Yarl IT Hub's

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Entrepreneurship

Innovation

Technology

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Yarl IT Hub

Yarl IT Hub (YIT), a not-for-profit social enterprise, committed to fostering technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the Northern Province. Created by and for the community, YIT comprises a diverse cohort of individuals driven by a shared vision: transforming Jaffna into a vibrant technology hub, akin to Silicon Valley. Our members are deeply dedicated to upholding the organization's core values.

Yarl IT Hub Initiatives.

Initiatives for School children

- **YGC Junior:** A competition to ignite innovation, community engagement, and a passion for technology among school children.

- **Entrepreneurship Clubs:** Initiatives at the school level to cultivate business acumen and entrepreneurial spirit among students.

- **Puthiya Payanakal:** A STEM-based educational journey, gamified to engage and educate school students.

- **Aki:** A bespoke digital education platform, specifically designed for secondary school students.

Initiatives for Young Adults

- **Uki:** Uki is a full-scholarship technology school that provides comprehensive courses in full-stack development, digital marketing, startup essentials, and project management. It offers young adults a unique opportunity to acquire essential skills in the tech and business domains.

- **YGC Pitch Competition:** This is a platform designed exclusively for young adults to showcase their business ideas, receive valuable feedback, and refine their entrepreneurial concepts for future success.

Initiatives for the Entrepreneurs and Community

- YGC Innovation Festival: The YGC Innovation Festival is a dynamic three-day event held in Jaffna, dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship, promoting innovation, and exploring the latest in technology. It serves as a platform for collaboration and growth.

- Thulir: Thulir serves as a vital social innovation center and the dedicated research arm of Yarl IT Hub. It plays a crucial role in driving innovation and creating positive social impact.

- YGC Accelerator: The YGC Accelerator is an intensive six-month program tailored for early-stage startups, equipping them with the necessary tools, mentorship, and resources to thrive in the competitive business landscape.

- Kalam: Kalam is a versatile space that functions as a co-working area, maker space, and a venue for hosting monthly community meetups. It plays a central role in fostering creativity, collaboration, and technological engagement within the community.

Yarl IT Hub's Mission, and Values.

Our Mission

To transform the Northern Province into a vibrant innovation hub.

Our Values

- Operate with transparency
- Empower the community with technology
- Be technology and corporate independent
- Be innovative
- Be apolitical
- Not for Profit
- To nurture and develop talent in the community

YIT and 2030 Goals

At Yarl IT Hub (YIT), we have set ambitious 2030 goals that were carefully crafted at the close of our previous five-year plan in November 2022. These goals represent our strategic vision for the upcoming decade, and the year 2023 marks the beginning of our journey towards achieving these objectives. We are proud to report significant progress across our initiatives, and we remain resolute in our commitment to realizing these goals by 2030.

Our 2030 Goals:

- Outreach to **1,000,000** people
- Seed the idea of Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Technology in **100,000** secondary school students
- Train **12,500** students at Uki for them to gain job opportunities
- Act as a catalyst for **2,500** Startups and SMBs
- Engage **5000** diaspora members

To accomplish these goals, we have devised a comprehensive plan that includes the implementation of new initiatives and the expansion of our existing projects.

Yarl IT Hub 10 point Strategy to meet 2030 Year Goals

- Establish a permanent presence in all five districts
- Create a specialized marketing division
- Develop and deploy a Digital Engagement Platform
- Help establish and execute Entrepreneurship clubs at schools
- Launch more specializations and centers of Uki
- Implement summer internship program for diaspora youth
- Help Entrepreneurs build high valuation global businesses
- Collaborate with global accelerators
- Carry out market access enabling activities for local start ups
- Continue and scale currently successful programs

Yarl IT Hub Achievements in 2023

In 2023, Yarl IT Hub reached several remarkable milestones, underscoring our commitment to fostering technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Here are the highlights:

- **YGC Innovation Festival:** Our YGC Innovation Festival underwent a remarkable transformation, evolving from a single event into a grand festival in Jaffna. This transformation attracted over 20,000 enthusiastic attendees. We owe the success of this event to the collaboration of more than 50 organizations, which provided valuable experiential learning opportunities to participants.

- **Geographic Expansion to Vavuniya:** Yarl IT Hub achieved a significant geographic expansion by establishing a permanent presence in Vavuniya.

- **Signing MoU with Univercity of Jaffna:** On 17th August 2023, the University of Jaffna and Yarl IT Hub signed an MoU to boost entrepreneurship and innovation at UOJ by establishing Start-Up Incubation centers and facilitating access to Yarl IT Hub's resources and network.

