

Muhammad Yunus Social Business Centres around the World: A Descriptive Report



Yunus Social Business Centre @ Becker College

Prepared by: Center for Global Citizenship

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Yunus & Shiiki Social Business Research Center: Fukuoka, Japan, 2011

The mission of the SBRC is to study and promote social businesses, especially to build **sustainable and developed social systems and to help with the incubation of social business start-ups**. The SBRC also establishes social business models aimed at **solving global issues** (poverty, health, environment, energy, education, natural disasters, etc.) by way of contracted ventures or joint research with related organizations in Japan and overseas.

Theme: sustainable models and develop social systems for above listed global issues

<http://sbrc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/pg262.html>

Links to Kyushu University*

Social Venture Lab at National University of Singapore: Singapore, 2011

As a **social entrepreneur**, you can make a world of difference with your business idea or solution. One that's innovative enough to solve society's most pressing social problems. Here at NUS Enterprise, we believe that you can do business and do good at the same time. Which is why, we highly encourage **start-ups and entrepreneurs** to be a part of our social venture initiatives and pursue a greater cause.

Theme: social entrepreneurship

<http://enterprise.nus.edu.sg/outreach/social-venture-lab>

Yunus Social Business Centre, University of Florence: Florence, Italy, 2011

The Yunus Social Business Centre University of Florence has the aim of spreading the idea of Social Business in Italy and of supporting the creation of Social Businesses to answer to social problems both in Italy and in other countries.

The Centre will achieve this objectives through:

- Researches and studies on Social Business
- Creating events on Social Business
- Taking part to and organizing international meetings
- Taking part to projects which develop Social Businesses all around the world
- Workshops and classes on Social Business
- Consultancies for the start-up of Social Businesses
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Social Businesses
- Social Business prize competition

-Yunus Social Business Centre University of Florence yearly magazine

following themes: social business and social enterprise; local, economic and human development; business management; accounting; monitoring and evaluation; project writing and management; business plans; corporate social responsibility

Theme: Research, plan and host events; international meetings/networking; classes; competitions

<http://sbflorence.org/en>

Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health, Glasgow Caledonia University: Glasgow, 2010

Aims to transform the lives of the poorest through pioneering research examining the relationship between social business and health improvement. Research evaluates the impact of social business creation on the lives and health of disadvantaged communities in Glasgow and overseas. The Yunus Centre works closely with the Institutes for Applied Health Research and Society & Social Justice Research as well as the wider University and international collaborators. Our vision is of a unique, interdisciplinary centre of excellence, researching the impact of social business and microfinance provision on the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged communities in Scotland, the UK and overseas.

Mission is to achieve our vision and make a tangible difference to people's lives through:

- Better understanding health risks in deprived communities and the determinants of health inequalities in affluent societies;
- Examining how such risks and inequalities can be mitigated by social rather than medical interventions;
- Developing methods and exploring disciplinary interfaces to devise new frameworks for evaluating social business, microfinance and related social inclusion innovations;
- Collaborating with the public, policy makers and practitioners in translating research evidence for improvement in health and well-being.

-Microcredit: Our work in this area focuses on researching the potential for microcredit to act as a **health creator and generator of wellbeing**. This brings a new 'determinants of health' perspective to the microcredit research field.

-Social Business

-Health Economics

Theme: focus on poverty and how it impacts health/ how to improve it through microfinancing; generator of wellbeing

<http://www.gcu.ac.uk/yunuscentre/aboutus/>

Yunus Center at Asian Institute of Technology: Bangkok, Thailand 2009

<http://www.yunuscenter.ait.asia/>

The power of the market can be harnessed to eradicate poverty. This can be done by using business practices to disseminate pro-poor technology. The YCA acts as a knowledge hub and an enabling platform to accelerate the spread of these technologies through enterprise-led development to address social challenges in Asia. It provides a forum for discussion between people from the public, private, academic and grassroots sectors to exchange ideas on poverty alleviation and social business. It operates under four main focus areas: SB Awareness, SB Action, SB Academy, and SB Learning.

