

For immediate release

Asian Entrepreneurship Award Steering Committee

OUI Inc., the Japanese Startup of a Smartphone-based Ophthalmic Diagnostic Medical Device, Wins First Prize at AEA 2022 Innovation Awards SocialTech Japan Wins First Prize in Social Business Session

(Chiba, November 1, 2022) [The Asian Entrepreneurship Award 2022 event \(AEA 2022\)](#) was held fully online from Wednesday, October 26th to Thursday, October 27th with the participation of 24 tech startups selected from Asian countries and regions. Among the competing participants, Japan's OUI Inc., which develops the Smart Eye Camera (SEC), a smartphone-based medical device that enables ophthalmic diagnosis anytime, anywhere, and by anyone, was chosen as the winner.



AEA is a global innovation award for emerging Asian entrepreneurs and startups that are utilizing advanced technology to offer solutions to social issues. The AEA 2022 brought together 24 selected startups from across Asia providing solutions in the three areas of healthcare, work & lifestyle reform, and sustainability, all of which are global key issues going forward.

Each company was selected on the basis of a wide range of criteria, including innovativeness, the social impact of their products and services, their commercial viability, the potential for collaboration with Japanese companies, the opportunity for business expansion in Japan, and OUI Inc. (Japan) was chosen as the winner.

This year, the Social Business Session in which participants competitively share business ideas for solving social problems was also held at the same time. Among the four participants of the session, SocialTech Japan (Japan), a provider of affordable medical services for achieving universal health coverage, won first prize.

In parallel with the AEA Innovation Award sessions, on October 29, AEA2022 Briefing was held online as a program of the open innovation forum Kashiwanoha Innovation Fest 2022, featuring Dr. Shigeo Kagami, Chairman of the AEA Steering Committee, who served as a judge for the final session; Shingo Kokudo, Chairman and Director of TX Entrepreneur Partners (TEP); Rima Kitazumi, Assistant Director, Asia New Industry Co-Creation Policy Office (ADX Office), Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau, METI; and Mariko Nishimura, President, HEART CATCH Inc.

The event was held under the theme of "The NEWREAL of Startups - Signs of a new era as seen from AEA2022 -" and featured a demonstration by the winner, OUI Inc. (Japan), as well as the runner-up winner, Nervotec (Singapore), third place winner, Liquium (New Zealand), and an in-depth look at notable technologies from various perspectives. The discussion also covered topics such as matching, collaboration, and partnerships with startups, which may be of interest to VCs and

Japanese companies looking to partner with startups. As the content is expected to be useful for VCs and Japanese companies that are planning to collaborate with startups, those interested are encouraged to tune in to the discussion from the following archived video.

■AEA2022 Briefing "The NEWREAL of Startups - Signs of a new era as seen from AEA2022 -"
<https://kashiwanoha-innovation.jp/programs/>

The archived video is available on the Kashiwanoha Innovation Fest 2022 website (Japanese only).

In addition, archived videos of the semi-final and final sessions of AEA2022 held on October 26 and 27, 2022, will be available soon. If you wish to view the videos, please register at the URL below.

<https://aea2022archive.peatix.com/>

If you are interested in cooperative collaboration with AEA2022 participating companies, please contact the AEA2022 Steering Committee Secretariat (info@aea.events).

■AEA2022 Winners

<Winner>

OUI Inc. (Japan)

Smart Eye Camera (SEC), a smartphone-based medical device that enables ophthalmic diagnosis anytime, anywhere, and by anyone

- Comments from the startup: "It is a great honor to be chosen. We have been doing this for 11 years and look forward to collaborating in the future with our technology. Thank you very much."
- Points evaluated by the judges: The comprehensive solution which spans from diagnosis to treatment was highly evaluated.

<Runner-up>

Nervotec (Singapore)

Remote health management mobile platform for contactless measurement and analysis of physiological biomarkers using video analysis technology

- Comments from the startup: "This is a tremendous honor. Thank you very much. We are very happy and excited, and hope to expand into the Japanese market in the future."
- Points evaluated by the judges: The solution using only a smartphone, has the potential for it's business scalability by collaborating with great partners.

<3rd place>

Liquium (New Zealand)

Clean ammonia production technology for fuels using a new catalyst that reduces capital and operating costs for industrial plants

- Comments from the startup: "Thank you very much. We look forward to doing business in APAC and in Japan."
- Points evaluated by the judges: The social impact made by clean energy can be significant.

<Special Award - AEA Social Business Award>

SocialTech Japan (Japan)

Affordable health services for universal health coverage

- Comments from the startup: "Thank you for choosing us. This is a great start for us as a social business in Japan. My team and I are very pleased. We will continue to work hard and reach the global community."

<Special Award - Fujitsu Accelerator Award>

Nervotec (Singapore)

Remote health management mobile platform for contactless measurement and analysis of physiological biomarkers using video analysis technology

- Comments from the special award judges: "Fujitsu has launched a new business brand called Fujitsu Uvance to address cross-industry issues. Fujitsu Uvance focuses on seven areas, one of which is 'Healthy Living.' As a DX company, we felt that Nervotec's technology could help

employees switch between life and work and manage their health to promote individual well-being. We hope to explore the possibility of collaboration by leveraging our mutual synergies.”