- **Uki Coding School's Success:** The effectiveness of Uki Coding School was evident as all graduates seeking internships successfully secured them. In addition to our existing courses, we introduced a 6-month Startup Essentials program, which garnered immense success and completed two successful cohorts in 2023.

- **In-House Marketing Team:** To enhance our outreach and engagement efforts, we launched an in-house marketing team dedicated to promoting YIT's initiatives and mission.

- **YIT Accelerator Growth:** The YIT Accelerator continued to thrive, completing two accelerator cohorts and providing invaluable support to over 10 startups on their growth journey.

- **Monthly Meetups and Workshops:** We resumed our monthly meetups, hosting a total of seven throughout the year. Additionally, we conducted over 15 workshops focused on emerging technologies, providing valuable knowledge and skills to our community.

Uki & 2023

Uki, our comprehensive scholarship-based accelerator program with a strong focus on coding, continued to make significant strides in 2023.

The program offers a six-month-long intensive, in-class training program, equipping students with the necessary skills to join tech companies as interns, junior developers, or to embark on entrepreneurial ventures. This comprehensive training includes hands-on coding experience, project management knowledge, and digital marketing expertise, preparing our students to excel in the ever-evolving tech industry. Our graduates are well-equipped to contribute effectively to tech companies or pursue their entrepreneurial dreams with confidence.

Here's a closer look at our achievements:

- **Educational Documentary:** We produced an educational documentary film aimed at enlightening young people and school leavers about Uki's mission and goals, inspiring them to pursue careers in technology.

- **Digital Marketing Success:** In 2023, our 3rd cohort of digital marketing students successfully completed their 4-month course, with 21 students gaining valuable skills in this field.

- **Startup Essentials:** We proudly completed 2 cohorts of the Uki Startup Essentials course, a 6-month part-time online program that equips aspiring entrepreneurs with essential skills and knowledge.

- **Project Management:** Our project management program thrived, with the 3rd cohort successfully concluding their studies, while the 4th cohort commenced their 4-month part-time journey.

Awarding Ceremony - 2023

Awarding Ceremony - 2023

Awarding Ceremony - 2023

- **Vavuniya Center Opening:** On September 27, 2023, we celebrated a significant milestone with the opening of the UKI Vavuniya center. This expansion allows us to reach even more aspiring tech enthusiasts.

- **Paid Courses:** In Vavuniya, we introduced our first 100% scholarship-based course, making quality tech education accessible to all. Additionally, we launched a part-time paid course tailored for graduates and professionals to switch their career to tech.

- **Internships and Entrepreneurship:** In 2023, numerous Uki graduates completed their studies, and many of them secured internships, while others embarked on entrepreneurial ventures, contributing to the growth of the tech ecosystem.

Since its inception in 2017, Uki has been a beacon of education and opportunity for tech enthusiasts. With 27 cohorts and diverse programs including digital marketing, project management, start-up essentials, and full-stack development, we have trained **550 students.** Impressively, more than **90% of our graduates secured internships**, and **28 companies** were founded by Uki alumni.

Stepping Stone to Tech Life

Pioneer Partner
EDUCATE *for* TOMORROW
AN INITIATIVE BY ITEE FOUNDATION

Platinum Partner
synamon global

Lebara foundation

Gold Partner

Yarl Geek Challenge Season 12 – Junior

In Yarl Geek Challenge Season 12 – Junior, there was a remarkable increase in student participation, with a 284% increase compared to Season 11. The event featured 27 seminars and workshops conducted by Yarl IT Hub, engaging over 2500 students. The competition received more than 800 applications and was divided into four categories. A total of 87 teams were selected to compete in the finals.

Yarl Geek Challenge Junior is an annual technology innovation competition organized by Yarl IT Hub in collaboration with the Northern Province Education Department. It is specifically designed for school students who have a passion for technology and innovation. In its 12th consecutive year, the competition continues to inspire young minds.

Season 12 of YGC Junior kicked off with its first workshop at Palai Central College, Kilinochi, on March 25th. Subsequently, 27 seminars and workshops were conducted by volunteers in all 13 zonal education zones. These sessions provided valuable opportunities for students to address any uncertainties they had, and past YGC Junior competition alumni shared their experiences during these events. The workshop series concluded on May 21st with the final workshop at Vavuniya Zonal Education Office.

On June 17, 2023, YIT conducted the zonal-level competition in all 13 educational zones in the Northern Province. A total of numerous teams participated in the zonal-level competition, representing various locations across the Northern Province. The students displayed remarkable dedication and creativity in their projects. Notably, 87 teams successfully qualified for the finals, scheduled to be held on July 1st and 2nd of 2023.

