

Ben: All right, well let's get started. Thanks for those that were able to make the call. To get started. I'd just like to, to ask Dr. Ku to say a few words about WE4F and the founder's vision for WE4F if that would be okay.

Dr. Ku: Sure, sure. Thanks Ben for the introduction. My name is Dr. Ku. I am team lead of water and energy for foods, a grand challenge for development. And we're starting this new grand challenge to focus specifically for this prize on the nexus of agriculture and energy.

Dr. Ku: Even though the larger grand challenge goes over more topics, this is our focus here. And so thanks once again for your time. And our vision is to really produce more food with less water and make more water available for food production, processing and distribution, as well as making energy more efficient at the nexus.

Dr. Ku: And so our focus really on this prize with Asia Edge is as the United States and its partners look to move forward and make sure there's a sustainable energy and water vision for agriculture that we can start that through you all. And so we appreciate your time and your energy. And with that I'll turn it back over to you Ben.

Ben: Sure. So my name is Ben Amick and I'm helping lead this w for Asia Edge energy prize. And just real quickly, I mean that's Dr. Ku there and that's myself. That photo there for me is from an event I did in Bangkok a little while ago. And we're really excited to be here today and what I'd like to do is I'm also here with my colleague Kathleen on the line and Kathleen is our technical control expert and she is recording this webinar. And it'll be uploaded to the www.WE4F.org website after we're done.

Ben: I would like to spend the most of the time today with any questions that anybody has about the prize itself. We have a small group today, but we'll welcome any questions that we can answer our best or we could always submit you a response later if we need more time.

Ben: Building off what Dr. Ku said already, I'd like to just give a quick overview of the prize itself. The Water and Energy for Food Asia Edge ag energy prize. It's a prize competition that seeks to spur, recognize, and reward outstanding enterprises from both youth innovators and mid stage businesses within Southeast Asia.

Ben: The goal of the competition is identifying fun, promising innovators at this nexus of renewable energy and agriculture, explore market activity about the nature, progress and scale of small growing enterprise in the region, and improve awareness of the WE4F and Asia Edge development initiatives among the business community.

Ben: The prize into two different categories, the mid market businesses and youth innovators. There's a mid stage enterprises prize as you might have seen online

where the top prize is \$100,000 for the grand prize and \$65k for the first runner up. It's another \$65k for the second runner up.

Ben: It's also open to the youth innovator prize. And the youth innovator prize is up to \$75k for first prize and \$50k for the runner up. Applicants, while there is two different prizes, applicants will be judged on their understanding of the problems within the sector, the potential social impacts on the innovation, the viability of the business model and the ability to target markets at the base of the pyramid.

Ben: We're currently in the open application period. Applications are due January 29th. We'll be screening initial applicants at the end of the month and judging will be happening in early February. The finalists will be selected via email in mid February. The finalists will be invited to travel to Bangkok, or if they are already in Thailand, they could travel for a co-creation workshop from March 9th to 11th to join other thought leaders and innovators within the space.

Ben: After the workshop there'll be finalist interviews conducted also along the sidelines in the Bangkok. And prize winners will be notified via email, of who's actually winning, by April 30th. And winners will be invited to attend and they'll be announced at the Asia clean energy forum in Manila, Philippines in June.

Ben: In the summer there'll be acceleration services as well provided on this package in addition to the monetary award. The water energy for food challenge fund is a partnership among US AID, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Ben: This is also part of a US government Asia Edge whole government initiative that seeks to grow sustainable and secure energy markets throughout the Indo-Pacific region. Under Edge the USA plays a leading role helping its Indo-Pacific partners expand energy access, promote energy diversification in trade and strengthen energy security throughout the region.

Ben: That's the overview and some of this information may sound very similar from the website. I'd like to pause there and then I would like to ask any questions from anybody on the phone line or any other clarifications that you would like to know.

Ben: Are there any questions from anybody on the line?

Participant: Hello?

Ben: Hello. And if you don't mind introducing yourself too.

Participant: Yeah, my name is blank. I'm from Indonesia.

Participant: So our start up currently we are working to replace plastic materials, so is that include that our plastic is to replace plastic packaging for food.

Ben: Oh, I see. So is it reducing, is it helping ... how is it, could you make an argument where it's supporting more renewable energy?

Participant: Yeah, so we are basically making a plastic made from seaweed. So we are impacting around 3,000 seaweed farmers in Indonesia.

Ben: That's interesting.

Participant: Yeah. So it's like, so we made a plastic made from seaweed. So is that count? You know?

Ben: Yeah, I think so. I don't know enough about your solution. It sounds like it does. I would further look at the themes on the WE4F website and further make sure you feel like it's something that does meet within that water energy for food nexus space. It definitely sounds like it does. And you know, it sounds like you're looking at the mid stage innovators prize.

Participant: Not really. We are under 30 so might focus on the under 30 prize.

Ben: Okay. Well it sounds like you might indeed fit that. It sounds like you might indeed be relevant to that. So I would just, when you work on your application, please keep in mind the key themes on the We4F.org website on how your business model might overlap with some of those key themes and key focus areas.

Ben: Does that make sense?

Participant: Yes. Okay.

Ben: Okay. Sounds really interesting though. It sounds really interesting. And I don't think we have too many participants or do you have any other questions?

Participant: No, not yet.

Ben: Okay. Are there any other questions from anybody else on the line? All right. Well thank you for joining and if there's no other questions on the line, I think I would just like to summarize key next steps if that'd be okay with everybody.

Ben: So what we'll do next is we're going to be uploading this webinar to the actual www.WE4F.org website. I think we don't have any new questions. Our FAQ will be the same, but the key thing to think about is make sure you remember to apply by the end of January and then they'll be followed up again with the co

creation workshop in Bangkok. I hope to see many of you there. And then the final winners will be announced by the end of April.

Ben: Dr. Ku, We'll keep this short and sweet tonight. Is there any other final words you'd like to say before we wrap up tonight?

Dr. Ku: No, just thanks for everyone who joined the line and participated in this webinar. And that you said good luck in the competition and hopefully we'll see some of you in in Bangkok.

Ben: Great. Thank you very much.

Ben: Have a good night everybody.