

The Entrepreneur Awards Japan 2015 (TEAJ)

TEAJ Application Details and Form

I. TEAJ Application Details

Award Descriptions

▶ **Embassy of Sweden Award**

The Embassy of Sweden Award will be given to an entrepreneur based in Japan who best represents the risk-embracing spirit of entrepreneurship and who would benefit from the networking opportunities within any of the innovative business sectors in Sweden. The winner will be invited to a study trip in Sweden in 2015, and will be invited to key entrepreneurship events at the Swedish Embassy from April 2015 through March 2016.

▶ **Swedish Chamber of Commerce Award**

The Swedish Chamber of Commerce Award will be presented to an entrepreneur whose business has at least some international content or aspiration. The prize will include one year corporate level membership in SCCJ and free access to SCCJ events during the period, offering key business networking opportunities from April 2015 through March 2016.

▶ **Groundbreakers Award**

The Groundbreakers Award will be given to a promising female entrepreneur based in Japan. The winner will be invited to attend a global event such as the Dell Women's Entrepreneur Network (DWEN) in Berlin, Germany or UnitedSuccess Global Summit in Rome, Italy. Such events spotlight female entrepreneurial success and create an atmosphere where women can connect with one another, share best practices, build business opportunities and recognize female influence in business and technology.

▶ **Venture Generation Award (Sponsored by J-Seed Ventures)**

The Venture Generation Award will be given to an entrepreneur with an early-stage venture with global aspirations and will include a range of mentoring activities and business support for a global entrepreneur.

▶ **US. Business Award**

US. Business Award: The US. Business Award is in participation with the Independent Business Committee, American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCI), and the U.S.

Embassy, and will be presented to a Japanese entrepreneur who best represents the risk-embracing spirit of Silicon Valley. The winner will be given special access to selected ACCJ events throughout the year (from April 2015 through March 2016) as well as being a conduit to related business affairs department heads at the Embassy and invited to innovation- and entrepreneur-focused events related to the U.S. Embassy from April 2015 through March 2016.

▶ **Creative Business Cup Award - Announcement of winner**

The winner in the final run-off of the CBC Japan will be awarded a trip to Copenhagen, Denmark in November of 2015 to compete in the global Creative Business Cup Challenge for Creative Businesses. (This competition is already in progress and only current finalists are eligible for 2015.)

Eligibility

The following eligibility requirements apply to all awards:

- ▶ The applicant must be a resident of Japan who is either the founder or a founding partner (cofounder) of the venture being proposed, or at least a 51% owner;
- ▶ The applicant's company or non-profit organization must be registered in Japan and be less than 10 years old;
- ▶ Only one individual per organization can apply for one category per year;
- ▶ Only individuals (no teams) may apply;
- ▶ The applicant will be required to submit his/her application in English, although the quality of the application content will be weighted more heavily than the English;
- ▶ Bilingual capability may be prioritized but is not a primary criterion for selection;
- ▶ Emphasis will be put on global entrepreneurial ambitions and capabilities.

Winners from past years may apply but may not be selected in the same category twice.

Applicant Availability

Elevator Pitch: Applicants will be notified on or about 23 April 2015 if he/she is selected as a finalist. If selected, finalists must be available to give a brief, "elevator pitch" presentation in English to describe his/her venture. This required activity will take place on **April 24, 2015**, the Friday before the Awards Ceremony. Participation in this session is mandatory for selection.

Awards Ceremony: The six winners will be recognized at the Entrepreneur Awards Ceremony at the Embassy of Sweden in Tokyo. The reception will be hosted by the Swedish Ambassador to Japan, Mr Magnus Robach, on **Monday, April 27, 2015**. All finalists will be expected to attend to hear the announcement of the winners.

Selection Criteria and Process

Selection Criteria: The judges reviewing the applications and selecting the winners will be looking for entrepreneurs with the conviction, tenacity, planning and overall professional acumen to take a high-potential business and scale it into a market leader. Particular attention will be paid to the applicant's ability to articulate the business model and defend the business plan. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate potential of developing the qualities needed to take the fullest advantage of this opportunity, including the level of business sophistication needed to interact effectively with experienced entrepreneurs and other leading CEOs, venture capital and private equity investors, while recognizing that they can benefit from experienced mentoring.

Selection Process: The review committee will be comprised of qualified judges who are entrepreneurs, investors and business leaders. In the first phase of the selection process, the review committee will review all applications and consider applicability across all awards. Finalists will be selected and notified on or about 23 April 2015. In the second phase of the selection process, the review committee will select winners for each award by also considering the quality of each finalist's "elevator pitch" presentation in English that describes the business plan behind his/her venture. Please note that the quality of the application and presentation content will be weighted more heavily than the English language ability. Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony at the Embassy of Sweden in Tokyo. All winners will be assigned an experienced entrepreneur as a Mentor as part of the Entrepreneur Mentoring Initiative (EMI) from April 2015 through March 2016.

