

## NEWS

# Competition spurs innovative ideas



**PETALING JAYA** — Eight people from all walks of life, chosen from 112 submissions, showed off their innovative projects at the Singularity University Global Impact Competition yesterday.

The competition, open to Malaysians aged 21 and above, challenged participants to create a new product or service, through leveraging technology to improve the lives of at least one million Malaysians within the next three to five years.

This is the second year the competition was held in Malaysia, and it was organised for the first time by Genovasi and sponsored by ECM Libra Foundation.

The winner was chosen by a

panel of judges from ECM Libra Foundation, Singularity University, the National Innovation Agency Malaysia and Nestle Malaysia and Singapore.

Genovasi CEO Carol Wong said Genovasi was pleased to organise the event.

“We aim to encourage and empower Malaysians to innovate and create new projects for the betterment of society, and partnering with Singularity University helps us to do just that,” she said.

Genovasi indicated its interest in holding the event again next year.

“We are eager to host next year’s competition, but nothing has been confirmed yet,” said Wong.

The audience watches Ahmad Shukri Abdul Hamid pitching his ‘self management of non-communicable disease in community’ app.

— Picture by Zuraneeza Zulkifli



## Dengue prediction app steals the show

**P**ETALING JAYA — A dengue outbreak prediction smartphone application (app) stole the show at this year’s Singularity University Global Impact Competition, which searches for innovative solutions for the betterment of life.

The app was created by president and founder of the Malaysian Integrated Medical Professionals Association (Mimpa) Dr Dhesi Baha Raja with his friends from the Multimedia University.

It predicts a dengue outbreak in an area using meteorological, geographical and health data as variables.

Dr Dhesi has been working on the app for the past six months and a pilot

test, conducted in the Pantai Dalam area, indicated the app was 88 per cent accurate.

“Dengue is a community-based disease but we rarely act before it’s already too late. If we can get real time data straight from our phones, we can react accordingly.

“A gotong royong after someone has been infected by dengue is far too late,” he said after the event.

He said he had always been interested in health informatics, a combination of real time data and technology, and he had been concerned about dengue.

“I have been involved in dengue prevention events and associations. I am concerned about the rise in dengue

cases and it should be addressed.”

As winner of the competition, Dr Dhesi will be invited to attend the 10-week-long Singularity University’s Graduate Programme at Nasa Research Park, Silicon Valley, free of charge from June to August 2015.

“I am eager to take my project to Silicon Valley, where I can expand and perfect it among intellectuals and peers.

“This app could be a groundbreaking effort in the field of health informatics, helping to bridge the gap between medical information and technological advances,” he said.

“I hope to help not only Malaysians, but other parts of the world plagued by dengue.”



Dr Dhesi has always been concerned about the rise in dengue cases.