



Grand Challenges Canada®
Grands Défis Canada

News Release

May 8, 2015

GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA WELCOMES CREATION OF GRAND CHALLENGES THAILAND

Toronto, Canada – Grand Challenges Canada today welcomed the launch of Grand Challenges Thailand. Thailand is the latest nation to join a growing international network of countries and organizations that promote global health innovation through a Grand Challenges approach.

Grand Challenges Thailand is funded by the Government of Thailand to tackle key issues in national health and development, as well as to collaborate with partners in the broader Grand Challenges movement, including Grand Challenges Canada.

Over the past three years, Grand Challenges Canada has been working closely with colleagues in Thailand to develop and implement the concept of Grand Challenges Thailand. Dr. Peter A. Singer, Chief Executive Officer at Grand Challenges Canada, in particular has played an active role in catalyzing this new initiative, as International Advisory Board member at the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA).

Canada and Thailand work together in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), with which Canada is a Dialogue Partner. ASEAN has also shown interest in Grand Challenges as a platform to tackle regional challenges, such as livable cities and climate disasters. Canada and ASEAN are cooperating on many issues, including regional integration, economic interests and innovation.

In 2008, Canada became the first country to propose a Grand Challenges approach for development assistance, which resulted in the launch in 2010 of Grand Challenges Canada. Since then, Canada, working closely with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has helped to catalyze new Grand Challenges partnerships.

In 2014, Grand Challenges Israel was launched to harness the entrepreneurial and innovative expertise of Israelis, and to create measurable and significant advancements in the fields of international development and global health. Grand Challenges Israel announced its first 10 grants in January 2015.

Last year, Grand Challenges Canada and the Government of India created a Grand Challenges partnership between Grand Challenges Canada and the ‘Grand Challenges India’ initiative of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India. Grand Challenges Canada and DBT

are co-funding promising global health innovations in early child development, women and children's health, and mental health.

Grand Challenges Canada has also partnered with Grand Challenges Brazil (an initiative of the Brazil Ministry of Health) in Saving Brains Grand Challenges, nurturing bold ideas for early childhood development.

Grand Challenges Canada's partnership with Peru's National Council for Science, Technology and Technological Innovation (CONCYTEC) is supporting innovators in Peru through the Stars in Global Health program.

Dr. Singer said, "It is fantastic to see Thailand supporting Thai innovators to solve global challenges using innovation. We are thrilled that Thailand is joining this expanding global movement."

For more information, visit grandchallenges.ca and look for us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn.

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About Grand Challenges Canada

Grand Challenges Canada is dedicated to supporting Bold Ideas with Big Impact® in global health. We are funded by the Government of Canada; we support innovators in low- and middle-income countries and Canada. The bold ideas that we support integrate science and technology, social and business innovation to find sustainable solutions to health challenges – we call this Integrated Innovation®. Grand Challenges Canada focuses on innovator-defined challenges through its Stars in Global Health program and on targeted challenges in its Saving Lives at Birth, Saving Brains and Global Mental Health programs. Grand Challenges Canada works closely with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD) to catalyze scale, sustainability and impact. We have a determined focus on results, and on saving and improving lives.

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