Awareness: Program aims to make participants conscious of social problems in their community and to showcase social businesses in the area. The programs enable networking opportunities to link up people from the private sector, public sector, academics, and civil society to collaborate in developing pro-poor technologies through enterprise-led development.

Action: Under this program, social business projects will be developed not only to reduce and alleviate poverty, but also the social problems associated with it such as health, education, gender-based violence, etc. Projects will focus on exploring how technological methods and devices can be applied to the pressing needs of society to empower people in securing their own livelihoods.

Academy: captures, structures, organizes and manages this knowledge to facilitate wider knowledge-sharing and guarantee an enriching flow of original learning materials for learning and teaching. Offers teaching-learning products in collaboration and partnership with social entrepreneurs, third sector organizations, private sector and academia.

Learning: range of guided or independent learning opportunities for various levels of learners, from field or community-level activists to post-graduate students, rooted in best practices and lessons collected from initiatives within and outside the Grameen family. It aims to disseminate knowledge around social business and to widen and broaden its very concept and types as suggested so far by Professor Yunus.

Theme: gender, networking opportunities, disseminating knowledge; eliminating pro-poor technology; academics/non-academics collaborating; awareness, action, academy, and learning; uses technology to make others aware and alleviate poverty with Asia focus

<http://www.yunuscenter.ait.asia/>

Social Business/Enterprise and Poverty Chair, HEC Paris: France, 2008

Launched in 2008, the aim of the HEC Paris Social Business/Enterprise and Poverty chair is threefold:

1. To educate the next generation of managers, in order for them to become aware of societal challenges and aspire to be part of the solution, regardless of their professional activity; The Chair offers an integrated program of more than 100 contact hours - the “Social Business Certificate Program” - as well as several shorter courses on the topic.
2. To develop research on strategic innovation in societal fields: academic research, applied research, and action research, writing case studies on themes involving social business and the ways in which business can contribute to alleviating poverty.
3. To bring together large firms, government members and civil society to contribute to building a more inclusive economy, in France and in developed countries. The goal is to help firms create innovative business plans like social business and develop a series of social experimentations seeking to alleviate poverty.

This Chair is co-presided by Muhammad Yunus and Martin Hirsch.

Theme: educate; research for academic purposes/alleviate poverty; work with existing cooperations to include social business models.

<http://www.hec.edu/Corporate-Relations/Chairs-Centers/Social-Business-Enterprise-and-Poverty>

Muhammad Yunus International Centre for Microcredit and Social Business, Okan University: Istanbul, Turkey, 2011

Yunus Centre for Microfinance and Social Business aims to be the center of excellence in applied research, advisory services, teaching and executive training on microfinance and social business at the Okan University.

It aims to improve the knowledge on the mechanisms of microfinance and social business by giving people the solutions and propositions along with the financial tools they need to work their way out of poverty.

The Center intends to create a culture within academia, with the goal to serve society’s most pressing needs through social business to

- Conduct practically relevant academic research in the area of social business
- Design curricula for social business
- Initiate social business activities for students

- Provide physical space as well as assistance to students, allowing them to work on and develop social business ideas

Yunus Centre for Microfinance and Social Business envisions itself as an independent and open platform for addressing development challenges faced by poor people in Asia and sets up an example in Turkey as a pioneer. It will act as an incubator for new social business plans that challenge conventional academic wisdom; it will facilitate generation of community-based knowledge; and it will promote opportunities for both women and men.

Yunus Centre will be to become a hub of social business thinking and action. It will encourage discussion on businesses to make impact on people's lives. The YC will be the meeting place of business people, such as CEOs, business executives, policy makers, academics, young people, media people, social activists, particularly women activists, environmental activists, healthcare activists etc.

Theme: Microfinance research; advisory services; teaching; training; provides space for social business to happen

<http://muhammedyunus.okan.edu.tr/>

The Muhammad Yunus Innovation Challenge, International Development Initiative, Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Cambridge, MA 2007

The Yunus challenge was launched in December 2006 in collaboration with the MIT International Development Initiative. Every year the Yunus Challenge focuses on a different problem faced by some of the poorest communities in the world in an effort to bring these problems to the forefront of the academic community. Areas covered are drinking water, fuel efficiency, sanitary health & hygiene, de-worming and other affordable consumer products.