<Special Award - IP Bridge Award>

OUI Inc. (Japan)

Smart Eye Camera (SEC), a smartphone-based medical device that enables ophthalmic diagnosis anytime, anywhere, and by anyone

- Comments from the special award judges: “This is a very simple device that is easy to take to the field, and we felt it was a feasible solution in addressing the issues of blindness and low vision. We would love to see them achieve their goal of reducing the blindness and low vision population by 50%. To that end, we hope they will utilize our mentoring team to strengthen their IP.”

<Special Award - The Japan Academic Society for Ventures and Entrepreneurs Award>

Liquium (New Zealand)

Clean ammonia production technology for fuels using a new catalyst that reduces capital and operating costs for industrial plants

- Comments from the special award judges: “The new method proposed by Liquium for mass production of ammonia and CO2-free energy sources can reduce costs by more than 50% and is more promising than the Haber-Bosch process. Although intended for use in the area of heavy industry, if ammonia fuel cells can be developed at the same time, ammonia can also be used for mobility, and the market would expand even further. We have high expectations that a new unicorn will emerge from New Zealand.”

<Special Award - Life Science Award>

OUI Inc. (Japan)

Smart Eye Camera (SEC), a smartphone-based medical device that enables ophthalmic diagnosis anytime, anywhere, and by anyone

- Comments from the special award judges: “OUI Inc. has great technology and products, as well as an excellent vision. Furthermore, we see great potential for remote medical care and AI-based surgery. We hope OUI Inc. can help patients all over the world. Congratulations.”

<Special Award - Microsoft Award>

ARAV Inc. (Japan)

A real-time remote control system that can be retrofitted to existing construction equipment and connected via the Internet

- Comments from the special award judges: “ARAV Inc. is the company that thinks the most about IoT data utilization, and we thought they could make the greatest impact by collaborating with us due to their reproducibility and scalability. We also believe they can collaborate with large Japanese companies in the construction and agriculture industries because of their market impact, ease of implementation, and relevance to IoT business. By doing so, they will be able to achieve social impact and sustainability.”

<Special Award - Audience Award>

Nervotec (Singapore)

Remote health management mobile platform for contactless measurement and analysis of physiological biomarkers using video analysis technology

For a list of startup entrants and their businesses, visit <https://aea.events/e/startup-entrants/>

■Awards

- First Prize: 3 million JPY
- Second Prize: 1 million JPY
- Third Prize: 500,000 JPY

- **AEA Social Business Award**: 1 on 1 online meeting with Prof. Muhammad Yunus
The award is given to the team which meets all 7 principles of Yunus Social Business and excels overall.
- **Fujitsu Accelerator Award** : Provide a forum for startups that are potential co-creation partners of Fujitsu Computing as a Service (CaaS) to discuss with Fujitsu division members.
- **IP Bridge Award** : Strategy-building support for intellectual property
- **Life Science Award** :
 1. Support for scheduling 1-on-1 meetings with companies in the LINK-J network during business trips to Japan and PR support for the LINK-J website after consultation with LINK-J.
 2. Published interview article featuring the award-winning company on the website of LINK-J (Life Science Innovation Net).
 3. (Japanese startups only) One-year free membership of LINK-J
- **Microsoft Award** : Coaching and review of IoT system architecture on Azure by Cloud Solution Architect from Azure Tech Team, IoT Asia (Notes: The scope and period of support will be defined depending on the technical conditions and scenarios.)
- **The Japan Academic Society for Ventures and Entrepreneurs (JASVE) Award** :
The award is given by JASVE to the most excelling team in solving problems with an entrepreneurship mindset.
- **Audience Award**:
The award is given the company that receives the largest number of votes from the online audience among the companies participating in the final session.

■Final Session



Top : MUI Robotics Company Ltd / Mr.Kagami (a panel of judge) / Liquium / Michael Alafant (a panel of judge)

Bottom : Alfaleus Technology Private Ltd / Mr.Kokudo (a panel of judge) / ARAV Co., Ltd. / Jenna Lee (a panel of judge)

■Keynote Speech



Special Lecture : Mr. Iwao Yoshino, President and CEO, Microwave Chemical Co., Ltd.

■Announcement of Award Winners



Top : 1st place OUI Inc. / 2nd place Nervotec
Bottom : 3rd place Liquium / Group photo after the final session

■AEA Briefing



(From left to right) Mariko Nishimura, Shigeo Kagami, Shingo Kokudo, Rima Kitazumi and Eisuke Shimizu, OUI inc.

■About AEA2022

Official website : <https://aea.events/e/> (English) <https://aea.events/j/> (Japanese)

Host: Asian Entrepreneurship Award steering committee

Co-hosts :

Division of University Corporate Relations – The University of Tokyo <https://www.ducr.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/>

Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd. (Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City) <https://www.kashiwanoha-smartcity.com/en/>

TX Entrepreneur Partners General Incorporated Association (TEP) <https://www.tepweb.jp/english/>

The Japan Academic Society for Ventures and Entrepreneurs (JASVE) <https://www.venture-ac.ne.jp/en/>

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/>

—Contact—

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