group for the Aug 29-31 events. Your three mentors will select final 30 groups on **August 25th**.

All communication and exchange of ideas and progress related to the challenge must be posted on the Facebook group. Participant comments should start with the appropriate hashtag related to the challenge categories (i.e. #Entrepreneurship, #Education, #Agriculture, #Communication, #Energy, #Transportation, #Healthcare, #Safety). This will help us keep track of all communication, feedback, and progress being made to help the judges determine the winning team. As a result, the “People’s Choice Award” (the 9th Award) will be given to the challenge that receives the highest reactions on Facebook (i.e. 😊❤️)

I wish you all the best.

Sincerely yours,

Solomon Darwin