Support to tackle the challenge is given through Public Service Fellowships, the MIT IDEAS Competition, and the innovative D-Lab service learning course. The IDEAS Competition team with the best solution will win the Yunus Challenge award at the Competition awards ceremony in May each year and when possible, Dr. Yunus will try to present the award in person.

Future challenges will be informed by and build on the growing partnerships between developing country organizations and parts of the MIT community, including Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab and the International Development Initiative.

How it works:

- The IDEAS Competition kicks-off in October.
- Students can submit initial proposals each month from then through to March.
- Final entries come in mid-April and are judged early May.

The teams then have 15 months in which to spend their awards.

The Challenge is also supported by the Fellowships, Internships, and Grants programs which typically send students to work on their projects over the summer or the January break, although it would be possible for students to receive support to work on their projects at MIT during the semester.

Applications for these programs are received from the middle of each semester. The classes that tackle the Yunus Challenge run both semesters and also have a major fieldwork component during the January break. Some students can also travel with support from these classes over the summer. It's a pretty continuous process. Currently, there are discussions underway that could expand the Yunus Challenge to include Cambridge University in the UK. This may be done in conjunction with the "Engineers without borders" branch at the university.

Theme: challenge students to find solution to problem(s) related to poverty; Yunus presents award; 15 months to spend their award grant to fund project

<http://muhammadyunus.org/index.php/yunus-centre/yunus-centre-partners?id=551>

Professor Yunus Institute of Social Entrepreneurship, Pedagogical University of Cracow: Warsaw, Poland 2013

We cultivate the values and traditions developed by several generations of academic staff and students. We promote the idea of modern education with the versatile cooperation from higher education establishments from all over Europe. The mission of the Pedagogical University is exercised by professional and experienced teaching staff, who apply modern and up to date teaching contents. It is also expressed through scientific research, outlining new fields of scientific development, transmitting knowledge, and developing and enriching the personality of the graduates by educating them according to the highest European standards.

Theme: Research; disseminate knowledge.

<http://www.yunus.pl/index.php/pl/media/yunus-2013.html>

Yunus Centre at Sun Yat-sen University: Guangzhou, China 2012

Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, a 112-year old Chinese educational institute, has set up a Yunus Centre for **Microcredit and Social Business to promote poverty focused social businesses**.

The centre will set up sustainable microfinance programs for the poor in China, and introduce social business in the communities in Guang Dong province initially, later to be expanded in other provinces, Yunus Centre in Dhaka said in a statement.

Academic courses will be offered through the business school of the university. A team from Yunus Centre and Grameen Trust is working with the faculty and management of the university along with The Time Weekly media group to set up these programs based on experiences in Bangladesh and elsewhere.

Since 1994, Grameen Trust has been implementing 17 microfinance projects in 10 provinces of China including Hebei, Henan, Yunnan, Inner Mongolia and Sichuan.

Theme: Microcredit that is sustainable in China; 17 microfinance projects in 10 provinces of China; offers academic courses as well. (THIS INSTITUTION DOES NOT HAVE A WEBSITE)

California Institute for Social Business, California State University: Channel Islands, California, USA

The California Institute for Social Business (CISB) in collaboration with Professor Muhammad Yunus was established as part of the CSU Channel Islands' commitment **to prepare students for the world they will inherit upon graduation**. The CISB addresses the need for students to participate in local and global experiences and learn new methods of alleviating serious social ills that impact our region and the world. **Building on the four pillars of the University**, CISB exposes students to opportunities for learning about and addressing local and far-reaching social ills through the **application, study and development of Professor Yunus' notions of Social Business**.

