



Press Release

Asia's Most Promising Deep Tech Startups Gather in Kashiwa-no-ha to Shape the Future

"Asian Entrepreneurship Award 2024" Semi-finalists Announced

Final Pitch Event to be held on Thursday November 21st; Public Registration Now Open

Highlights

- AEA2024 to be held in Kashiwa-no-ha on November 20-21, the first in-person event in five years
- 15 companies have been selected to participate in the semifinal session to be held in Kashiwa-no-ha smart city on Wednesday November 20th
- Members of the public may now apply to attend the Final Pitch Event on Thursday November 21st
- Mr. Kengo Horiuchi, General Partner of Carbide Ventures, Representative Director of Treasure Data, Inc., will deliver the keynote speech

The Asian Entrepreneurship Award (AEA) Steering Committee is pleased to announce that AEA2024, an annual event held since 2012 where thriving startups in Asia come together, will be held on November 20th and 21st at Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City. It will be the first in-person AEA event in five years.

AEA is an innovation award that aims to create an ecosystem for innovation in Asia by bringing together promising young entrepreneurs selected from rapidly growing Asian countries in Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City in Japan. The event provides a platform where startup supporters from across Asia, Japanese investors, and large corporations can come together to foster collaboration and support innovation in Asia.

The award event has taken place annually since 2012, with 295 startups from 16 countries and regions having participated so far. Many Japanese and overseas participants have since made exit plans, become profitable, and built collaborative partnerships. In Japan, prior participants EDP Corporation and Cyfuse Biomedical K.K. have achieved a listing on the Growth Market of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, and Axelspace has raised a cumulative 14.3 billion yen in equity.



Registration for AEA2024 is open to deep-tech startups with early-stage innovative solutions in the categories of “Life Science/Healthcare”, “Environment/Energy”, “Mobility”, “Space” and “Smart City Solutions for Consumers” all sectors with particularly strong representation in Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City. Applications from 64 companies in 13 countries and regions were received this year, with 15 of these selected as semi-finalists.

In advance of the final session on Thursday, November 21st, the 15 semi-finalists are tweaking their business plans and incorporating strategies to the business expand their business in Japan and overseas. Mentors, including Japanese venture capitalists, angel investors, consultants, and other specialists in various industries, will help them by offering insights and strategies, including how to adapt their business for the Japan market, optimize their business models, enhance profitability, and go global. The finalized business plans will be presented at the semi-final session at Kashiwa-no-ha on Wednesday, November 20th; six finalists chosen from the 15 will deliver their pitch at the final session on Thursday, November 21st.

The deep-tech industry is the focus of much attention in Japan and Asia, with local and regional players expected to thrive in the global market. Those involved in the development of new businesses or corporate and individual venture capitalists will have an excellent opportunity to look into the future, determine where to focus or invest, and support ground-breaking technologies through partnerships with attendee startups.

During the final session, new faces in the deep-tech industry in Asia spearheading next-generation innovation will compete with each other for the chance to venture into the global market and to make their mark on the world with their cutting-edge technology. Those responsible for new business development in larger enterprises interested in co-creating value with deep-tech startups in Japan and Asia—as well as individual or corporate venture capitalists looking for investment opportunities—should not miss this unique opportunity to connect.

■ **Members of the public wishing to attend: please visit <https://aea2024.peatix.com>**

■ **AEA2024 Final session overview**

The six finalists selected from the 15 participating in the semi-finals on November 20th will take to the stage during the final session on the following day and deliver their final business pitches. While the semi-finals will be open to event participants only, the final session will be open to the public (pre-registration required).

- **Date** Thursday November 21st
- **Time** 13:00 - 19:30 General admission (free admission from until 17:40; chargeable thereafter)
- **Venue** Kashiwa-no-ha Conference Center
(2nd Floor, Hotel & Residence Building, 178-4 Wakashiba, Kashiwa City, Chiba Prefecture)
- **Language** English (simultaneous interpretation into Japanese will be provided)
- **Website** <https://aea.events/j/> (Japanese) <https://aea.events/e/> (English)
- **Host** Asian Entrepreneurship Award Steering Committee
- **Co-Hosts** The University of Tokyo
Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd.
TX Entrepreneur Partners General Incorporated Association
The Japan Academic Society for Ventures and Entrepreneurs
Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
Kashiwa City

Schedule

- 13:00 - 13:10 AEA2024 Opening Speech
- 13:10 - 14:55 Final session: 3 finalists (15-minute presentation, + 15-minute Q&A session)
- 15:05 - 16:50 Final session: 3 finalists (15-minute presentation, + 15-minute Q&A session)
- 17:00 - 17:40 Keynote speech: "Go-to-market Strategies for Startups: From Japan to the World, and From the World to Japan" by Mr. Kengo Horiuchi, General Partner of Carbide Ventures, Representative Director of Treasure Data, Inc.
- 17:45-19:30 Announcement of awards & reception