Application Due Date and Submission Process

Application Due Date: **5:00 PM on *Thursday, April 16, 2015* (JST)**

Submission Process: **Applications must be submitted in PDF format (A4 size) as an attachment in an email to: TEAJ.EMI.JAPAN@gmail.com**

- ▶ Applications must be submitted in English only;
- ▶ Use the application form provided (below), and provide responses to all questions;
- ▶ Descriptive responses should be limited to no more than 300 words each;
- ▶ Applications will not be accepted after the deadline;
- ▶ Please note that all strategic and financial information provided is considered private and strictly confidential. This information will only be shared with TEAJ/EMI 2015 Secretariat coordinators and our panel of independent judges.

Questions

After reading over the application form below, if you still have questions, please send an email to the TEAJ/EMI 2015 Secretariat at TEAJ.EMI.JAPAN@gmail.com. The Secretariat will provide a response as quickly as possible.

The application form starts on the next page

II. TEAJ Application Form

(Note: This form is only available in English, as all applications must be submitted in English)

Award Preferences

Every application submitted will be considered for all TEAJ awards, as applicable. *The Embassy of Sweden Award and the Swedish Chamber of Commerce Award* will give priority to candidates who are interested in and relevant for Swedish companies and innovations. *The Groundbreakers Award* is open to women only. Therefore, please check the appropriate boxes below (double-click on the boxes to check):

- ▶ Please indicate if you are a Japanese National: Yes No
- ▶ Please indicate if you are a woman: Yes No
- ▶ Please indicate any special business interest in Sweden: Yes No

Applicant Information

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Title _____

Company Name _____

Company Address _____

Year company founded/registered _____

What percentage of the company do you presently own? _____

Are you a founder or founding partner? Founder Founding Partner (Co-founder)

If you are a co-founder of the company, please provide names, titles, contact information and percent ownership of other founders

The application continues on the next two pages

Company Information

Select industry:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerospace & Defense | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil & Gas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asset Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceutical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Automotive | <input type="checkbox"/> Power & Utilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banking & Capital Markets | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Firms & Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biotechnology | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate (includes Construction, Hospitality & Leisure) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals | <input type="checkbox"/> Retail & Wholesale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer Products | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Enterprise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diversified Industrial Products | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Telecommunications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media & Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mining & Metals | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not for Profit | |

Financial data

Financial information is an important quantifiable indicator for success potential for the panel of judges.

How have you financed or plan to finance your business to date? (Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self | <input type="checkbox"/> Family/friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bank financing | <input type="checkbox"/> Private equity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Venture capital | <input type="checkbox"/> Public markets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please indicate _____ | |

Other relevant background

Personal Statement

Please provide answers to all six items listed below. *Maximum 300 words per item.*

1. Please describe your company and its principle business activities.
2. Please tell us the story behind your business and create a vivid picture of yourself and your values, as an entrepreneur who intends to run a market-leading business.
3. Describe your professional history prior to the creation of your company.
4. What are the major obstacles you have had to overcome in starting and/or growing the business? Share some of your personal and/or financial risks.
5. What is your strategic vision for the future of your company? How do you see your business evolving in the next year? Be specific in describing your goals and what it will take to achieve them.
6. Why should you be chosen to participate in this program? What makes you uniquely qualified to capitalize upon this opportunity?
7. If you have indicated that you have a special business interest in Sweden, please explain.

Photograph

Please submit one headshot photograph of yourself. Specifics: a digital file, minimum 300 dpi in jpg format, color preferred, hatless, head and shoulders only. Photo will be used for reference and production purposes related to your progress, for purposes of selection and for publicity purposes if you are selected.

How did you learn about TEAJ? (Choose all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Embassy of Sweden | <input type="checkbox"/> DWEN/Dell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SCCJ | <input type="checkbox"/> University alumnae outreach (specify school) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SCCJ member | <input type="checkbox"/> Print media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACCJ | <input type="checkbox"/> EMI – Entrepreneur Mentoring Initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACCJ member | <input type="checkbox"/> Broadcast Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Embassy | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct email solicitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> British Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Entrepreneurship Week / Impact Japan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Embassy | <input type="checkbox"/> WLN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WindS | <input type="checkbox"/> Josei Shacho |
| <input type="checkbox"/> J300 | <input type="checkbox"/> UnitedSuccess |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advisor (banker, attorney, board member, PR or consulting firm) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please indicate _____ | |

----End of form----

Reminders

Application Due Date: **5:00 PM on Thursday, April 16, 2015(JST)**

Submission Process: **Applications must be submitted in PDF format (A4 size) as an attachment in an email to: TEAJ.EMI.JAPAN@gmail.com**