



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST): Startup Pitch Showcase for Innovative Water Solutions

June 28, 2021; 10 am to 12pm; Central Tejo Museum

Organized by: U.S. Department of State; VentureWell

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) hosted the official U.S. government side event at UN Ocean Conference. GIST empowers science and technology innovators in over 130 countries by connecting them with resources and tools to propel their startup solutions. The GIST pitch competition showcased seven young innovators from Egypt, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Portugal, and Turkey, who competed for prizes to advance their clean water and ocean-related startups. Remarks were given by OES Assistant Secretary Monica Medina, Embassy Lisbon Deputy Chief of Mission Kristin Kane, the White House's Center on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory, and U.S. Department of Commerce's Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere Dr. Richard Spinrad. The event attracted conference attendees, the local startup community, and private sector representatives. Prizes were awarded to the first, second, and third best innovations, best woman entrepreneur, best ocean innovation, and the people's choice. Indian entrepreneur Rituparna Das was selected as the showcase winner. Rituparna's business Hydrotech Solutions installs water purification kiosks in areas with limited access to clean water. In total, winners received over \$25,000 in entrepreneurial resources provided by GIST, Amazon Web Services, Green Town Labs, The Angel Capital Association, and The Global Good Fund.