Profile of Mr. Kengo Horiuchi

General Partner of Carbide Ventures, Representative Director of Treasure Data, Inc. In 2013, he participated in the launch of Treasure Data's Japan business as the marketing director for Japan and Asia-Pacific. In 2018, Treasure Data was acquired by Arm Holdings, the British semiconductor design subsidiary of SoftBank Group. In August 2021, he co-founded Carbide Ventures, a venture capital firm with bases in Silicon Valley and Tokyo, in partnership with the founding members of Treasure Data. He currently focuses on investing in enterprise SaaS and other startups, primarily in Japan and the U.S., and is committed to enhancing their corporate value.

■ Application for public participation: <https://aea2024.peatix.com>

■ Semi-finalists (in alphabetical order by company name)

1	Alternō JSC	Vietnam	Environment / Energy
	Developed "sand battery," a thermal energy storage technology that uses sand to store renewable energy and can be used in various industrial processes.		
2	BatX Energies	India	Environment / Energy
	Has developed technology that efficiently recovers and recycles/regenerates lithium, cobalt, and nickel from lithium-ion batteries using unique "zero emission/zero waste" technology.		
3	CancerFree Biotech	Taiwan	Life Science / Healthcare
	Has developed Ex Vivo Avatar (EVA), a solution that creates 3D tumor organoids extracted from patient blood to test individual cancer drugs		
4	CoNEX Healthcare Pte Ltd	Singapore	Smart City Solutions for
	Has developed PreSAGE, non-contact and privacy-protecting inpatient monitoring technology that utilizes thermography sensors, image processing, and machine learning.		
5	Dynolt Technologies Private Limited	India	Environment / Energy
	Has developed energy-saving power converters for clean energy products with the aim of maximizing energy efficiency.		
6	eMoBi Co., Ltd	Taiwan	Mobility
	Has developed a small three-wheeled EV and offers rental services at tourist spots across Japan. Provides a comprehensive service from hardware to software to service management.		
	Entomal Biotech Sdn. Bhd.	Malaysia	Environment / Energy

7	Offers a waste management solution that converts organic waste into insect protein and fertilizer deploying bioconversion technology using black soldier flies.		
8	Formus	New Zealand	Life Science / Healthcare
	Optimizes joint replacement surgery with AI-based automation and patient-specific bone and soft tissue modeling, allowing personalized orthopedic surgery.		
9	GEXVal Inc.	Japan	Life Science / Healthcare
	Addressing rare diseases and unmet medical needs by using AI-supported pharmacological information tools. Exploring potential treatments for neurobehavioral and cognitive disorders.		
10	Kenkone Medical Co., Ltd	Taiwan	Life Science / Healthcare
	Maximizes the quality of patient care while reducing medical professionals' workload by supporting the creation of records during surgery with generative AI and voice recognition technology.		
11	Kisui TECH Co. Ltd.	Japan	Mobility
	Has developed an autonomous AI offload platform and provides modular technology to streamline various tasks in primary industries such as agriculture and construction.		
12	KroniKare Pte Ltd	Singapore	Life Science / Healthcare
	Has developed a groundbreaking AI-powered solution that automates the assessment and management of chronic wounds caused by diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, aging, etc.		
13	Taiwan Carbon Shuttle Technology Co., Ltd.	Taiwan	Environment / Energy
	Develops sustainable carbon materials and carbon reduction technologies that achieve precise separation and purification, enabling the recovery of precious metals and the prevention of air, water and soil pollution.		
14	TopoLogic Inc	Japan	Environment / Energy
	Develops high-performance semiconductor technology that takes advantage of the unique electronic, spintronic, and thermoelectric properties of topological materials.		
15	Vidi Labs Ltd	Hong Kong	Smart City Solutions for
	Has developed a compact AI-powered wearable device designed to help visually impaired persons and the elderly live more independently and safely.		

■ About AEA (<https://aea.events/e/>)

AEA is an award for innovation established with the aim of developing an innovation ecosystem in Asia. Leveraging the knowledge and experience of major private companies and organizations supporting startups, the AEA program is an initiative involving the private and public sectors and academia that encourages and supports young entrepreneurs developing new technologies. Such entrepreneurs seek bold solutions to the world's problems, help to create employment and new industries, and are the key to innovation.