The finals featured a distinguished panel of 12 judges from various fields within the realm of science and technology. During the event, students presented their ideas across categories such as Web, Mobile, Hardware, Innovation, and Application of Science. Winners were selected for each category during the finale. Moreover, the judging panel extended special mentions to acknowledge outstanding work accomplished by select teams.

The finals concluded with an award ceremony that celebrated the achievements of YGC participants and Puthiyapayanankal. Additionally, students, teachers, and principals shared their experiences and insights, contributing to the overall success of the event.

Winners of Yarl Geek Challenge Season 12 – Junior

Best Mobile Application Winner:

Karunaharan Sharavanapriyan
Sivakumar Adchayan
Manivannan Pirajiit

from J/Jaffna Hindu College

Best Application of Science Winner:

Yogeswaran Ketheeswaran

from J/Aliyawalai C.C.T.M.S

Best Web Application Winner:

Prabakaran Niththilan

from Kn/Kilinochchi Central College

Best Hardware Winner:

Sasikumar Kayalventhan
Nallanathan Tharanigan
Thavarasa Theiveehan

from Kn/Kilinochchi Maha Vidyalayam

The YGC 12 Juniors Showcase Event, organized by Yarl IT Hub, took place on the 1st day of the YGC Innovation Festival. This event served as a remarkable platform for students to showcase and explore the innovative creations they had developed. It provided a valuable opportunity for these young innovators to present their projects and innovations to a wider audience, fostering creativity and technological advancement within the community.

YGC Innovation Festival

THE BIGGEST CELEBRATION OF INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The YGC Innovation Festival '23, organized by Yarl IT Hub, was a groundbreaking event held from November 3rd to 5th at the Jaffna Cultural Center. This festival transcended traditional boundaries, evolving into a vibrant hub of innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology. It catered to a wide audience, including entrepreneurs, professionals, enthusiasts, and students. More than just an event, it was a dynamic movement that ignited new ideas, fostered creativity, and opened doors to unprecedented opportunities in the field of technology and innovation.

The YGC Innovation Festival '23 featured a wide range of events and activities for participants of all age groups. Here's a summary of some of the key highlights:

- Mini Expo: A gateway to innovation, the Mini Expo showcased interactive exhibits and the entrepreneurial journeys of YGC Alumni.

- Ecosystem Meetup: A strategic gathering of key players in the innovation ecosystem was held, facilitating discussions, strategizing, and collaborations.

- Networking Sessions

- Enlightening Talks: These sessions featured thought leaders, visionaries, and industry experts sharing their knowledge and foresights, offering attendees a chance to gain valuable insights into various domains.

  * Catalyzing Change: The Power of Social Entrepreneurship - by Heminda Jayaweera (Member of council, National Innovation Agency, Sri Lanka)

  * Journey of Innovation and Inspiration - Jayakrishnan Rajagopalasarma (CEO & Co-Founder at Arogya Life Systems Inc)

  * Imagining Regenerative Futures by Randhula de Silva (Founder CEO Good life X)

- Master Classes: These in-depth sessions covered specialized subjects, allowing participants to hone their skills under the guidance of experts.

  * Pitching and Fundraising by Prajeeth Balasubramaniam (Managing Partner BOV Capital Pvt Ltd)

  * Creating Compelling Visual Content : hands-on session focused on multimedia storytelling and monetization by Shehaan and Sheneller (Content Creators)

  * Master Class on Data Science by Dr. Uthayasanker Thayasivam (Head of Department,Department of computer science, University of Moratuwa)

  * Product Management by Rajan Bala (Head of Engineering, AWS Billing Consoles & Applications)

- Pitch Competition: Yarl Geek Challenge 12 Seniors - A showcase of innovation and entrepreneurship, where entrepreneurs presented their ideas, competing for recognition and support.

- Interactive Learning/Maker Stalls: Dedicated spaces for school students to engage in hands-on activities, fostering creativity and a practical understanding of technology were in place.Cyber Booth, Escape Room, Fun Activities, VR Expriences,Clay Product Making, Handloom, Palmyra/ Coconut Leaf Crafts, Automobile, Mechanic, Molecular Biology, Electrical, Bio Lab, IT, Food Lab learning centers are some of them. Yarl IT Hub joins with diffrent organizations and Educational institutes to set up these maker stalls and interactive learning stalls. Those are

   * University of Jaffna Engineering Faculty
   * German tech
   * University College
   * University of Jaffna Technology Faculty Department of Engineering
   * Dream Space Academy
   * Industrial Department Board
   * Palmyrah Development Board

- Students' Experiential Learning Session & Innovation Showcase: Interactive sessions aimed at empowering students with practical skills and knowledge.

