

Discover the world's most exciting social innovations

Ashoka, the world's largest network of social entrepreneurs, has identified 25 products and services poised for global break through.

Here are some examples:

- Empower children to take financial responsibility: Jeroo Billimoria has launched ChildFinance that will offer saving accounts and insurance to millions of streetchildren.
- Carbon neutral energy for the poor: Tri Mumpuni works on spreading carbon-free micro hydro energy to electrify rural areas and incubate enterprises in developing countries.
- Ending epidemic violence: Gary Slutkin's insight that violence spreads like infectious diseases has led him to develop a methodology that disrupts its transmission – in Iraq and the US and soon beyond.
- From handicap to competitive advantage: Thorkil Sonne creates well-paid and sought-after market-based employment opportunities for Autistic people, who have a ten times lower fault rate in e.g. software testing.

Supporting the global growth of great ideas: the Ashoka Globalizer

For the first time, Ashoka will bring the social entrepreneurs behind these ideas and 21 of their peers together with leading entrepreneurs from the private sector, to match social innovations with the resources needed to achieve global scale. **The Ashoka Globalizer will start on April 18th**, with business entrepreneurs such as Anousheh Ansari, first female private space explorer and co-founder and chairman of Prodea systems, Johnathan Soros, President of Soros Fund Management, as well as distinguished public sector leaders such as Peter Eigen, founder of Transparency International. They will share their insights into strategies for rapid growth, draw on their own experiences to help the social entrepreneurs ask the right questions, formulate the best strategies and create the proper partnerships. Anousheh Ansari says: “Social entrepreneurs need the right tools to drive the change they are inspired to create. The Ashoka Globalizer platform offers us business entrepreneurs the opportunity to collaborate with innovative leaders and to collectively push the frontiers of global impact.” For more detailed information about the Globalizer, feel free to contact us for a press information folder.

Pioneering the globalization of the social sector

Why this is revolutionary? In contrast to the private sector, where great business ideas go global to serve customers around the world, no such market forces have been at work in the social sector. Although many social innovations have proven to solve societal problems, they too often remain local – because there has been no process that focuses on globalizing a great social idea. Ashoka has set out to change this scenario. The Ashoka Globalizer is the first initiative of its kind, and will run every year with the support of the world's entrepreneurs and enterprises. Jonathan Soros says: “For thirty years Ashoka has been supporting local innovators around the globe. Now the Ashoka Globalizer will take the best of those innovations and give them a chance at global impact.”

About Ashoka

Ashoka is the world's leading network of social entrepreneurs – extraordinary changemakers, who find new solutions for social problems; like Muhammad Yunus, who pioneered the microfinance sector. Founded by Bill Drayton in 1980, Ashoka supports social entrepreneurs with stipends, professional support, and/or access to its large network of global peers. Ashoka has to date elected and supported more than 2,500 social entrepreneurs in 70 countries. For more information, please visit www.ashoka.org.