■ About "Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City"

The Kashiwa-no-ha area, the event venue, promotes urban development based on the three themes of "environmental symbiosis," "healthy longevity," and "new industry creation" through the "Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City," which embodies a development model aimed at solving urban problems. In 2019, a project called "Innovation Field Kashiwa-no-ha" was launched there; this involves a variety of companies and organizations making use of the entire site as a platform for experimentation and for the demonstration of new projects, accelerating the creation of new industries. Companies participating in past AEA events have conducted

demonstrations at Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City or received funding there. It helps overseas companies participating in the AEA program to take the first step expanding into Japan; it also facilitates the collaboration of Japanese companies with startups through their utilization of Kashiwa-no-ha's demonstration facilities.

■ Co-Hosts

<The University of Tokyo Industry-Division of University Corporate Relations> [WEB]

<https://www.ducr.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>

The Division of University Corporate Relations at the University of Tokyo offers various supports related to the right acquisition, management, use, and business creation of intellectual properties to make influential innovations through research at the University of Tokyo. Such support includes Entrepreneurial consultation services for researchers and students, Operation and management of incubation facilities for venture companies, and Funding for university-launched venture companies through the University of Tokyo Collaborative Platform Development Corporation and the University of Tokyo Edge Capital Partners Corporation. The division also operates incubation facilities such as the University of Tokyo Entrepreneur Plaza and the University of Tokyo Entrepreneur Lab, as well as entrepreneurship education programs such as the University of Tokyo Entrepreneur Dojo, EDGENEXT, Hongo Tech Garage, and FoundX. The University of Tokyo Entrepreneur Dojo, EDGE-NEXT, Hongo Tech Garage, FoundX, etc. Through this event, the division will further foster a culture of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship from a global perspective.

<MITSUI FUDOSAN> [WEB] Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City <https://www.kashiwanoha-smartcity.com/>

Mitsui Fudosan is promoting the Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City project in the area around Kashiwa-no-ha Campus Station in Kashiwa City, Chiba Prefecture, under the three themes of "environmental symbiosis," "health and longevity," and "creation of new industries." In the area of new industry creation, centered on the venture co-creation project "31VENTURES," Mitsui Fudosan's broad trade area and diverse business domains are utilized to create new industries that connect people of multiple generations, fields, and nationalities throughout the city. Mitsui Fudosan and Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City have supported AEA since its launch in 2012, and will continue to build an innovation creation ecosystem in the Kashiwa-no-ha area that attracts Asian startups, major companies and entrepreneurial supporters.

<TX Entrepreneur Partners General Incorporated Association (TEP)> [WEB] <https://tepweb.jp/>

TX Entrepreneur Partners (TEP) is an organization that supports deep tech startups with technology at its core, mainly along the Tsukuba Express rail line, and promotes the creation of a sustainable startup support ecosystem through collaboration among local universities and research institutions, government, private companies and individual supporters. AEA was established as an opportunity for startups to expand their horizons beyond their home countries and regions to Asia and the world, and has been held on an ongoing basis.

<The Japan Academic Society for Ventures and Entrepreneurs> [WEB] <https://www.ventureac.ne.jp/>

The purpose of the Japan Academic Society for Ventures and Entrepreneurship is to provide theoretical, empirical, and practical training on corporate activities in venture companies and general companies, and to contribute to the promotion of industry-academia cooperation and the support of entrepreneurial activities. We aim to become a social platform for entrepreneurial activities and ventures that are responsible for the creation of innovations by

enhancing our function as an "academic society that thinks" as well as an "academic society that acts" while forming a network of diverse people, including major companies, venture companies, and government officials, rather than simply a group of researchers.

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

JETRO aims to contribute to the further development of Japan's economy and society through the promotion of trade and investment, as well as research and studies, by fully utilizing its global network of approximately 120 domestic and overseas offices. In recent years, we have been strengthening our efforts to nurture Japan's startup ecosystem and create innovation. We support Japanese startups in their overseas expansion through the establishment of a "Global Acceleration Hub" and promote domestic and international partnerships and collaboration between Japanese and overseas companies through the development of the "[J-Bridge](#)" business platform.

<Kashiwa City> [WEB] <https://www.city.kashiwa.lg.jp/index.html>

Since 2023, Kashiwa City has offered a comprehensive 'Startup Support Package.' This is based on the concept of 'Gathering' (by companies), 'Connection' (of businesses), and 'Creation' (of innovation), all aimed at energizing the city's industries. Kashiwa City has, mainly in the Kashiwa-no-ha area, research institutes such as the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) and the National Cancer Center Hospital East, academic institutions such as the University of Tokyo and Chiba University, and incubation facilities such as Tokatsu Techno Plaza and Todai Kashiwa Venture Plaza that support the commercialization of their leading-edge technologies and knowledge in Japan. Taking advantage of these regional characteristics, we will continue to support the startups that are clustered in the city so that they can play an active role.

<Contacts>

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