   * Chemistry in Everyday life by Chemical society, University of Jaffna

   * The Art of Digital Storytelling: Crafting Compelling Narratives by Benislos Thushan (Founder Digital Storytelling)

   * Climate change & Leadership by Prof.K.Gajapathy (Professor in Zoology,Department of Zoology,Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna.) & Dr.Mrs.T.Suvanthini (Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Biology. Faculty of Agriculture. University of Jaffna).

- Competitions - A robotic, coding challenges for students and university students to showcase their innovative thinking and problem solving skills.

  * "Follow Your Path" Line Following Robotics Competition winners

Winner	1st Runner up	2nd Runner up

Winner

Thayalan Jasinthan

-

Kn/Ramanathapuram M.V

1st Runner up

Vamathevan Shailujan
Tharumarasa Piraveen
M.V Mahathevan Kapisan

-

V/Kanagarayankulam M.V

2nd Runner up

Maran Mytreya
Varatharajah Gajalakshan
Murugamurththi Thirumaran

-

J/Jaffna Hindu College

  * CodeStorm 4-Hour Coding Challenge Winners

Winner

Hirusha Wijayawardhana
Nadun Channa
Ravindya Sachinthani

-

University of Jaffna

1st Runner up

Y.Gobigan
V.Vithusan
M.Vishnu

-

Sri University of Vavuniya

2nd Runner up

Roy Nesarajah Viththagan
Vijayarajah Sayanishan
Sivakumar Vithurshan

-

University of Jaffna

  * YGC Innovation Festival - Pitching Competition tech enabled Category

Winner

Poruthumaan

1st Runner up

Arosha402

2nd Runner up

Mushroom Enterprises

* YGC Innovation Festival - Pitching Competition tech Category.

Winner	1st Runner up	2nd Runner up
SPM ERP System	Biz Builder	TableAD

The YGC Innovation Festival '23 was indeed a massive and impactful event, with significant participation and contributions from various sectors. Here are some key highlights:

- Over 3 days, the festival attracted more than 20,000 people.

- The participation of 7+ educational institutes highlights the festival's educational significance and impact on students.

- The presence of 50+ startups showcases the entrepreneurial spirit and opportunities fostered by the festival.

- The dedication of 300+ volunteers reflects the collaborative and community-driven nature of the event.

This festival served as a platform for inspiration and learning for a diverse audience, including school students, parents, and young adults. It not only promoted innovation and entrepreneurship but also facilitated knowledge sharing, networking, and skill development. Overall, the YGC Innovation Festival '23 made a significant contribution to the innovation ecosystem.

In reflecting upon the resounding success of the YGC Innovation Festival '23, it is imperative to acknowledge the invaluable support extended by our esteemed sponsors and partners. Their unwavering commitment to nurturing innovation, entrepreneurship, and educational advancement played a pivotal role in the seamless execution of this event. The generous contributions from our collaborators enabled us to curate an environment conducive to learning, networking, and skill enhancement for a diverse audience encompassing school students, parents, and young adults.

The collaboration with our sponsors and partners not only facilitated the successful culmination of the festival but also significantly bolstered the innovation ecosystem. We are immensely grateful for the trust and support bestowed upon us, which were instrumental in achieving our objectives. This partnership underscored the importance of collective effort in fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

As we look forward to future initiatives, we are inspired by the achievements of this festival and the potential for continued growth and development. Our sincere appreciation goes out to each of our sponsors and partners for their generous contribution and for being an integral part of our journey. Your involvement has been a key to the festival's success, and we are enthusiastic about the prospects of our continued partnership in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship within the ecosystem.

Puthiya Payanakal & 2023

Puthiya Payanakal is a gamified rural engagement program initiated by Yarl IT Hub, with the goal of introducing innovation, technology, problem-solving, project-based learning, and STEAM fields to school students between the ages of 11-14. The project aims to enhance problem-solving and innovation skills of school students and prepare them with the necessary 21st century skills to compete in today's rapidly changing technological world.

The project has been received with overwhelming popularity and impact, prompting Yarl IT Hub to launch its second iteration. This year, the project is extended to over 12000 students in 250+ schools in the northern province, following the same format as the previous year.

For 2023, the project was initiated at the end of January and completed on june 2023, with a focus on rural areas where students often have limited exposure to technology and innovation. Puthiya Payanakal seeks to bridge this gap by offering a gamified learning experience that encourages creativity and problem-solving skills.