The CISB has four principal elements:

1. Undergraduate curricula. The CISB has created a **Minor and a Certificate in Social Business**. The Certificate is available to non-matriculated students as well as CI undergraduates. As part of these programs, three new courses will be taught: Introduction to Social Business, Social Business Planning, and Research in Social Business. Introduction to Social Business is offered in the Fall semester, followed by Social Business Planning in Spring semester. The Research in Social Business course involves faculty-student research teams studying a particular social business.
2. Graduate curricula. Courses will occasionally be offered.
3. Academic research concerning social business. The CISB has published the only text dedicated to Social Business, *Social Business: Theory, Practice, and Critical Perspectives* (Springer 2014). Scholars from around the world contributed to this volume that is edited by CISB Director Andrea Grove and CI's Associate Vice President for Extended University Gary A. Berg. The Institute will support additional research projects as relevant to the work of social business and establishing increased earned income streams for non-profit and community-based organizations.
4. Partnership development. We are developing partnerships with local and global social businesses, other community partners, and academic institutions around the world to a) speak with students in the social business courses; b) provide future work opportunities for our students; c) consider social business as an option for their existing non-profit organization's work; and/or d) collaborate in our academic enterprises (teaching and research).

Theme: Rectify local and global social problems through social business; undergraduate and graduate curricula; research- theory, practice, critical perspectives; Networking/partnerships (local and global reach)

<http://socialbusiness.csuci.edu/>

Yunus Social Business Centre's, National Central University: Taiwan 2014

1. *Poverty-Free World Campaign* Professor Yunus has long said that poverty is an unnecessary imposed by society on people, and that creating a poverty-free world is a matter of will. Yunus Centre will coordinate the Poverty-Free World Campaign encompassing partners and networks around the world. Yunus Centre will be working to promote the UN Millennium Development Goals in Bangladesh and around the world, and the campaign for Bangladesh to be free of poverty by 2030.
2. *International Communication and Networking* The Centre also aims to aggrandize Professor Yunus' existing international network of individuals and institutions that work in the field of poverty eradication. The development of social media (including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) focusing on the work of Professor Yunus will enhance the exposure of his ideas on a global scale.
3. *Social Business* The Yunus Centre acts as a resource centre for existing and potential social businesses by assisting each venture in adhering to social business principles and, by extension, achieving the targeted social goal.
4. *Research & Publications* Disseminating Professor Yunus' ideas on poverty eradication by contributing articles and other media to renowned publications around the world is one of the Centre's primary activities.
5. *Academic Programs* The Yunus Centre assists in the development of academic programs focusing on social business within academic institutions.
6. *Museum/Archive/Library* The Centre is currently working towards archiving the awards, honors, prizes, degrees and other distinctions that have been received by Professor Yunus, with the aim to create a museum showcasing the milestones of his career since the early 1970's. A digital library comprised of a unique collection of video and audio tapes of Professor Yunus' speeches and publications is also in the works.

Theme: poverty-free world campaign following UN Millennium Development goals in Bangladesh then expand; promote Yunus through social media; serve as resource center for current/future social business endeavors; research and publications; classes/teaching; archive Yunus' awards/speeches in museum

<http://www.muhammadyunus.org/index.php/yunus-centre/yunus-centre-highlights/1348-yc-taiwan>

Yunus Social Business Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

The Yunus Social Business Centres (YSBC) serves as a global hub for Professor Yunus' global engagement and operates as a technology centre, research and development group that enables social businesses to grow into effective, problem-solving enterprises in health, education and renewable energy. There are nearly ten YSBCs in the Americas, Asia and Europe. The UNSW Yunus Social Business Health Hub (YSBHH) is located within the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW Medicine, and will have a focus on E-health and social aspects of health in the developing world.

Theme: technology, health; renewable energy

<https://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/yunus-social-business-health-hub>

Rikkyo University: Saitama or Tokyo, Japan 2009

Grameen Bank has prominent international recognition as a social business enterprise. Based upon the Bank's financial innovation of "microcredit" and its world-wide alliance network, Grameen Creative Lab (GCL) is an organization functioning as an "incubator" to create new business models in social business that is founded upon industry-university cooperation beyond national borders. Branches of GCL have been established within Grameen partner universities in various countries, such as Free University of Berlin (Germany), Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand), and Glasgow Caledonian University (Scotland). Japan now has its first GCL at Rikkyo.

Theme: Grameen Creative Lab

<http://muhammedyunus.okan.edu.tr/partners.php>