

INFO SESSION - SOLUTION CHALLENGE 2024 EVENT REPORT

Introduction

Info Session - Solution Challenge 2024 was a virtual event conducted by GDSC MJCET on 09th December 2023. The event enlightened the students on the Solution Challenge, the timeline of the Solution Challenge 2024, the registration process, how to participate, mistakes to avoid, and strategies to win.

The event began with a brief explanation of the Solution Challenge by Maheen Ilyas, General Secretary of GDSC MJCET. Abhinav Jain, Global Top 100 - Solution Challenge 2022, the guest speaker of the event, introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the topics that would be discussed in the event.

Solution Challenge - What it is and Why to Participate

Abhinav explained that the Solution Challenge is a competition inviting individuals to create innovative solutions that contribute to the 17 United Nations' sustainability goals fostering a collective effort towards a more sustainable future. It provides resources, mentorship, and a platform for participants to refine their ideas and transform them into impactful projects with the potential for real-world implementation.

Some benefits of participating in it are

- Access to mentorship and guidance from industry experts
- Enhanced visibility and recognition during interviews
- Cash prizes for top 10 teams
- Participation among 2,100+ GDSCs worldwide

Timeline

The speaker explained the timeline of the Solution Challenge 2024.

- The registrations for the Solution Challenge have begun on the first of December 2023.
- The window for submission of projects will be open from January 21st, 2024 to February 22nd, 2024.
- The top 100 teams will be announced in early April.
- Following this, the teams will receive mentorship from experts and will have to re-submit their projects in early May.
- The top 10 teams will be revealed in late May.
- Finally, the Solution Challenge Demo Day will be on the 27th of June, where the top 3 winners will be announced.

Making an Effective Strategy

To ensure success in this highly competitive challenge it is important to prepare an effective strategy. Some tips to keep in mind are

- The project must relate to at least one of the 17 UN Sustainability Goals

-
- Choose your teammates wisely
 - Discuss and explore multiple ideas before settling on one
 - Keep a log and track what you have done & what you have to do

Personal Lessons

The speaker shared his experience and insights from the challenge and highlighted a few things that could have improved his project. They are

- Usage of Google products and services
- Taking advantage of mentorship sessions
- Development of a mobile application

Tips to Win and Precautions

The speaker shared some tips that would help one in reaching the global top 3 positions. They are writing clean code with good documentation, highlighting the gravity of the problem you are solving, aligning answers in the submission form with the sustainability goals, making a crisp and clear video with a personal touch, taking suggestions from the audience, and using Google's Tech-Stack.

A few precautions to be taken are to leave enough time for submission as the form is lengthy, make short and consistent commits on GitHub, not exceed the time limit of the video, and maintain code quality.

Regional Bootcamps

The speaker explained that regional boot camps were being introduced in the challenge this year. Regional boot camps are in-person mentorship sessions for teams to receive guidance from experts to enhance the quality of solutions before the final submission of projects for selection under the top 100 solutions.

To participate in the regional boot camp, interested teams must

- Have registered for the Solution Challenge before submitting the entry for evaluation
- Submit a solution for evaluation between January 4th - January 20th
- Use Generative AI and Google Cloud as one of the technologies in their project

Conclusion

The event was wrapped up with a Question and Answer session where the audience interacted with the speaker and cleared their doubts regarding the challenge. The event not only educated the audience about the Solution Challenge but also provided essential guidance to help them thrive and succeed in the challenge.