Through Puthiya Payanakal, students are provided with a platform to engage in project-based learning, which allows them to explore their interests and passions. The program also aims to foster an interest in STEAM fields by providing interactive activities, sessions, and challenges that promote scientific thinking and exploration.

In a long term perspective, we believe that Puthiya Payanakal provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain exposure to the world of technology and innovation. With the increasing importance of these fields in today's world, programs like Puthiya Payanakal are essential in preparing the next generation for a future that is heavily reliant on technology and innovation.
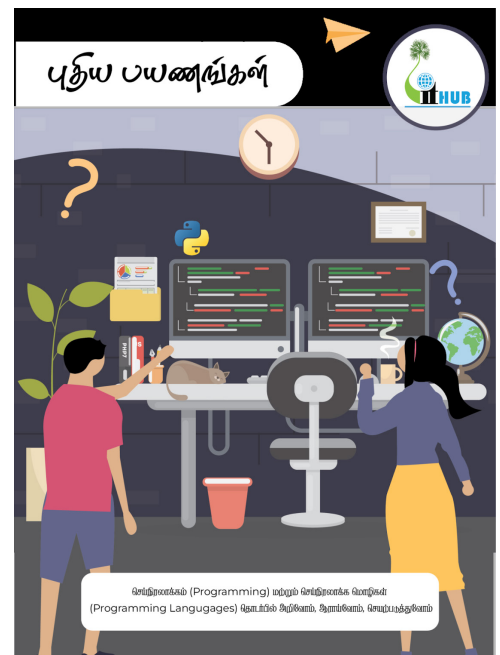
The format

Similar to last year, this year's Puthiya Payanakal program also features three levels of engagement. In level one, students are introduced to the concept of design thinking, which involves using a structured approach to solve problems and come up with creative solutions.

Level two builds upon the foundation of design thinking and introduces students to computational thinking. This level is designed to help students think like a computer scientist, and engage in algorithmic thinking, logical reasoning and problem-solving.

Finally, in level three, students are introduced to the world of Python programming. Python is a powerful, versatile programming language that is widely used in various fields, from web development to machine learning. This level is designed to help students gain a basic understanding of coding, and develop programming skills that will enable them to solve problems using code.

Each level is designed with interactive project-based activities, so that students can engage in self-learning and develop a hands-on understanding of the topics covered. The program aims to encourage students to become self-directed learners, who are able to explore new topics and develop their problem-solving skills on their own.

Through this approach, Puthiya Payanakal seeks to provide students with a comprehensive learning experience that not only introduces them to important concepts and skills, but also helps them develop a love for learning and innovation. By making learning fun and interactive, the program aims to inspire students to become lifelong learners who are equipped with the skills they need to succeed in the fast-paced world of technology and innovation.

2023 stats

Level	Number of books distributed (printed+PDF)	Number of students engaged	Number of students completed level 1	Engagement Percentage	Completion Percentage	Engagement percentage (comparing to 2022)
Level 1	12,038	3971	2547	33%	21%	223%
Level 2	2547	1822	1283	72%	50%	290%
Level 3	1283	473	160	36%	12%	233%

Yarl IT Hub congratulates all the students who successfully completed all three levels and were awarded an Arduino sensor kit at the ceremony on July 2nd, 2023 held at Thanthai Chelva Auditorium. This recognition is a testament to their dedication and commitment to learning and exploring science and technology.

Additionally, the recognition of the most engaged Zone, schools and teachers from each district during the awarding ceremony highlights the crucial role educators play in guiding and supporting students' learning journeys. Yarl IT Hub acknowledges and honors these outstanding educators for their dedication and efforts in nurturing the young minds and inspiring a passion for science and technology.

Most Engaging schools

Jaffna	J/Vaddu Hindu College
Kilinochchi	Kn/ Kilinochchi Maha Vidyalayam
Mullaitivu	Mu/ Kuravil Tamil Vidyalayam
Mannar	Mn/De La Salle College
Vavuniya	V/ Nedunkerny Maha Vidyalayam

YGC Accelerator & 2023

The YGC Accelerator program in 2023 continued to support and nurture early-stage startups, providing them with essential resources and guidance to thrive in the competitive landscape. Here's an overview of the program's activities in 2023:

- The accelerator program has a duration of 6 months and is conducted twice a year.

- It is carefully curated to benefit early-stage startups and those aiming to scale their businesses.

- Selected startups receive comprehensive training, mentorship, seed funding, and opportunities for networking.

