



MIT
PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

Photo: Saba Gul

Winter 2011

beyond the infinite

news in brief

The first MIT Alumni Service Trip to the Napo Province in the Amazon Rainforest of Ecuador took place this past summer. MIT students and faculty worked with local producers, building capacity for the organization. Pictured are cocoa drying tents where cocoa beans dry on wooden

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Keeping in touch with you is important to us. After carefully considering our economic landscape, we've reduced the size of our biannual newsletter. We are hosting the extended content online at <http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc/bti> and we encourage you to explore in-depth the stories we touch on here. We welcome your feedback about this new mode of communication; see our survey online.

MIT CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE WORLD

In partnership with MIT150 and the MIT Alumni Association, the MIT Public Service Center has launched the **MIT Global Challenge**, an invitation to the MIT community to support innovation as public service. Partner with us to identify innovation opportunities, support student teams as mentors and volunteers, underwrite Global Challenge awards, or just peruse MIT's ingenuity at work on pressing issues that affect people's needs. More at <http://globalchallenge.mit.edu>

IDEAS COMPETITION TEAMS: MOVING AHEAD THROUGH INNOVATION

We couldn't be more proud of what IDEAS Competition teams have accomplished. Entering its tenth year, the IDEAS Competition has spawned teams of inventors who have made quality of life improvements for those who need them the most. We have had the pleasure of watching IDEAS teams develop their projects in significant ways by acquiring funding, developing new partnerships, and gaining recognition. Here are some highlights.

Helping Pakistani girls attend school

Fareeba and Fatima (pictured on the cover) are Afghan refugee girls who, thanks to BLISS (Business and Life Skills School) can now attend school instead of working as carpet weavers for 12-14 hours a day. Through BLISS, girls take part in an after-school program where they learn traditional Afghan embroidery skills that they use to decorate handbags. These skills help to ensure their livelihood and enhance their earning potential. BLISS, a 2009 IDEAS Competition award winning team, was cofounded by Saba Gul '05, SM '09 and Eleni Orphanides '10.



mer. Public Service Fellows and MIT Alumni worked with the Kallari Association, a cooperative of indigenous cocoa farmers before being size-sorted and sent to the chocolate factory.

Improvements in Western China

One Earth Designs, the team behind the SolSource 3-in-1 – a lightweight and portable solar energy device for cooking, heating, and electricity generation – won €500,000 in the Dutch Postcode Lottery Green Challenge. For the population in Western China who use dung as fuel or carry cement-based solar cookers, this is very good news. SolSource was a 2008 IDEAS Competition winner.

Faster mobility aids

Another 2008 IDEAS Competition winner, the **Leveraged Freedom Chair (LFC)**, a lever-powered mobility aid, won the R&D 100 Award and was one of three Editor's Choice Awards. The award is sponsored by the R&D magazine, which features state of the art advances in science and technology. LFC pioneer, Amos Winter SM '05, PhD '10 tested the wheelchairs in Guatemala this past summer with a grant from the Inter-American Development Bank.

Village-scale energy solutions

In 2005, the Solar Turbine Group, now known as **STG International**, won an IDEAS Competition award for their parabolic trough reflectors that provide clean and affordable energy to villages. Now, five years later, the team, led by Matthew Orosz MNG '03, SM '06, a doctoral student in Civil and Environmental Engineering, is thriving and was just awarded the ConocoPhillips Energy Prize.

SLOAN SOPHOMORE AND CLASS PRESIDENT AMANDA DAVID BRINGS HER PASSION FOR SERVICE TO THE CLASS OF 2013

As organizer of CityDays, a major MIT Orientation event, Amanda David recruited a record number of upperclassman participants. David is using that same knack to run a new service competition for Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups and Dorms (FSILG&D) sponsored by the 484 Phi Alpha Foundation. Stay tuned; the challenge will take place this spring.

Continue reading at <http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc/bti>



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