- The program's primary goal is to empower entrepreneurs by helping them develop effective marketing strategies, acquire startup creation skills, expand their professional networks, and connect with potential investors.

In 2023, two cohorts were conducted. Cohort 6 began in February and attracted more than 45 applications. After an initial screening process and interviews, 10 startups were chosen to participate in the program.

Cohort 7 commenced in September and received over 37 applications. Following a thorough screening process, 5 companies were selected to be part of the 7th cohort of the Accelerator program.

These cohorts represent a diverse group of startups, each with its own unique ideas and goals. The YGC Accelerator program continues to play a vital role in nurturing and fostering entrepreneurship in the region, providing startups with the support they need to succeed.
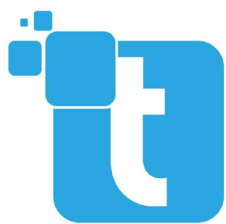
YGC Accelerator - Cohort 6 Companies

Journe.life

Journe is a tour operator committed to promote responsible and sustainable tourism with a particular focus in Northern Province which guarantees the centrality of local communities and their relationship with tourists.

Axisxnor Pvt Ltd

This is a software services company where they build products for the local market. Currently they are also working on their own product Axix Tution Management System.

Techserw Labs

This is a services company who provides software development solutions for clients and also they have a key product Techie Says Junior which is an application to teach kids between the ages of 2 and 7.

Bohar Solutions (Pvt) Ltd

Bohar Solutions is a Software solution provider for local and international clients.

Amma Traditional Industries Pvt Ltd

This company mainly produces and sells gingerly oil in the northern part of Jaffna. They also produce other products such as chillie powder, rice flour and other packed foods.

SAHO CREATIONS

Saho Creations is a digital media solution provider who aims to motivate and expose people who engage in economic development activities and social services of our country around the world.

#360

360 Accountants (Pvt) Ltd
They provide Tax services and outsource accounting services efficiently for an affordable budget.

Inthira Group
A company formed by a group of agricultural graduates to provide agricultural consultant services and solutions to bring transformations in agri space.

Good Life
Good Life produces healthy natural home made products such as porridge mix made out of grains, murunga leaf pittu flour, cereal nutrition mix, roasted rice flour.

Livegreen products
A healthy natural home made production factrory who is specialised in producing coffee from mushroom, porridge mix, cereal nutrition mix, roasted rice flour and more.
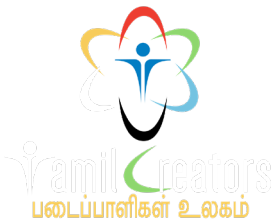
YGC Accelerator - Cohort 7 Companies

GMC Lanka

GMC Lanka is a unique small business specializing in intricately designed wooden products using our own made CNC machine. We offer custom designs, ensuring personalized products that meet our customers' exact specifications.

Pallueir pvt ltd

Pallueir produces traditional rice millets and healthy grains. by using the palm resources in our locality to produce the tubers and fruits obtained from them as value added products and provide them to the customers.

Tamil creators

Content creators OTT for local productions. Working in this space for more than 7 years.

VTM Local Products

VTM produces healthy organic srilankan traditional local products such as sesame oil, banana blossom vadakam, curd chili and coconut oil.

Entrepreneurship Club

The Entrepreneurship Club, introduced by Yarl IT Hub in mid-2023, is an exciting new initiative aimed at nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit among young talents while they are still in school. This program has garnered significant interest and support from various stakeholders. Here are some key highlights of the Entrepreneurship Club initiative:

Objective

The primary goal of the Entrepreneurship Club is to inspire and foster entrepreneurship among students from an early age.

Funding

Well-wishers have generously provided each participating school with funding amounting to Rs. 25,000. This financial support serves as seed capital for the students to start and operate their own businesses or offer services.

Skill Development

Through this initiative, students have the opportunity to develop essential business and management skills by actively participating in entrepreneurial activities.

Geographic Reach

Yarl IT Hub has conducted workshops in various regions, including Jaffna, Vavuniya, and Mannar, to facilitate the formation of Entrepreneurship Clubs in schools. And also planned to do workshops in other districts also.

School Participation

As of 2023, more than 20 schools have enthusiastically established their Entrepreneurship Clubs, signifying the widespread interest and engagement in this initiative.

The Entrepreneurship Club initiative is a commendable effort by Yarl IT Hub to empower young students with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to explore their entrepreneurial potential and contribute to the growth of the local economy. It demonstrates Yarl IT Hub's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship at all levels of education.

Aki & 2023

Aki, founded in 2018, has made significant strides in the field of education and e-learning. In 2019, it launched the e-learning platform [www.aki.coach], which has become a valuable resource for students, teachers, and professionals. Here are some key achievements and offerings of Aki in 2023:

Courses for Secondary Education

- Aki offers a wide range of secondary education courses, including more than 70 courses in various subjects.

- These courses are designed to provide students in grades 6 to 11 with comprehensive learning materials and resources.

- The platform boasts an extensive question bank with over 8,000 questions, enhancing students' ability to practice and improve their knowledge.

Vocational Education

- Aki extends its educational reach with over 16 vocational education courses.

- These vocational courses cater to practical skills and knowledge required for various careers.

User Engagement

- Aki has garnered significant user engagement, with more than 9,700 enrolled users and over 4,000 yearly unique users.

- This indicates the platform's effectiveness in supporting students' learning needs.

Supporting Yarl IT Hub Initiatives

- Aki serves as a distribution platform for educational materials and coursework related to Yarl IT Hub's own educational programs.

- This collaboration enhances the accessibility of educational resources to a broader audience.

Advanced Level Courses

- Aki provides a valuable resource for Advanced Level students by offering more than 100 online course materials.

- These courses cover a wide array of subjects, including Biology, Chemistry, ICT, Mathematics, Biosystem Technology, and more.

- Advanced Level students can benefit from these materials to excel in their studies.
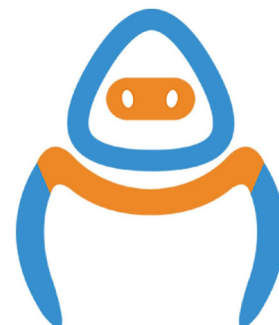

Professional Development for Teachers

- Aki offers courses specifically designed for teachers who seek to enhance their skills and knowledge.

- These courses cover topics such as Web Application Development, Mobile Application Development, Hardware Application Development (Arduino), Cyber Security, and other trending subjects.

- By providing professional development opportunities, Aki contributes to the continuous growth of educators.

Overall, Aki's dedication to education, extensive course offerings, and commitment to supporting both students and teachers make it a valuable platform in the field of e-learning. It plays a pivotal role in advancing education and skill development in the region.

Kalam & 2023

Kalam, the collaborative coworking space and maker space located in Jaffna, has played a significant role in the tech and community landscape in 2023. Here are some key highlights and contributions of Kalam during the year:

Co-Working and Maker Space

- Kalam continues to serve as a vibrant co-working space, attracting professionals and individuals looking for a collaborative work environment.
- The daily occupancy of the co-working space has shown consistent growth, indicating its popularity and promising future.

Hub for Yarl IT Hub Events

- Kalam has become a central venue for various Yarl IT Hub events, including community meetups, workshops, and training sessions.
- These events contribute to fostering technological engagement and community growth in the region.

Maker Events and Workshops for Students

- Kalam has actively hosted maker events and workshops, particularly for school students and kids.
- It has become a hub for creativity and innovation, with Wednesday evenings often dedicated to young minds exploring and creating in the maker area.

Host Venue for External Organizations

- Kalam has extended its services to external organizations, renting out its space for hosting events during weekends.
- These events encompass a wide range of activities, including Awarding Ceremonies, Workshops, Tech Events, Digital Storytelling Events, Community Meetups, and Annual Events.

In summary, Kalam's role as a co-working space, maker space, and event venue has made it a vital hub for technological and community-related activities in Jaffna. Its contribution to fostering innovation, collaboration, and community engagement is evident in its various initiatives and partnerships throughout 2023.

Events, workshops and meetups of 2023

January

06 - Uki Startup Essentials cohort 1 Started.

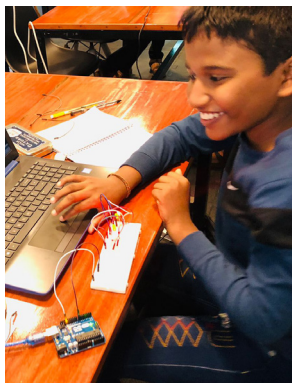07 - YIT Monthly Meetup on Freelancing happened at Kalam

09 - Puthiya payanakal 2023 Launched

31 - Puthiya Payanakal workshop in the school.

February

12 - Robotic Workshops for school students happened in Kalam

18 - YIT Monthly Meetup on Mastering the Art of Freelancing at Kalam

March

11 - Networking event at Kalam for all YIT Alumni companies

25 - YIT Monthly Meetup on Digital marketing workshop at kalam

25 - YGC junior Workshop - Palai central college, kilinochi north

25 - YGC junior Workshop - Hartley College. Vadamaradchi

April

01 - YGC junior Workshop - puthukkudiyiruppu central college, Vidyananda College, Murugananda College

17 - YIT Monthly Meetup on UI/ UX at kalam

22 - YGC junior Workshop - madu zone

23 - YGC junior Workshop - Chavcheri hindu college, Thenmaracahi

26 - YGC junior Workshop - Valikamam

29 - YGC junior Workshop - Mankulam maha vidyalayam, Omanthai central college

May

13 - YGC junior Workshop - Kilinochi maha vidyalaya, Kilinochi south, Vavuniya tamil maha vidyalayam, vavuniya south

14 - YGC junior Workshop - Muruganantha college, Kilinochi north, Computer resource centre, puloly, computer resource centre, chvacheri

20 - YIT Monthly Meetup on The Discipline of Entrepreneurship at Kalam

and

YGC junior workshop - Pulyankulam hindu college

21 - YGC junior workshop- vavuniya zonal education office.

June

17 - YGC Junior zonal level competition

23 Uki students final presentation - Kilinochi

30 - Puthiya payankal Completed

July

1,2 - YGC Juniors Final
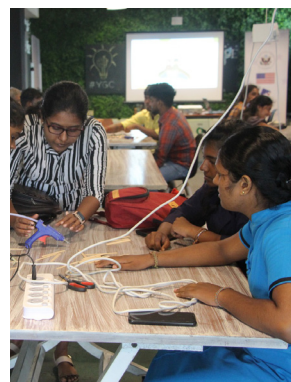

27 - Uki awarding ceremony at HNB Metro

Auguest

7 - Yarl IT Hub's Entrepreneurship Club for Schools Initiative

7 - YIT Space, Vavuniya opened

12 - Makerhub jaffna 1st session - Yarlithub, Kalam

16 - YIT Community meetup - Q&A Event about how to approach a VC and get your first investment at Kalam

17 - Signing MoU with University of jaffna (UOJ)

22 - Nallur Stall - Mini expo of YIT companies and children activities

25 - introductory session for YGC 12 senior - Digital

September

8 - YIT Meetup - Introductory session about Business Venture while at University - online

October

11 - Makerhub Started at Vavuniya

November

3,4,5, - YGC Innovation
Festival

19 - YIT Meetup Financial
Meetup - Kalam

December

05 - Entrepreneurship Club
workshop - Mannar

10 - YIT Meetup : AI
Masterclass - Kalam

YIT Impacts in 2023

Startups	**23 +**
UKI Graduates	**100 +**
Students engaged	**30,000 +**
Workshops & Meetups	**16 +**
Market access events	**3 +**

YIT Overall Impacts on Community

Startups	90 +
UKI Graduates	550 +
Students engaged	55,000 +
Jobs Created	1,000 +
Workshops & Meetups	230 +
Market access events	25 +

Thank you 2023

As we reflect on the remarkable journey of Yarl IT Hub in 2023, it is with profound gratitude that we acknowledge the collective strength and commitment of our partners, volunteers, organizations, and the Education Department of the Northern Province. Your unwavering support and dedication have been the cornerstone of our success, enabling us to transform challenges into milestones.

To each of our partners, your collaboration has been instrumental in our endeavors. Your belief in our vision and your active engagement have significantly amplified our impact. Your expertise, resources, and innovative approaches have enriched our initiatives, making them more robust and far-reaching.

Our volunteers, you are the heartbeat of Yarl IT Hub. Your enthusiasm, skills, and dedication have not only driven our projects forward but have also instilled a spirit of community and resilience. Your selfless contributions have been essential in bringing our ideas to life and in fostering a nurturing environment for learning and growth.

A special note of gratitude to the various organizations that have stood by us. Your support has been multifaceted – from financial assistance to providing platforms for dialogue and development. You have been pivotal in our quest to create sustainable and impactful solutions for the communities we serve.

As we celebrate the successes of 2023, it's evident that these achievements were not a solo endeavor but a symphony of concerted efforts. Your trust, partnership, and active participation have been the driving forces behind reaching our remarkable milestones. Without you, our journey would not have been this impactful or far-reaching.

As we look forward to the horizon of 2030, we invite you to continue this journey with us. Your enduring support, innovative ideas, and passionate involvement will be pivotal as we strive to achieve our ambitious goals and bring our vision to fruition. Together, let's shape a future that resonates with the values of empowerment, innovation, and community.

Thank you for being part of our story. Let's continue to dream, innovate, and inspire as we march towards a brighter and more inclusive future.

Our partners

Pioneer Partner

Platinum Partners

Gold Partner